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EDGEWAYS

Sacred Heart Parish Magazine

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Habemus Papam!



- The history of the Nunciature (*pp.10–13*)
- Poets & Prophets débuts (*pp.14–15*)
- St George's Day Parade (*pp.16–17*)

- The future of our church (*pp.2–3*)

FREE but donations are always welcome

The future of our beautiful church

On Saturday 15 March, the ownership of the church and presbytery was transferred from the Society of Jesus to the Archdiocese of Southwark. (The Halls had already been transferred some years ago.)

In civil law, this means that the entire property is now owned by the Trustees of the Archdiocese. In canon law (the law of the Church), this means that the parish controls the property.

Accordingly, I have commissioned the architect – Patrick Duerden of Donald Insall Associates – to undertake what is called a ‘Quinquennial Survey’ (because it is usually carried out every five years). This survey will indicate what repairs will need to be completed – and estimate some costings – in three categories:

1. what is urgent and should be completed as soon as possible;
2. what should be done and completed within five years; and
3. what is desirable but not essential.

In addition, I have arranged for an experienced firm of church lighting consultants to design a new lighting scheme for the church. Modern light fittings are unobtrusive, have easier-to-change bulbs, and use less energy. The scheme will also better serve the liturgy.

The present amplification system is nearing its ‘best before’ date and it has a couple of problems. So, with the architect’s help and with help from various parishioners who know about these things, I shall engage a specialist to produce a new system.



Finally, the church needs thorough cleaning (have you seen all the high-level cobwebs?) and redecorating. This will include cleaning the Stations of the Cross pictures and the pictures in the St Ignatius Chapel, as well as the Rood Screen. This work will need to be carefully done by specialist conservators.

These four elements of church repairs and restoration will cost money! In my opinion, it will be easier to raise the funds to do the whole project in one go and it will certainly be more cost-effective to undertake the four elements in a coordinated way.

Deacon Julian Burling has kindly agreed to chair a fundraising committee and, once we have an accurate estimate of costs, it can start work. We already have funds in a restricted account, thanks to some generous donations and legacies, and we are very grateful for these. These sums will enable us to begin the repair works as soon as possible.

Considering it was built in 1887, the church is in a good state, but inevitably, certain bits have deteriorated and need repair. If we don’t do the repairs, we are only storing up worse and more costly repairs for the future, so it is right to undertake the works now. I am sure I can count on parishioners to raise the funds necessary to restore the Sacred Heart Church to its full glory.

On Palm Sunday, some plaster fell from the wall, close to the position of the Paschal Candle. Repairs, or at least rendering the area safe pending repairs as part of the above-mentioned scheme, will be undertaken shortly; the difficulty is accessing such a high place. We may need

to hire a scissor lift. I am grateful to George, our Caretaker, and Rorie Rigley of the Finance Committee for liaising with the architect over this.

This incident underlines the clamant need for us to undertake necessary repairs as soon as possible. It also demonstrates that there may be times when there is scaffolding in the church or some areas may be temporarily out of bounds. Nevertheless, I do not anticipate having to close the church at all, as happened when the nave floor needed renovation.

Canon David

Dear Parishioners,

What did I do to be picked on so many times? I have been knocked over and rebuilt more times than I can count – and I have done nothing to deserve this. I’m meant to be a pillar of our community – instead, you leave me bruised and battered.

So, please, please, avoid me in the future.

Yours in stone, Car Park Wall



Looking for support in maths and English for your child? I am experienced in additional support for children aged 4–13, 11+ preparation, private school entry exams, and interview practice. Please call me on 07956 812871 to discuss. *Sairose Fleming*



An incredible month!

On Easter Sunday, Pope Francis greeted us from the balcony of St Peter's, died the next day, and then, after only four ballots, the conclave elected Pope Leo XIV. So many non-Catholic friends have wished me well! This really is a universal series of events.

This month's Edgeways includes two **tributes to Pope Francis**: we review some highlights from his pontificate (pp.5-7), while Diane Mills tells us the **history of Christianity in England and the Apostolic Nunciature** on Parkside (pp.10-13).

This article is particularly timely as the **Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia**, will celebrate Mass in our church on **Sunday 29 June**. You heard it first in Edgeways!

Speaking of our church, Canon David addresses readers with an **update on maintenance and repairs** (pp.2-3).

Turning to our young people, we learn how our primary school pupils marked **Earth Day** (p.13), and we share some photographs from our uniformed groups' **St George's Parade** (pp.16-17). 18-year-old Peter O'Brien shares his meditation from the **Youth Stations of the Cross** (p.8), and the launch evening of **Poets & Prophets** at the young adults' house was a roaring success (pp.14-15).



The church lit blue for World NF Awareness Day on Saturday 17 May; learn more at nervetumours.org.uk. Photograph by Alison Lobo.

Parishioners Bruce and Dorothy Burnham offer reflections on the **Mass in Latin** (p.9), and we report updates from the **Memory Lane Club**, including its new leader, Madeleine Jarratt (p.21).

Around the parish, we report on the **VE Day Service of Remembrance** (pp.18-19) and Sue Bucknall writes on **Wimbledon Common during World War II** (p.20). Finally, we conclude with a look at the **Edgeways archives** from May 1998, 2000, 2005, 2011, 2015 and 2019 (pp.22-23).

David Hurst

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Front cover photograph: Adapted from *Pope Leo XIV during an audience with the media* (May 12, 2025), Edgar Beltrán, The Pillar, via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0)



Would you like to write for Edgeways?

Do you have an article that you think would be a great addition to YOUR parish magazine? We're always open to contributions! Please contact the editor at dthurst52@gmail.com.

Ad maiorem Dei gloriam

Church history has been written; an extraordinary pontificate has ended. The loss of Pope Francis, so deeply felt by so across the world, has led to an extraordinary outpouring of love and gratitude.

Until the very end, the life of God's servant was spent in the service of the Church. This was a Church he challenged to move to the peripheries in service of the marginalised, to journey and discern together as brothers and sisters in a synodal Church, and to proclaim the Gospel with joy, mercy, and authenticity. This was a Church he moved to respond to the challenges of its times, such as climate change and rising nationalism. To the Church he reminded that true Christian witness begins not in power but in proximity – proximity to the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten.

As we give thanks to God for the life of Pope Francis, we recall some of the most moving moments of his pontificate.

13 March 2013
Habemus Papam!

'The duty of the Conclave was to give a bishop to Rome. It feels like my brother cardinals went almost to the end of the Earth to find him, but here we are.'

Jorge Maria Bergoglio, taking the regnal name Francis, is elected as the 266th Pope. With characteristic humour, Pope Francis introduces himself to Rome and the world, the first Jesuit Pope and the first Pope from the Americas. He eschews the formal papal regalia; he leads us in prayer for his predecessor; and he asks us to pray, in silence, for God's blessing on himself, 'the prayer of the people for their bishop'.



28 March 2013
Washing the feet of prisoners on his first Maundy Thursday as Pope

'As a priest and a bishop, I must be at your service. But it is a duty which comes from my heart: I love it. I love this and I love to do it because that is what the Lord has taught me to do.'

Far from the customary setting of a Roman basilica, Pope Francis goes to serve society's marginalised. He washes the feet of twelve prisoners at a youth detention facility, including two girls and a Muslim.

29 July 2013
'Who am I to judge?'

'If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge?'

In a televised press conference aboard the return flight from World Youth Day, Pope Francis makes an impromptu plea for us neither to shun nor marginalise others, but to be their brothers and sisters. His words console very many people.

18 June 2015
**'Laudato si', Pope Francis' encyclical
on care for our common home**

'We come together to take charge of this home which has been entrusted to us, knowing that all the good which exists here will be taken up into the heavenly feast. In union with all creatures, we journey through this land seeking God.'

Addressed to 'every person living on this planet', Pope Francis issues a profound call to care for our common home. Linking ecological degradation to global injustice, he urges a spiritual and moral awakening, denouncing consumerism and calling for a new model of progress.

8 December 2015
**Opening the Holy Door for the
extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy**

'To pass through the Holy Door means to rediscover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes everyone and goes out personally to encounter each of them. It is he who seeks us! It is he who comes to encounter us!'

Emphasising that no one is excluded from God's mercy, Pope Francis challenges the Church to become a field hospital, bringing consolation to the wounded and marginalised. Every diocese is to have a Holy Door, making tangible the embrace of a merciful God who comes to meet us.



16 April 2016
Pope Francis visits Lesbos

'Together we solemnly plead for an end to war and violence in the Middle East, a just and lasting peace, and the honourable return of those forced to abandon their homes.'

After issuing a joint declaration with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Pope Francis returns to Rome, bringing with him three families of Muslim refugees from Syria, including six young children.

11 April 2019
**Pope Francis kisses the feet
of rival South Sudan leaders**

'I am asking you as a brother to stay in peace. I am asking you with my heart.'

During a retreat at the Vatican, dressed in white papal robes, the 82-year-old pontiff kneels and kisses the feet of politicians, begging them not to return to war.

27 March 2020
**Pope Francis delivers an extraordinary
Urbi et Orbi during the pandemic**

'Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board, there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things.'

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, in a hauntingly-empty St Peter's Square, Pope Francis stands alone in the rain to deliver an extraordinary *Urbi et Orbi* blessing. Before the icon of Mary and the crucifix of San Marcello, he prays for the world in crisis, with a message of trust in Christ amid fear and suffering.

4 October 2020
**'Fratelli tutti', Pope Francis'
encyclical on fraternity**

'Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same Earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.'

Pope Francis lays out his vision for a more fraternal world rooted in solidarity, dialogue, and social friendship. He challenges indifference, nationalism, and exclusion, calling instead for a politics of kindness and encounter.

7 March 2021
Pope Francis visits Iraq

'Iraq will always remain with me, in my heart. I ask all of you, dear brothers and sisters, to work together in unity for a future of peace and prosperity that leaves no one behind and discriminates against no one.'

To a nation scarred by war, terrorism, and sectarian violence, Pope Francis brings a message of hope, peace, fraternity, and reconciliation. He meets with political and religious leaders, prays among the ruins of Mosul, and embraces interfaith dialogue in Ur, the birthplace of Abraham. His presence comforts the Christian minority.

10 October 2021
Opening the Synod on Synodality

'Let us not soundproof our hearts; let us not remain barricaded in our certainties.'

Pope Francis invites us to discern how we journey together as a pilgrim Church.

3 August 2023
Todos, todos, todos!

'There is space for everyone [in the Church], and when there isn't, please, let's work so that there is ... Repeat after me: Todos, todos, todos!'

Who belongs in the Church? At the World Youth Day in Lisbon, Pope Francis leads the chanting crowds in reply: *everyone, everyone, everyone!*

20 April 2025
Pope Francis' farewell

'Dear brothers and sisters, happy Easter!'

At the end of his strength, breathless and mere hours away from returning to the house of the Father, Pope Francis comes to greet us on the balcony. His message? Easter joy.



Laus Deo semper

'Doubting' Thomas

YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

'Firstly, let me state that I, Thomas, am a man of facts. Not a dreamer. I like to know who is who and what is what. I call a spade a spade, and a piece of bread is a piece of bread. It is important to me that a thing does what it says on the tin.

What made me like this? I think maybe because although I have another name, I've always just been called Twin. So has my brother and it's like we are just one person. We are Twin. Even my own mother doesn't call me by my name, and she confuses memories about us so that sometimes I'm not sure what story is about me and what story is something my brother did and – I'm not going to lie – sometimes, we swap places so we can get out of something.

This has probably made me into the man I am. I like to know for sure the spade is the spade and no one is playing tricks on me.

All this is in my mind now as I stand on the side of this road and fight with myself over what to do as my friend Jesus stumbles along. I wanted so badly to stay with him. I said all along to the others: 'Let us go with him so we may die together'. I want to go with him because otherwise, how can I be sure what is happening?

Even at supper last night, I tried to get a clearer answer when he was speaking about coming back and taking us and I said quite angrily: 'How can we know the way?' Because, for goodness' sake, he's clearly going to die – so how will he ever come back?



'The Incredulity of Saint Thomas' (1602) by Caravaggio

Suddenly, I have a crazy fantasy which I wish could come true. I wish Jesus could have a twin like me, who could take his place right now so he could stay here with us. Like me and my twin, covering for each other, one to stay and one to go.

I can't bear it. I don't understand because he speaks in riddles and metaphors.

Look at him: a man bleeding from the holes in his hands and his side.

Look at him about to die.

But he says he is 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life', like he is God.

Can he be two things at once?

Can I believe he is who he says he is?

Peter O'Brien (aged 18)

Peter wrote this meditation for the Youth Stations of the Cross. Held annually on Good Friday, young people from Year 7 upwards bring to life a special liturgy, imagining themselves as one of the characters in the Passion of Christ. For more information, please contact Wendy at wjatansey@btinternet.com.

Latin or the Vernacular?

The question of whether Catholic liturgy should be in Latin or in the vernacular – in our case, English – may generate more heat than light. Let us look at both sides, both the advantages and the disadvantages, and attempt to reach a conclusion.

We write on Wednesday 23 April, the day when the mortal remains of Pope Francis are to be transferred to be on display to the faithful in St Peter's Basilica in Rome. The service was in Latin except for the Gospel reading, which was in Italian. The question is: 'Was this fitting?'

Latin is the language of the Universal Church and has been so, with good reasons, for over two millennia. Latin is a dead language and so it does not evolve and change. It is a clear, exact, and direct language.

If you look at a prayer in Latin and in English, the English will take up more space, partly because Latin does not have the articles 'the' or 'a' before its nouns. Official Catholic texts are, almost without exception, in Latin, because the meaning of Latin is so clear and less open to misinterpretation.

Most of the greatest sacred music composed for services is set to Latin. It would be a loss to dignified worship if the works of the likes of Palestrina or our own William Byrd could no longer be used for the glory of God and were confined to the concert hall.

Many Catholics choose to attend Masses in Latin and make no attempt to use their Missals to follow along using the English version printed opposite the Latin. Are they wrong?

When we attend Mass abroad in an unknown tongue, we can only follow it by the actions of the priest. Nonetheless, guided by his actions, we can say the responses – and we normally do this in Latin. This is what we did on a recent visit to Mdina in Malta.

The advantages of holding services in the vernacular are many, especially for young people and those who have never had the opportunity to be exposed to any Latin, either in church or at school. Therefore, there is a strong reason, when Latin is used, for having the English on any service sheet, as it is in the Missal. The phrase 'hocus pocus' has its origins in the 16th century, derived from '*hoc est corpus meum*' ('this is my Body'). It was a criticism of Catholic priests, whose Latin was deficient, and a useful tool for Protestants to criticise the Catholic Church.

To hear the liturgy celebrated in Latin provides an aura and reminds worshippers of the eternity of the Mass. Latin is part of the Church's history and tradition, and to omit it would destroy part of that history.

A case can be made that, in England, English should be the language of our services, since its meaning is almost universally comprehensible. Since English is a living language, the texts used need regular updating. And it should be pointed out that the language should be formal, as fitting for addressing God.

How can we conclude between services in Latin or the vernacular? We do not believe it is an either-or question. There is surely room in God's house for both.

Bruce and Dorothy Burnham

Walk & Talk Wimbledon Village: A visit to the Apostolic Nunciature

Walk & Talk is a free community walk that meets at 10.30am every Saturday by the Wimbledon War Memorial. The group enjoys a guided walk at a gentle pace around the Common, ending up at a pub in the village for coffee. You can learn more about the group at tinyurl.com/wimbledonwandt.

Each week, there is a themed talk and on Saturday 26 April, Diane Mills, former Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservator, treated us to a talk about the Apostolic Nunciature on Parkside and the history of Christianity in this country.

In tribute to Pope Francis

Our destination for this morning's walk is the Apostolic Nunciature at 54 Parkside. As the diplomatic seat of the Holy See in Great Britain, we are greatly honoured to be home to this important landmark, which connects Wimbledon to centuries of religious tradition and ecclesiastical diplomacy.

Its presence here takes on particular significance in the wake of Pope Francis' death, reminding us of the enduring link between local and global expressions of faith. As the funeral service concludes in Rome, our walk this morning provides us with an opportunity to pause, reflect, pay tribute, and draw strength from the deep historical and spiritual roots of our own community.



'Apostolic Nunciature' by Stevekeiretsu via Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Christianity in Britain

The introduction of Christianity to early Britain was one of the most important legacies of the Roman Empire. Though the Celts and those who came before them were pagan, Roman soldiers and civilians from Gaul began spreading Christianity as early as the beginning of the third century AD. By the time Christianity was adopted as the official religion of the Roman Empire in 324 AD, Britain already had bishops in Lincoln, London, and York.

Following Rome's withdrawal in 406 AD, the Romano-Britons who were left behind remained Christian. The later missionary work of Sts Patrick, Columba, and Aidan converted the arriving Anglo-Saxons. This wave of Christianisation saw the establishment of Celtic monasteries across Scotland, Northern England, and Cornwall.

In 597 AD, Pope Gregory I sent Augustine to establish a Roman church in Canterbury. This marked the beginning of the integration of the English Church into the wider Catholic Church. Some 70 years later, in 664 AD, in recognition of the need to reconcile the differences between the Celtic and Roman forms of the church, King Oswy of Northumbria convened the Synod of Whitby, which further unified Christian practices under papal authority, shaping England's ecclesiastical identity.

After the Norman Conquest of 1066, the Archbishop of Canterbury remained Lord of the vast Manor of Mortlake – including Wimbledon, Putney, Roehampton, Barnes, and Sheen. In 1070, papal legates deposed the Anglo-Saxon Archbishop Stigand and replaced him with Lanfranc, who was regarded as the greatest theologian of his generation and one of the most important archbishops of medieval times. In his role as Archbishop of Canterbury, he brought structural and theological renewal to the English Church. He also worked to establish greater autonomy for the Church of England from papal authority in Rome.

The break with Rome

The early 16th century saw a dramatic shift as Henry VIII, motivated by personal and political reasons, severed ties with Rome. Catholicism was swiftly marginalised, with monasteries dissolved, clergy persecuted, and Catholic worship driven underground. The Act of Supremacy (1534) established the English monarch as the Supreme Head of the Church of England, ending more than five hundred years of papal oversight. Further instability followed Henry VIII's death in 1547: his statutes were repealed under Mary I in 1553 and 1554, only to be reinstated under Elizabeth I in 1558.

The religious landscape of Wimbledon changed accordingly. In 1536, the title of Lord of the Manor of Wimbledon passed from Archbishop Cranmer to Thomas Cromwell, then briefly to the Crown. From the time of Elizabeth I, the title largely remained within the aristocracy and was ultimately inherited by John Spencer in 1744. The Spencer family maintained the title until its sale by the current Earl Spencer to an anonymous buyer in 1996. Today, changes in land law have rendered such titles ceremonial.

Renewing ties with the Holy See

Formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican were not restored until 1914, amid British concerns about German and Austrian influence during World War I.

In 1938, the Vatican formalised the relationship by establishing an Apostolic Delegation to Great Britain. (The Apostolic Nunciature to Ireland, which had been re-established in 1929, already covered Northern Ireland.) Also in 1938, the Vatican purchased the property at 54 Parkside in Wimbledon.

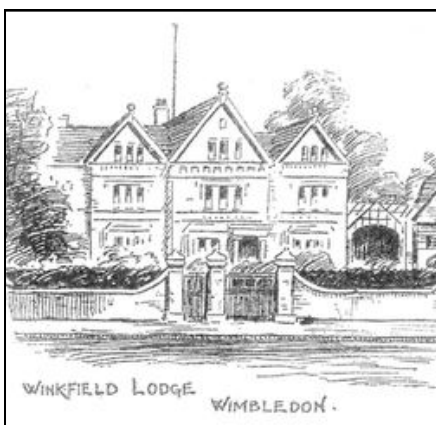


William Godfrey was the first Apostolic Delegate from 1938 until his appointment as Archbishop of Liverpool in 1953. Godfrey became Archbishop of Westminster three years later.

The office was promoted to a full Apostolic Nunciature in 1982 under Pope John Paul II, granting ambassadorial status to its representative. The current Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain is His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, appointed in April 2023. The Nunciature remains one of the most significant religious diplomatic sites in Britain and was the only diplomatic mission south of the Thames – until 2018, when the United States moved its embassy to Vauxhall.

A local place of history and hospitality

The house at 54 Parkside carries quite a colourful history. Originally built as Tudor House in 1896, it was renamed Winkfield Lodge by Charles Mills after a dramatic betting win. The property passed through many hands, including Arthur Sutton of Sutton Seeds, who played an important role in the country's vegetable production during World War I. Sutton was a fellow of the Linnean Society and received a Victoria Medal of Honour from the Royal Horticultural Society. In the 1920s, the house was owned by Joseph Hood, MP for Wimbledon.



His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía will visit our church to celebrate Mass on Sunday 29 June. *Mazur/CBCEW.*

The residence has hosted notable figures, including two visiting Popes: Pope John Paul II in 1982 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. The latter celebrated Mass in the chapel and blessed new stained glass windows, designed by artist Brian Clarke, which commemorate the beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman.

Architecturally, 54 Parkside is a two-storey structure built from Portland stone, featuring a steeply pitched green slate roof and tall chimneys. Its design includes bay windows adorned with stained glass, contributing to its aesthetic and historical value. In recognition of its significance, the building was designated as a Grade II listed structure in 1988.

The house was designed by architect C.W. Stephens, renowned for his work on Harrods. It is separated from the neighbouring property with a ha-ha. Its grounds, once part of Wimbledon's agricultural and aristocratic heritage, now serve as a quiet and dignified setting for the Holy See's mission in Britain. Outside, the Vatican coat of arms – featuring the papal tiara and crossed keys of Peter – signifies the Nunciature's official status and the enduring authority of the church.

Remembering Pope Francis

Pope Francis' passing has led to an immense outpouring of love and sorrow felt around the world. He will be remembered for his compassion, his deep humility, and his heartfelt dedication to the poor and marginalised. There has been enormous respect for his courage to stand up for his beliefs and lead by example, yet he has always been self-effacing and genuine. He understood the need to be inclusive while respecting the traditions and values that hold the Church together. His leadership offered a beacon of hope, empathy and unity in troubled times.

As we walk to the Nunciature, we do so with heavy hearts but also with gratitude. In remembering Pope Francis, we honour a man who helped the Church – and the world – see more clearly what it means to live with compassion and conviction.

May he rest in peace.



'Apostolic Nunciature - Wimbledon' by sarflondondunc via Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Earth Day 2025

Earth Day is an international event held annually on 22 April to demonstrate support for the protection of the environment.

First celebrated in 1970, the occasion now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally through earthday.org – formerly the Earth Day Network – which includes one billion people in more than 193 countries.

Pupils from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School attended a service at Sacred Heart Church and designed powerful posters which clearly express the day's message.



Saturday 10 May 'Poets & Prophets' at 9 Edge Hill

At the invitation of the residents of the young adult community at 9 Edge Hill and in a glittery nightclub-style setting, some 40 people enjoyed the launch event of 'Poets & Prophets'.

Poets & Prophets is a space for the raw expression of spoken word, poetry, and music. Creativity meets authenticity in this new outlet for Christian creatives. The theme of the night was centred around biblical truths and wisdom, all expressed through the art of words and melodies.

People from the parish community and beyond joined in for a night of fellowship and creativity – it was truly a harmonious event. There were live songs, readings, and homemade poetry on a wide range of sometimes religious but mostly personal and often very moving topics.

Artists who performed included Jaqueline, Jane Higgs, Tim Hutchinson, Michael Chambers, Neshma, Johnnty, and Grace Angelica, who also MC'd the night! A few people also jumped on sharing poems on an open mic.

The night was organised by Grace Oskiera-Vooght, a member of the 9 Edge Hill community, and Canar Iessa, who studies at Wimbledon School of Art. Fr Matthew Donnelly made a welcome visit from his new parish in Croydon. All enjoyed the convivial atmosphere and high standard of entertainments.



@POETSANDPROPHETS.EVENTS



Poets & Prophets plans to return soon, so keep your eyes peeled! And to make sure you don't miss the next event, follow Poets & Prophets on Instagram: [instagram.com/poetsandprophets.events](https://www.instagram.com/poetsandprophets.events).

If you would like to get in touch to donate so that Grace, Canar, and the team can make more of these events happen or to get involved, please reach out to poetsandprophetsevents@gmail.com.

With thanks to Grace for additional reporting.



Photographs (except the first) by Canar Iessa

Sunday 27 April St George's Parade by uniformed groups

On Saturday 27 April, the Wimbledon and Wandle District Scouts gathered at the Wimbledon Village War Memorial for the annual St George's Day Parade.

Uniformed groups at our parish welcome children from ages 4 (girls) and 6 (boys). From crafting to camping, sports to inventing – there's something for everyone!

Parents can enrol their daughters for our girlguiding groups, including the 28th Wimbledon (Sacred Heart) Guides for ages 14+, at www.girlguiding.org.uk.

Parents can find a contact email for their son's age group (Beavers for ages 6 to 8, Cubs for ages 8 to 10, Scouts for ages 10 to 14) at the website of the 9th Wimbledon Scouts, 9thwimbledon.com.



The 9th Wimbledon Scouts represent the Sacred Heart Wimbledon parish



Starting at the Wimbledon Village War Memorial



Trooping into Sacred Heart Church



Over 400 members of different uniformed groups fill the church



Address by the Deputy Lieutenant of Merton, Surgeon Commodore Robin McNeill Love

Thursday 8 May Victory in Europe Day Service of Remembrance

On Thursday 8 May, your editor joined the crowd of over 1,000 people who shared a moment of celebration at the Wimbledon War Memorial, where a beacon was lit for the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

Gathering at dusk, the audience was warmed up by music from the Wandle Concert Band. The event then opened with a Mayoral Procession, led by a lone bagpiper, that walked the short distance from the Fox & Grapes pub (where else?!) to the War Memorial, which had been specially cleaned in preparation by the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club.

A welcome by Max Austin, Councillor for Wimbledon Village ward, was followed by an opening address by Reverend Lotwina Farodoye from Christ Church, Copse Hill. Moving tributes were then read by representatives of the four services: the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the British Army, and the Royal Airforce.



An Act of Remembrance was followed by a trumpeter playing *The Last Post*, a minute's silence, and then the *Reveille*. Community representatives placed lanterns on the War Memorial, led by the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Slawek Szczepanski, before the VE Day proclamation was read by Adrian Mills, Chairman of the Wimbledon Village Business Association.

As the evening darkened, the Mayor of Merton lit the VE Day beacon, followed by communal singing of *Jerusalem*, a blessing by Reverend Lotwina Farodoye, and the National Anthem accompanied by the Wandle Concert Band.



An advertisement for Guardian Angel Carers. It features a woman with blonde hair, Jodie, smiling and hugging an elderly woman with white hair. The text reads: "Jodie always cheers me up". Below this, it says: "We always have time for you. Compassionate Homecare beyond compare." At the bottom, it provides contact information: "For a friendly chat, call: 0203 1501 888" and "email: wimbledon@gacarers.co.uk visit: gacarers.co.uk/wimbledon". The Guardian Angel Carers logo is in the bottom right corner, with the tagline "People you can get on with".

Wimbledon Common during WWII

As part of the VE Day anniversary, Sue Bucknall of the Wimbledon Society recounts some of the things that took place on the Common during World War II.

During World War II, defensive positions and rows of posts were erected across open spaces to prevent aircraft or gliders landing.

Trenches were also dug on Wimbledon Common. Concrete 'dragon's teeth' acted as barriers for tanks; a concrete pillbox was built within the Old Pound on Parkside; and heavy anti-aircraft guns were sited near the Windmill.

In the event, the only German aircraft to land was a bomber that crashed onto the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club, scattering burning wreckage over a wide area, including the Common. During air raids, many bombs fell on the Common, including some that failed to explode and required excavation from a considerable depth.

Barbed wire marked the boundaries of an army camp near the Windmill. The gravel pits and sand dunes about the Common became marked with the tracks of Bren gun carriers that practised there.

In October 1943, the Conservators gave the War Department permission to use Kingsmere, from Monday to Friday, for the testing of waterproof vehicles. Four months later, the War Department requisitioned Kingsmere entirely for military purposes.

An army assault course stood beside Rushmere pond for troop training and fitness, and an ammunition dump was concealed in the trees by Queensmere.



A small prisoner of war camp (pictured) was established opposite the junction of Lauriston Road and Southside. Italian and German prisoners were housed in wooden huts and set to work in local factories or on the land: they tended to crops of corn and vegetables grown on parts of the Common not used for army activities. Their camp was adorned with a wooden model of the Windmill, built by the prisoners in their spare time.

Although the Common was not used for aviation during the Second World War, Germany had other ideas. Their military plans for the siege of London earmarked Wimbledon Common to form the main airport for flying in troops and equipment.

This article was adapted from the original on the website of Wimbledon and Putney Commons: wpcc.org.uk/latest-news/news/post/175-wimbledon-and-putney-commons-in-world-war-ii.

Memory Lane Club

The Memory Lane Club is a friendly, lively, informal drop-in space, welcoming those in the local community affected by memory loss or dementia and their carers.

The Club meets from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Wednesdays in the Lounge and has recently recruited a **new Club Leader, Madeleine Jarratt**, who will introduce herself and the new programme of engaging activities in due course. The contact details for the Club have also recently changed: they are now email wimbledonmemlanec@rcaos.org.uk, and telephone 07713 882280.

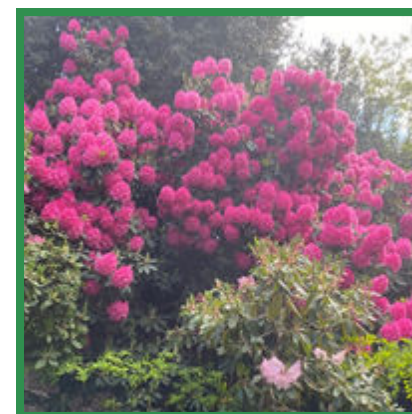
Recommended by GPs right from its opening, this popular club has gone from strength to strength since it first opened in March 2015. Run by volunteers, there is coffee, cake, chat, fun, laughter, and a varied programme of activities. Carers get the opportunity to meet and share experiences with other carers and volunteers, many of whom themselves have had personal experience of looking after a loved one with dementia.



The Pielarks lead communal singing

If you are a carer of a loved one with dementia, we would be delighted to see you. Please do drop in any Wednesday morning along with your loved one. You will receive a warm welcome, won't be charged anything, and will meet some new people. Give it a go!

Interested in volunteering or just want to know more about the Club? Please do get in touch with Madeleine using the new contact details!



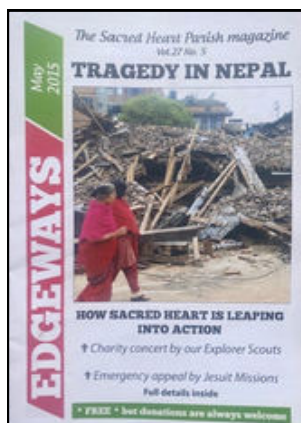
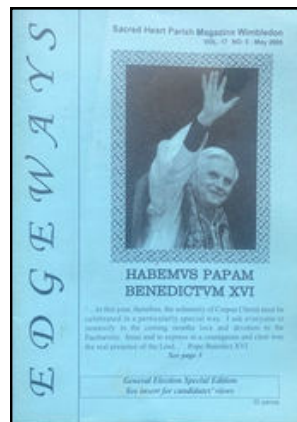
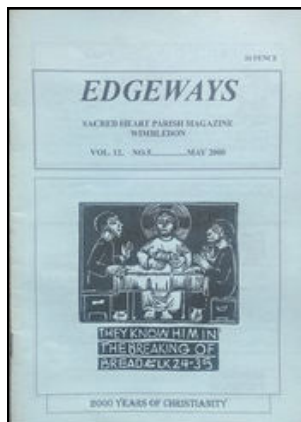
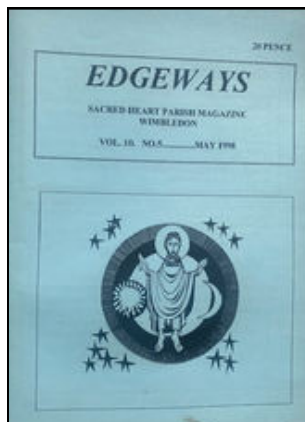
Spring in your park!

Forget the Isabella Plantation: an early walk in Cannizaro Park is recommended before nature moves on to enjoy the resplendent azaleas and rhododendrons that fill the borders, especially in the woods that lie to the east of the Italian Garden. Go, now!

Fact: All azaleas are rhododendrons but not all rhododendrons are azaleas [or is it the other way around?! - Ed]

This month back then – an Edgeways history of YOUR parish!

More fascinating back issues of Edgeways reveal what was happening across the parish in May 1998, 2000, 2005, 2011, 2015 and 2019. Revel in these memories!



Back issues of Edgeways are available to borrow by emailing David at dturst52@gmail.com. Issues from March 2020 are available in the digital archive at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/edgeways.

May 1998 (Vol. 10 No. 5) top-left

- Thanksgiving service for the life of Fr Frank Walsh SJ
- Mass lobby against euthanasia [*how timely is that!* – Ed]
- Glorifying God through art

May 2000 (Vol. 12 No. 5) top-centre

- 'The Church in Our World' Living Theology conference by Fr Gerard Mitchell SJ
- Youth Club vs the Social Club snooker challenge (*it was not revealed who won!*)
- French breakfast at Ursuline Prep School

May 2005 (Vol. 17 No. 5) top-right

- 'Habemus Papam Benedictum XVI'
- Corpus Christi Mass and Procession
- Fr Michael Holman SJ tipped to become Provincial of the Jesuits in Britain

May 2011 (Vol. 23 No. 5) bottom-left

- Tribute to Fr Kenneth Nugent SJ
- Moya Hogarth explains icons to the Friendship Group
- Introducing new parish councillors, including Polly Harrison

May 2015 (Vol. 27 No. 5) bottom-centre

- Parishioners leap into action after Nepal earthquake
- Generations Together discuss the values of a good society
- Donhead concert raises funds for St Peter's School in Harare

May 2019 (Vol. 31 No. 5) bottom-right

- Remembering Fr Phelim McGowan SJ
- The Passion of Christ gets a youthful twist
- Moya Hogarth presents a guide to the Paschal Candle
- Ben Smith plays in the London Accordion Orchestra's 20th anniversary concert

The 'Nelson Mass'

We trust our readers have already bought their tickets to the unmissable *Haydn* concert on Saturday 14 June (see back cover). But did you know about our local connection to the *Missa in angustiiis* that will be performed?

Written in 1798, the title *Hadyn* chose for this Mass setting ('Mass in times of anguish') reflected the turmoil in Europe at the time he composed the work. But by the time that *Missa in angustiiis* premièred on 23 September 1798, Horatio Nelson had dealt the Napoleonic army a crushing defeat at the Battle of the Nile.

The Mass setting was immediately nicknamed the 'Nelson Mass'; the association was cemented when Nelson and Lady Hamilton, his mistress, were believed to have heard it in Vienna in 1800. A year later, Nelson and Lady Hamilton (with her husband!) moved into Merton Place (in the Merton Abbey area), from which Nelson set out for the Battle of Trafalgar.

Merton Interfaith Walk
Saturday 31st May 2025
10am from Merton Civic Centre,
London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

A 5k challenge walk to visit local Merton Faith Sites:
 The Baitul Faith Mosque, St John Fisher RC, St Mary's Church, Merton, The Salvation Army, Wimbledon Spiritualist Church, Seven Day Adventists, and Shree Ghanapathy Temple.

The Walk will start from outside the Merton Civic Centre at 10.30am after a visit to a 'Sacred Text' exhibition at the Library. The walk finishes at around 4pm at the Shree Ghanapathy Temple. But feel free to leave the walk at any stop.

Registration **£5** at start of the walk
 All proceeds go to The Merton Homeless Project – Faith in Action.
 Guides: Richard Smart (Blue Badge Guide), PC Suzanne D'Cruze FAITH Engagement Officer
 The walk is a sponsored walk for Merton Homeless Project – Faith in Action

Supported by:

Merton Homelessness Project, London Borough of Merton, Metropolitan Police, Merton Citizens

Merton's Interfaith Walk: Peace, People and Planet

The walk will take place on **Saturday 31st May 2025**

Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. Those less able to walk can utilize the Salvation Army bus enroute. If you want a seat please contact by email at Richard@rjsmart.com or Mobile: 07749 607905
 Respectful clothing should be worn and footwear will need to be removed at some religious buildings.
 Women should come with head covering when visiting the mosque.

Please join us for all or part of the walk. If you have any queries, please contact Richard Smart by email: richard@rjsmart.com or by phone 07749 607905

10.00-10.30am Merton Civic Centre, London Rd, Morden, SM4 5DX - Planet

11.00-11.30am Baitul Faith Mosque - Peace

12.00-12.30pm St John Fisher RC - People

12.45-1.15pm St Mary's Church, Merton - Planet

1.30pm-1.45pm Salvation Army, Kingston Rd & Faith in Action - People

2.00pm-2.30pm Wimbledon Spiritualist Church - People

2.45pm-3.15pm Seven Day Adventists - People

3.30pm-4.30pm Shree Ghanapathy Temple - Planet

(All times are provisional)



Supported by:



SACRED HEART CHURCH, EDGE HILL, WIMBLEDON, SW19 4LU

THE SACRED HEART CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

HAYDN

Missa in Angustiis (Nelson Mass)

Te Deum in C Major (Marie Therese)

Symphony No. 101 (The Clock)

KATY TANSEY | CATHY BELL
 JOHN UPPERTON | ALEKSI KOPONEN
CONDUCTOR ROBERT RATHBONE

Saturday, 14 June 2025 at 8pm

TICKETS | FULL £20 | CONC. £15 | UNDER-18s FREE
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT UNTIL 31 MAY

<https://www.sacredheartmusic.co.uk/concerts/>



scan to learn more