

# THE MESSENGER

## “FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY OVER US”



Everyone has a plan, said Mike Tyson, until they get hit. Tom Butler, who recently retired after 12 years as our Bishop, said he slept well at night because he knew tomorrow would bring a whole new series of problems,

so he'd have no time to worry about the decisions he made today. Events, dear boy, events!

We are currently awaiting the appointment of a new Bishop here in the Diocese of Southwark, which covers most of South London. What sort of leader should the church be looking for?

Really it's an impossible job. The person eventually appointed will be expected to be a combination of pastor, prophet, policeman and politician. Recent events in various denominations have shown that is a hard combination to get right.

The Church of England has changed its system to allow more involvement from the laity (i.e. those who are not clergy), and that has led to more cautious appointments. Everyone wants a bold, visionary, adventurous Bishop, but not in their own Diocese.

The Bible doesn't say very much about Bishops, and doesn't see them as much different from other church leaders. What it does focus on is character rather than personality. That character is demonstrated by how they behave in everyday life and in their families, rather than when they are on public display. It can only be assessed over a long period of time, by people who really know them.

However, that doesn't mean they are expected to be flawless. Jesus appointed as the church's first leader someone who denied him three times, and who made more gaffes than John Prescott. But Peter had also learned about leadership in his three years with the greatest leader of all.

JUNE / JULY 2010

After Jesus had gone back to heaven, Peter stood up in front of all the religious authorities of his nation, and refused to obey their order to keep quiet. His simple bravery made an impact. Luke writes this: 'When they saw the courage of Peter and John, and realised they were un-schooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and took note that these men had been with Jesus.'

Despite all their finery and fancy titles, Bishops are just ordinary human beings. But if they have spent time with Jesus, they will also have something different about them, and people will see it.

By Sandy Christie

## “OUR BISHOP”

The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun



Bishop Christopher became the Suffragan Bishop of Woolwich in April 2005, which means that he is subordinate to a Diocesan Bishop, in our case the Bishop of Southwark, and can be assigned to an area which does not have its own cathedral.

He is a strong advocate for the parish system as the most effective means of church presence and engagement in the life of local communities including the need to proclaim the Gospel afresh amid the rapid changes in church and community life in S E London.

His immensely busy life includes involvement in numerous projects including helping to co-ordinate the Diocesan response to the "Faithful Cities Report" and he has recently agreed to become Bishop for Urban Life and Faith.

## LOVETHY (OLDER) NEIGHBOUR

by Peter Moss



Statistics show that the number of elderly people in our country grows bigger each decade which

means that many of us have older neighbours living nearby. The Bible teaches us to respect older people and it's good to know that most people do look out for them even though they can be fiercely independent and insist on leading their own lives in their own ways. Good for them!

So what can be done to watch out for an elderly neighbour without being patronising or undermining their independence? You probably know your neighbour well enough to wish them good morning, and perhaps sometimes invite them into your home even if they don't invite you back. Offering to do shopping for them is usually appreciated, and it's always a good idea to leave a set of house keys with a reliable and trusted neighbour in case they are mislaid. It would be useful too to have their telephone number to save you calling at the door.

Your neighbour may not appreciate your calling regularly, so how will you know that he or she is alright? Most of us, and especially the elderly, have a daily routine and get up or go to bed at much the same time each day, so if you notice that the curtains remained closed later in the morning that usual this could be a sign that something is wrong. Milk left on the doorstep or undelivered newspapers may also give clues.

If you are worried about their welfare you could telephone them to put your mind at rest, and if you get no reply to your phone call, knock on the door and if you still get no reply look and call through the letter box. If you see something wrong, or you think there is, it may be right for you to enter your neighbour's home using their keys. If you can, try get someone to go in with you and as you do, keep calling your neighbour's name so that if they are in, they will know that it is friends who are in the house. Be prepared to call an ambulance if necessary, and if they are not in the house, you'll have to explain your actions when he or she returns.

If you do not hold keys do not break in but call police using 999. They are used to dealing with these situations.

## BAT AND BALL

Come and support your cricket team this summer. Three games have been arranged so far, all on Sundays in Greenwich Park. Your All Angels will be playing St John's on 6 June and St Nicholas on 18 July, with a further match scheduled for 12 September.

Potential players should contact captain Richard King on [r.king7@btinternet.com](mailto:r.king7@btinternet.com). Nets will be on Thursdays at the Sam Montagu sports ground, Broad Walk, SE3. Richard is also trying to arrange a game with All Saints and perhaps an away game with a team from Marian Curtis' parish at Slindon.

By our Sports Correspondent  
John Bartram

## WORLD FOCUS

by Francesca Stidston

Tearfund is an inter-denominational agency working worldwide to deliver community development and relief programmes and is supported by St Michael's.

# tearfund

Next month Tearfund is supporting the launch of a new Christian alliance working to end violence against women. The initiative, entitled *Restored*, aims to raise awareness of male violent behaviour and equip churches to stop it.

The urgent need for action is underlined by statistics: in the UK, on average two women a week are killed by a current or former partner, in Russia it's one woman per hour and in the Ukraine it's one woman every 35 minutes. Globally, women aged between 15-44 are more likely to be maimed or die from male violence than through cancer, malaria, traffic accidents or war combined.

Various Christian organisations are involved in responding to violence against women but very little is being done by the church to prevent it. Tearfund believes that Christian churches have huge potential to help prevent violence and will focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence against women and girls.

*Restored's* priority will be to develop a pack to help churches address violence against women in their communities. Visit the Tearfund website for more information - <http://www.tearfund.org>.

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## WHAT IS ETHICAL INVESTMENT?

I suppose I grew up with a sort of "Dad's Army" view of what banks did with our money. It was something that you did not question; to do so would have been impertinent. How times have changed. As most of us know, the government has recently had to borrow billions to keep the banks afloat, because of the imprudent investments they have made. We can now see that what banks and building societies do with our money has a major impact on markets and the way economies work. Our eyes have been opened to this; different banks invest in different markets, some in retail, some in finances; each bank also has a different portfolio of investments. Some avoid things like armaments, tobacco and alcohol, some don't.

If you give to charitable causes you will rightly think that the charities you support make a difference to the things you care about.

Which bank you use probably has an equal influence, if not more, on the things that matter to you. How can you find out what they are doing? One easy way is to go to this website; it's called <eiris.org>. Click on the consumer tab, then the banking.tab, accept the disclaimer and you will then have access to a whole range of information about the bank. Typically 'unethical' areas refer to areas like weapons manufacturing, companies with poor environmental records or those with operations in countries with poor human rights records.

You may decide you're happy with your bank, but at least if you have looked at the options you will have made a very important ethical decision. If you do decide to change your bank I wish you the best of luck with the paper work. Whatever you decide it will have an effect on someone's life and livelihood!

By Russ Pringle-Kanga

## GREENWICH YOUTH FOR CHRIST CHAMPIONS

**Hugh Ridsdill-Smith,**  
Greenwich YFC Chief Executive,  
writes...



Thank you very much to everyone for your encouragement and sponsorship for my London Marathon which took 4 hours 37 mins. It was a great and unforgettable experience and we raised over £3,500 to celebrate our GYFC 15th birthday appeal this year.

**Louise Johnson** writes...

This was my fifth marathon and one I was most proud of despite being the slowest.. I trained through a bitter winter but did complete what was required i.e. plenty of long runs. My maximum training run had been 22 miles prior to the race. Three weeks prior to the race, I sustained an injury and left it to the last minute to decide whether to run. In the end, taking it steadily, with brand new shoes, all was well, with a time of 4h16mins.

# St Michael & ALL ANGELS

## COME AND ROCK AT THE HOLIDAY CLUB



HOLIDAY CLUB 2010

Why do we come back to the Holiday Club at St Michael's each year?

We get to sing the boing boing song again and again (and again). We like the bouncy castles, the parachute and the wet sponge games. We meet friends from other schools who we only see once a year. Sometimes the vicar gets a custard pie all over his face. We get a T-shirt with the logo.



When you reach the oldest group you can come back as a helper the next year. We also have a quiet time when we learn about Jesus. We finish on Sunday with a service in church and a picnic together afterwards.

Give us a try this year: Our theme is Seaside Rock! From 29<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August for children aged 4-11 and from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Forms are available at the Parish Office, 1 Pond Road.

By Clare Bartram

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## SERVICES IN JUNE AND JULY

St Michael's is a Church of England Church, and our main morning service is at 10.30 a.m. The first Sunday of the month is a shorter all age service, and on the other Sundays children leave for Sunday school after about 15 minutes. There is a crèche for under 3's. On the second and fourth Sunday of the month the service includes communion.

The evening service at 6.30 p.m. is quieter and more reflective, with communion on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Book of Common Prayer Communion service is at 9 a.m. on the fourth Sunday of each month.

Raise the Praise on the third Sunday of the month at 5 p.m., a half hour service designed for children under 8 and their families, which is followed by tea in the hall.

### NO COMMENT!



Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/picturegalleries/6307505/Sign-Language-special-religion.html#image=14>

## MARATHON HERO

The Hope for Home Marathon Hero – Philip Woolf!

Philip, a London Marathon novice, achieved a terrific finishing time of 4hours and 09:59 seconds, running to support a local charity, Hope for Home, and raised almost £9,000 as a result!

Hope for Home, a registered charity, which was launched in Blackheath in 2009 aims to help elderly people with dementia and/or advanced Parkinsons Disease and their carers who are looking after their loved ones in their own homes. To find out more visit their website:  
[www.hopeforhome.org.uk](http://www.hopeforhome.org.uk)

## THE PRAYER IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

“Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed.

Amen.”

# St Michael & ALL ANGELS

## FROM THE REGISTERS

Thanksgivings  
9th May - Lily Ella Anderson

Baptisms  
21st March - Jack Ryan Thomas Viney  
28th March - Julie Lorraine Kirk  
Easter Day 4th April - Zofia Aleksandra Hyde  
2nd May - David Alexander Frankau  
23rd May - Hannah Jennie Carter

Weddings  
3rd April - Sarah Anderson and Steve Green  
22nd May - Sam Hamilton and Nathan Kirk

## ASK SEEK KNOCK

Prayer at St Michael's  
The next prayer meeting will be on Thursday 10th June at 8.15 – 9.30 p.m. in the Church Hall and then on Thursday 1st July at the same time – you are welcome.

If you have any specific requests for prayer or would like someone to listen and pray with you, please do contact Sandy Christie, our Vicar on 020 8852 5287. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The Messenger is published by St. Michael's Church bi-monthly on the last Sunday of the months of January, March, May, July, September & November. It is delivered free of charge by members of the congregation.  
Printed by: ISIS Office Ltd, Woolwich.

## St Michael's: making time for the things that matter

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