

EDGEWAYS



SACRED HEART PARISH

Edge Hill

Wimbledon London, SW19 4LU

WE'RE BACK!

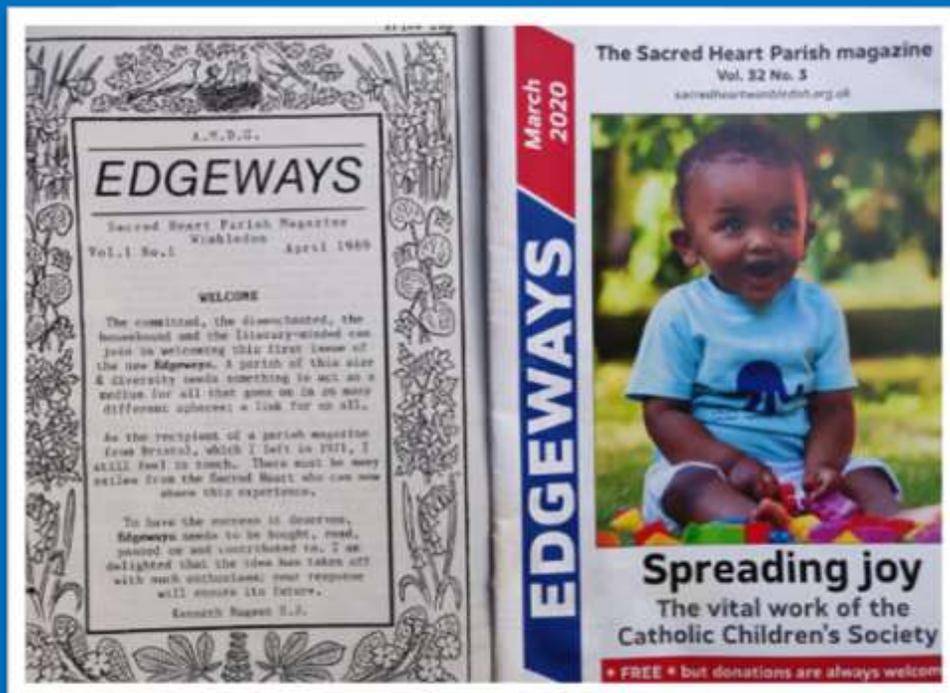
After 34 years and 8 months since it started in April 1989 and a hiatus since August 2021 when the editor, John Symes, moved to live away from the parish, your parish monthly magazine, Edgeways, now returns - and it is 'still kicking'!

The first edition, 'Vol.1 No.1', was written, edited and produced entirely by parishioner Julie Brooke as a 16 page, A4, staple bound booklet printed in black and white.

The magazine has thrived through the tenures of nine parish priests: Jesuits Michael Beattie, John Twist, Kenneth Nugent, Frank Walsh, Gerard Mitchell and Keith McMillan and, run by the Archdiocese of Southwark since 2013, Mgr Nicholas Hudson, Canon John Clark and now Fr David Gibbons.

Edgeways is your parish magazine written for and hopefully, once again, by parishioners. So please step forward with your comments, your ideas, your stories and your features by emailing [interim](mailto:dthurst52@gmail.com) editor, David Hurst, at dthurst52@gmail.com

Enjoy!



'A Priest's Role by Fr. Gibbons

"A child once asked 'what do Priests do after Mass on Sunday - go home and read the Bible all week?' Not quite: chance would be a fine thing! Our days can be very busy, with a variety of different duties.

First and foremost, the Priest prays with and for the People of God.

In the last week alone I have received requests for prayers for the departed, those seriously ill, someone starting a new job, and for sundry other needs. Most importantly the Priest celebrates the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Acting in the person of Christ he recites the words and performs the actions of Christ, representing Christ's saving self sacrifice, and thus feeds the People of God with the Body and Blood of Christ. Speaking personally, I never tire of offering Mass, which is just as well when I have to celebrate Mass twice in a day.

Priests preach the Gospel of Christ and teach the faith

This we do in various contexts, including Newsletter articles, in catechetical classes, in our Catholic schools, etc. To do this the Priest must always study the faith, the Scriptures and Church documents, and do spiritual reading. An annual Retreat is also a requirement.

Priests Baptise

This is always a joy, creating new members of Christ and his Church, and giving the newly Baptized the promise of eternal life. Priests also conduct Marriages, witnessing the couple's promises and blessing the new relationship, another joy.

Priests visit the sick ...

... who are very grateful to have been visited, even if they are not practising their faith. Hospital staff also appreciate having Chaplains around. Priests offer counsel



to many different people with many different problems and concerns, and at the least often know where the person can get more expert help.

Priest also conducts funerals ...

... when families are at their most raw and sorrowful, and are very grateful to the Priest for leading the Funeral and offering comfort and hope in the Resurrection of the Faithful Departed. A Priest can find himself caught up in a war zone or other dangerous place, but fortunately Wimbledon is not in this category! Sometimes a Priest is called to be a foreign missionary. I have not been called to this apostolate, but Fr Jackson finds himself in a country not his own.

The Priest is always on call

... mostly to administer the Last Rites to someone who is dying. As this invariably happens when one is relaxing it is initially vexing, but one always returns buoyed up: it is as if the dying person and their family are ministering to me rather than the other way round.

There are also, of course, numerous administrative responsibilities: as Parish Priest I have to ensure all Mass Intentions are offered, invoices are paid, donations banked, buildings are maintained, and parish employees are supplied with coffee and biscuits.

All in all the Priest's week is very varied and seldom dull; it is only with the grace of God given in one's Ordination that one can fulfill all these tasks and enjoy the best job satisfaction of any profession."

We welcome Fr David to our parish and look forward to supporting him in all the ways that we are able.

Father Michael Barnes SJ says 'goodbye'.

...

I have lived in the parish on four separate occasions, nearly twenty-five years – a substantial proportion of my life. When I was a humble torch-bearer in the pre-Vatican II days of the Latin High Mass, with all that incense and grand liturgical theatre, I never thought that I would be back one day, preaching from the same pulpit that had been the cause of so much juvenile boredom.

Clearly I caught something from Donhead, the College and the parish of the Sacred Heart. What was it? Quite simply, the spirit of curiosity and learning about the things of God that so drove Saint Ignatius.

Years later I feel so grateful for what I have received from so many wonderful people here in Wimbledon, Jesuits and friends who have supported my family and given me such a solid foundation for living the Christian life. To go by all the kind words I have received over the

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last few weeks I feel I can say with some confidence that I have not bored you. Not too often anyway.

I hope I leave you with one thing: a love for the Gospel of Jesus which has inspired me.

Thank you for sharing in this great conversation with the Word of God.

As the parish moves forward into a challenging new phase in the life of our Church, you will remain very much in my thoughts and prayers.

Father Michael is Emeritus Professor of Interreligious Relations at the University of Roehampton and Research Associate, School of Advanced Study, University of London

THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council are a group of ten volunteers who meet regularly with the Parish Priest to support him and his team. We pray together and discuss ideas, feedback from parishioners and ways in which we can encourage community. The current members of h are Ruth Naylor (chair), Annette Campbell-Black, Maria Christopher, Teresa Engley, Siobhan Heffron, David Hurst, Jude Mariadoss, Giovanni Perruzo, Rachel Purvis and Max Toone

As a PPC we want to ensure that everyone experiences an invitation to belong to our parish community and share our faith. In 2023, we have focused on hearing from the leaders of our parish groups and identifying the needs of our community. This builds directly on the Synod process which so many of you took part in. We will be introducing our members to you in the coming editions so that you can see who we are. You can also read what was discussed at our last Parish Council meeting.

We would also like to hear from you if you have any feedback on your experience in the parish, or if you're interested to join the PPC. Please email me on ppc@sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk.

NOTES FROM THE PPC MEETING 9 NOVEMBER 2023

A Parish Plan will be prepared under the Diocese Some Definite Service initiative (see below)

Rob Hitchcock has been appointed as the new Faith Minister. He is currently working in Hitchin in the same role and will start in early January

Four volunteers have come forward as Parish Safeguarding Reps (PSRs) and are being DBS checked

The Travelling Nativity will begin on Sunday 3 December

The purpose, activities, meeting dates and contact details of parish voluntary groups have been updated and are on the lobby notices

We will invite expressions of interest for an events group to plan two social events in 2024. Possible New Parishioner Welcome Events one each term in the lounge – to be confirmed Friday 7 June 2024 Feast of the Sacred Heart - possible Parish Day and Groups Fair Approved monthly PPC reports are on the church notice board and on the parish web site under Our Parish / PPC Documents / 2023 Meeting Minute.

Future PPC meeting dates: 4 January 2024; 1 February 2024; 7 March 2024; 4 April 2024; 2 May 2024; 4 June 2024

THE PARISH PLAN



At the request of the Bishop John Wilson for the Diocese of Southwark, all parishes are developing bespoke Parish Plans. A diocesan-wide approach is provided under the heading, *Some Definite Service* to give context to the planning process with three areas of focus, namely *Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation*. Following the activation day held on 4 November, the PPC are preparing our bespoke Parish Plan, led by Maria, Jude and Giovanni. We will update you on the Parish Plan and what it will mean for you as parishioners in the coming months as our Parish Plan takes shape. Meanwhile you can find more information including a video and PowerPoint presentation can be found at <http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/our-parish-plan>

MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Ruth Naylor



Ruth Naylor moved to Wimbledon in 2017 and has been a member of the Parish Pastoral Council at Sacred Heart since 2020. She was inspired to get more involved by the many examples of community action during the pandemic and is enjoying feeling more rooted in the local community. Passionate about the performing arts, Ruth has worked as a fundraiser and researcher at the National Theatre since 2014. Prior to this she worked in the fundraising department at English National Opera and studied Music at Royal Holloway. Ruth was brought up in Surrey and her first musical gig, aged seven, was playing recorder at Mass in the Camberley and Bagshot Parish. In serving on the Parish Pastoral Council, Ruth is particularly keen to ensure everyone feels welcome and able to share their experiences of parish life

Siobhan Heffron



Born and raised locally, Siobhán has connections with both SS Peter and Paul in Mitcham where she was baptised and St Teresa's, Morden, where she attended with her family and where later she became a catechist and a teacher at the primary school. As a child, Siobhán often attended the Sacred Heart Church and Mass centre with her grandparents. Little did she know that many years later, she would become the deputy headteacher at the Sacred Heart Primary school and return to the parish! Siobhán sees it as a true privilege and a pleasure to serve both the school and parish communities.

PARISH GROUPS

Parish **PARISH SOCIALS**

- 10.45am Sunday Café - in the lounge (to be confirmed)
- 8.45pm every Sunday - Social Club bar in the lounge
- 10.00am every Wednesday - Memory Lane Club in the lounge
- 2.30pm first Friday of every month - Friendship Group in the lounge

THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Friendship Group was started some years ago in response to a parish survey which highlighted the fact that, in such a large parish, there are people, particularly older people, who find it hard to make friends. We are an 'Open Door' group; there is no 'membership'; everyone is welcome to come along – just turn up.

We meet in the parish lounge on the first Friday of each month from 2.30 until 4pm for an activity, always followed by tea and cakes and a friendly chat. Our activities include talks, films and games. Each year in May we have an outing, with transport kindly provided by the scouts



in their minibus. We have, for example, in recent years visited Hever Castle, Watts Gallery, Denbies Vineyard, Ightham Mote, Ham House, Nyman's Gardens and RHS Wisley. July is the month of 'tennis', so we watch Wimbledon together on TV with Pimms and strawberries and cream; in December we have a festive Christmas singalong with sherry and mince pies. We recently invited Father David to come along and tell us a bit about himself, which he kindly did. Our events and activities are always advertised in the Parish Newsletter. Please contact Judy Ruston (07977 049239) judyruston@gmail.com if you would like some more information,

MEET THE PARISHIONER: PAT JENKINS

Pat has been a parishioner at the Sacred Heart since 2007 when she moved from Effingham to live in Queen Alexandra Court which provides 75 comfortable retirement flats for former services personnel or their close relatives. A 'cradle Catholic' born in Devonport, Pat spent a happy childhood with her brother, mother and army father living in the hill station of Simla, the former summer capital of British India, and being educated at the convent by nuns of the Order of Jesus and Mary.

Pat returned to 18 to England in 1948 aged 18. Pat continued her love of playing tennis and was jointly responsible for setting up the York & District Tennis League. Her prominence as a line judge reached its zenith when she officiated at the Wimbledon Ladies Final in 1977 between Bette Stove and Virginia Wade. Points if you can remember who won that one! A most interesting career followed when Pat worked and played tennis in Uganda, Swaziland (now changed to Eswatini) and Malawi, teaching shorthand typing and then business studies to government employees.

A former parish Welcomer and Reader (with Zulema Dean) at the 8.15am Mass on Sundays, Pat still occasionally joins the Friendship Group for their warm and welcoming events. No longer able to attend Mass in person (she says that she does not miss the 'noisy' family Mass on Sundays!), Pat receives weekly Communion from Chris de Montfort. Pat is not shy in proclaiming that she turned '93 years young' in November and still regularly attends her club, Westside LTC, to talk about, but sadly no longer to play, that great game. Her message to readers of Edgeways is a very simple one, 'Keep the Faith'!



INVITATION TO CHRISTMAS LUNCH



Fr David, Fr Matthew and Fr Jackson invite you to the annual Sacred Heart Christmas Lunch which will take place from 11.30am-3.00pm on Christmas Day in the upper hall. Don't be on your own! Come and spend the day with them and other parishioners - you will receive a warm welcome and have lots of fun music on stage from midday and a very special visit from ... you know who!
You will find the 'sign up' forms at the back of church



Sacred Heart Primary School Choir.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School – Learning in Love

Our parish school, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary, is ‘a good school where behaviour is exemplary, leaders have high ambitions for all pupils including SEND and the views of parents and carers are overwhelmingly positive’ (Ofsted 2023). ‘Sacred Heart offers a high standard of Catholic education within an inclusive and supportive community.’ (Section 48 assessment 2019)

Jambo Bwana Concert

It was a joy and pleasure to watch our junior choir, staff and parents accompany Katy’s Songbirds at the Jambo Bwana Concert in October.



Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Sacred Heart Primary

Year 6 pupils served members of the community teas, coffees and a selection of tasty treats - £278 was raised for this excellent charity.

‘A fantastic morning for a great cause. What a class of well mannered, talented children – thank you!’ (parent)

‘Wow! How fantastic – what lovely servers, cake, tea and atmosphere! Thank you so much!’ (Parent)

For admissions or to arrange a school tour, we invite you to contact the school directly at 0208 942 0215.

PARISH DIARY FOR DECEMBER

7.30pm Sat 2 Dec	West Barnes Singers concert at St Saviour's Church
4.00pm Sun 3 Dec	week of guided prayer meeting in the lounge
7.00pm Thu 7 Dec	Sacred Heart Primary school KS2 Carol Service
8.00am Fri 8 Dec	Monthly Convent Mass: Daughters of the Heart of Mary
10.00am Sat 9 Dec	Jesuit Missions COP28 prayers and march, London Jesuit Centre
8.45am Sun 10 Dec	Continental Breakfast in the lower hall
7.00pm Fri 15 Dec	Jesuit Refugee Service Advent Service, Farm Street Church
8.00pm Fri 15 Dec	Penitential Service + Confessions
10.30am Sat 16 Dec	Young Adult Advent Retreat at FCJ Spirituality Centre
10.30am Sat 16 Dec	Confessions
6.00pm Sat 16 Dec	Confessions
7.30pm Mon 18 Dec	Ursuline School and Wimbledon College Carol Service
7.30pm Tues 19 Dec	Christmas Concert. Katy's Songbirds with Sacred Heart Primary School Choir
3.30pm Sun 24 Dec	Crib Service (rehearsals 10.45am)
5.00pm Sun 24 Dec	Vigil Mass
7.30pm Sun 24 Dec	Vigil Mass (carols from 7.10pm)
12.00pm Sun 24 Dec	Midnight Mass (carols from 11.30pm)
8.00am Mon 25 Dec	Christmas Day Mass
10.00am Mon 25 Dec	Mass
11.30am Mon 25 Dec	Christmas Lunch in the upper hall
12.00am Mon 25 Dec	Mass
10.00am Tue 26-30 Dec	Mass
Sun 14 Jan 2024	Mass for World Peace Da

AND FINALLY.....

Books for sale

'The Sacred Heart Church' full colour, 32 page, A4 landscape photobook with images following the church layout in Richard Milward's 1987 'Portrait of a Parish'; £25 from dthurst52@gmail.com

'50 More Catholic Churches to See Before You Die' by Culti; £14.99 from the presbytery

'A History of the Christmas Crib' by Tim Everson £14.99 from the presbytery

Wanted!

Wimbledon Almshouses on Camp Road are starting a monthly Film Club for their residents, some of whom are really quite nice! If you are able to spare one afternoon each month to run the film on dates to be decided, please email David at dthurst52@gmail.com. We provide the tea and cakes!