

March 2025

EDGEWAYS

Sacred Heart Parish Magazine

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*Merton Citizens celebrate SEVEN years of achievements (pp.15–17)
[spot the parish banner on the left!]*

- Remembering Lourdes 1987 (pp.6–7)
- Reports from THREE schools! (pp.8–11, 14)
- Art and music in the parish (pp. 22–24)

FREE but donations are always welcome

Lenten fasting – now and then

While poking about obscure corners of Church history on the internet, I discovered these regulations for Lent issued in February 1873 for the Diocese of Newark in America.

How does your Lenten fasting compare with what was expected in those days?

1 Every day during Lent except Sunday is a day of fast of one meal, which should not be taken before midday, with the allowance of a moderate collation in the evening.

A collation is a light meal; perhaps we might nowadays call it a snack. Notice that every day in Lent except Sundays is a day of fasting. Do you – and be honest! – fast every weekday in Lent?

2 The precept of fasting implies also that of abstinence from the use of flesh meat, but by dispensation, the use of flesh meat is allowed in this Diocese at every meal on Sunday, and at the principal meal on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, of Lent except Holy Thursday.

So meat was not allowed on Wednesdays, Fridays or Saturdays.

Under the current regulations in England and Wales, Catholics are required to abstain from meat on Fridays and to unite this with prayer. Those who cannot or do not eat meat, such as vegetarians, should abstain from some other food.

It is easy to try to wriggle out of this requirement, but Friday – as the day of Our Lord's death on the Cross – is a special day of penitence.



3 There is no prohibition to use eggs, butter or cheese, provided the rules of quantity prescribed by the fast be complied with. Fish is not to be used at the same meals at which flesh meat is allowed. Butter, or if necessary lard, may be used in dressing of fish or vegetables.

This rule presumably precludes a surf-n'-turf meal! In the Eastern Churches, eggs are very much banned during Lent, and hence, for example, they do not eat cakes. In the Latin Church, we have it easy by comparison.



DID YOU KNOW?

The early Church began fasting on Wednesdays in memory of Jesus' betrayal. Judas offered to deliver Jesus to the chief priests for money the day before the Last Supper, sometimes called 'Spy Wednesday'.

4 All persons over seven years of age are bound to abstain from the use of flesh meat, and all over twenty-one to fast according to the above regulations unless there be a legitimate cause of exemption.

The Church excuses from the obligations of fasting, but not from that of abstinence from flesh meat, except in special cases of sickness or the like, the following classes of persons:

1. the infirm;
2. those whose duties are of an exhausting or laborious character;
3. women in pregnancy, or nursing infants;
4. those who are enfeebled by old age.

In case of doubt in regard to any of the above exemptions, recourse must be had to one's spiritual director, or physician. All alike should enter into the spirit of this holy season, which is, in a special manner, a time of prayer, and sorrow for sin, of almsgiving, and mortification.

The current Code of Canon Law (of 1983) states that 'the law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority until the

beginning of their sixtieth year'. But those who because of their age are not bound by this law must be taught the true meaning of penance (Canon 1252). The law of abstinence now applies to those over the age of 14 (same Canon).

For obvious reasons of health, the young and the old – along with those who are ill – are not bound to fast. But, as long as health is not compromised, it is good for everyone for everyone to fast (and to abstain from meat and luxuries on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday – see Canon 1251). Children old enough to understand can be introduced to the concept of fasting. CAFOD's Family Fast Day is a splendid opportunity to have a fasting meal as a family.

I saw some Canadian lobster on sale in the supermarket. Quite apart from the issue of its carbon footprint (although do crustaceans have feet?), eating expensive seafood in Lent might be within the letter of the law, but is it within the spirit? Compared with yesteryear or with Eastern Christians, we are not good at fasting. Nevertheless, the conspicuous consumption in modern Western society perhaps requires us to make a special effort to fast this Lent.

Canon David

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
FAMILY FAST DAY

Lokho lives in Kenya. When her animals died in a drought, she could not feed her family. So Lokho reached out to Wakera, a CAFOD partner. Wakera shared his skills for growing food in harsh climates. He provided Lokho with seeds, tools, and shade nets to protect her plants from the Sun, while still allowing every drop of rain through. Now, Lokho is saving for when there are no more rainy days. She gained resilience and hope, knowing she can feed her family. Support our brothers and sisters around the world like Lokho by fasting for a Friday in Lent with your family, donating the savings to CAFOD. Visit cafod.org.uk/fundraise/family-fast-day.

'Spring is sprung!'

This month, as Editor of Edgeways, I have swapped my mugshot for John Stone's lovely photograph of the spring flowers in sunshine outside our magnificent church. I really hope that you enjoy this!

Now in Lent, Canon David opens March Edgeways with an interesting reflection on **Lenten fasting** through the years (pp.2-3).

Acknowledging **International Women's Day** on Saturday 8 March, we look at its history and key figures (p.5).

As Canon David will lead a pilgrimage to Lourdes this September, one parishioner – who skillfully made the parish banner – kindly volunteers to reveal her memories of the **1987 Lourdes pilgrimage** (pp. 6-7).

This month, we enjoy not one but four stories from local schools: **Donhead Preparatory School** marks the Jubilee Year (p.14); **Sacred Heart Primary School** pupils learn about the parish community (p.8) and reflect on Lent (p.9); and two **Marymount International School** pupils interview their headmistress (pp.10-11).

From the Parish Environment Group, we introduce the **Southern Dioceses Environment Network** and a local climate change subgroup; we invite you to join us at their events! (p.13)

In April 2018, and alongside Wimbledon College, the parish was one of fifteen founding members of **Merton Citizens**, who combined resources to effect meaningful change by decision-makers on Merton Council and other bodies. To celebrate seven years of achievements and reveal future plans, 170 people gathered at Holy Trinity Church – supported by two Wombles! (pp.15-17)



Photograph by John Stone

Susannah pays tribute to her mother, **Margaret Farley** (p.18), before we look back at parish events through the eyes of **Edgeways' reports** in 2020, 2015, 2020, 2005, 2000 and 1987 (pp.20-21). Were you there and do you remember?!

Sticking with parish history, we reproduce an article on **Edith Arendrup** by the late Richard Millward (p.19).

Finally, we include an invitation from the Wimbledon Museum to their exhibition of local artists, **A Brush with the Past** (pp.22-23), before closing with a notice about the **London Welsh Male Voice Choir** (back cover), who will perform a fundraising concert at St Matthew's Church, Durham Road, on Saturday 10 May. How can you resist?!

David Hurst

Production credits: David Hurst (Editor), Matteo Baccagliani (design and layout), Wimbledon Print Company (printing and finishing: cut, fold, and staple)

Did you know ... ?

... that Saturday 8 March was International Women's Day?

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on 8 March. It is a global day championing the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

IWD grew out of the labour movement. The seeds were planted in 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City, demanding shorter working hours, better pay and the right to vote. A year later, the Socialist Party of America declared the first National Woman's Day.

The idea to make it an international event came from Clara Zetkin, a communist activist and advocate for women's rights. In 1910, she raised it at an International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen. Her suggestion was unanimously backed by the 100 women from seventeen countries who were at the conference.

The first International Women's Day was celebrated in 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. The United Nations started marking the event in 1975. The first theme adopted by the UN in 1996 was: 'Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future'.



IWD

International

Gender

Women

Respect



Here is a wordsearch to fill in, to share ... and to ponder what IWD means to you and your family. No prizes!

W	E	N	E	Z	E	M	O	I	N	U	J	J	U	Z
U	T	H	Q	I	P	P	I	T	L	J	Q	P	O	Q
V	Y	R	U	M	W	W	N	R	T	C	F	O	O	U
K	T	S	A	J	H	D	T	V	I	G	L	K	G	D
P	I	A	L	M	C	Z	E	P	A	G	S	P	I	X
H	R	M	I	K	Y	T	R	A	N	D	H	D	R	J
T	E	Z	T	U	E	C	N	S	F	D	X	T	L	S
F	S	S	Y	E	T	S	A	O	U	Y	P	D	S	H
E	P	R	T	I	R	Z	T	P	M	T	L	D	N	S
M	E	X	Z	Q	W	Y	I	L	F	F	A	M	Q	Z
I	C	M	M	U	J	V	O	E	W	O	M	E	N	M
N	T	N	J	Z	F	T	N	A	K	E	O	Y	T	H
I	S	O	E	O	G	H	A	D	D	J	Q	N	A	X
S	A	D	A	U	N	B	L	E	G	E	N	D	E	R
M	U	Y	F	B	K	S	G	R	B	K	T	G	N	N



Equality

leader

Girls

RIGHTS

Feminism



Parish pilgrimage ... 1987-style!



Following Canon David's reflection on pilgrimages in *February Edgeways* (pp.2-3), a parishioner recalls her first-hand memories of the 1987 parish pilgrimage to Lourdes ... see who you can spot above!

On Monday 11 March 1987, 89 excited pilgrims left Edge Hill by coach for Gatwick Airport to fly to Tarbes. The pilgrim patron chosen was St Luke and the theme was to be: 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

There were three organisers: Sadie, Cecelia and Marie. The spiritual director was Fr John Fairhurst SJ and the health adviser was Dr William Griffiths.

Representatives of St Peters' Tours joined us at the airport. One of the pilgrims carried the Parish Candle to be lit at the shrine and another carried the Sacred Heart parish banner that had been specifically crafted for the occasion and designed for ease of carrying.

Parishioners were accommodated for four nights at the Hotel Mediterranee on the bank of the River Pau.

There was much to see and do, including the Grotto, where in 1858 Our Lady appeared as an apparition to the 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, Masses in the magnificent Underground Basilica with about 20,000 people and about 250 priests, the evening torchlight procession, prayers and rosaries.

We visited the City of the Poor, as well as Gavarnie to enjoy the clean air of the Pyrenees. There was also time for relaxation and reflection, whether in small or large groups.

One highlight was the baths for those who wished to be blessed in this way. There were three entrances: one for males with a little waiting, one for females with a long queue, and a priority one for sick pilgrims.

The sick needed a non-medical companion, called a *brancardier* (male) or handmaid (female), to help them into the bath water. Once inside, the pilgrims undressed and donned a shift before entering the cold water up to waist-height. There were about ten steps up to a statue of Our Lady available for veneration.

Each pilgrim was dunked to about shoulder-height and then exited the clothing area. They were accompanied by the prayers of the attendant and hymn singing by pilgrims. There were no towels: it was reckoned to be one of the miracles that nobody needed drying and no-one caught anything from bathing.

The pilgrimage's laughter and joys included a pilgrim with an expired visa, a pilgrim whose luggage was missing on arrival (the return took four days), a pilgrim whose gas cylinder hairdryer was refused by security, and pilgrims with birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

The happy but exhausted pilgrims arrived back at Edge Hill late on Friday evening, looking forward to their own beds.

The pilgrimage banner, pictured right, is still used to represent and identify our parish. Learn more on pages 15-17!



Don't miss this!



THE MUSICAL STORY OF LOURDES

LONDON

July 11, 12, 13
2025

PIMLICO
LONDON SW1

LOURDES

July 24 - Aug 2
2025

HOTEL SOLITUDE
LOURDES



By Dom Hartley OS 86 & Jonny Dixon-Smith OS 87
VisionTheMusical.com

“You don't come to Lourdes for a miracle. You come to Lourdes for the strength to go on when there is no miracle.”

A now-famous line delivered by Kathy Bates (playing Eileen Dunne) in *The Miracle Club*, a 2023 drama film featuring the late Dame Maggie Smith in her final acting role

Tuesday 4 February Year 4 pupils at Sacred Heart Primary School get to know their parish community



Photograph by David Hurst

All of Year 4 from Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School attended the 10.00am Mass as part of a programme helping pupils to understand their Catholic faith and to learn about the community who work to deliver this.

After the Mass celebrated by Fr David Hunter, Rob Hitchcock, our parish Youth Minister, led the group through the presbytery to meet Amy Lam, our parish bookkeeper, Thelma D'Costa, our Executive Assistant, George McLennan, our caretaker and site manager, and Paul Davis, our sacristan.

Then, they all went into the Upper Hall for a workshop with Rob at which they were encouraged to ask *any question* about his job and the parish!

That was tricky, especially when he was asked what was the most difficult part of his job. With no hesitation, Rob replied: 'Answering the many daily emails from parents of children in the large parish groups who are taking their First Holy Communion and Confirmation.'

Thanks, Rob!

'Living our faith this Lent'

WRITTEN BY PUPIL PRAYER LEADERS

At Sacred Heart Primary School, Lent is a time for reflection, renewal, and action. As a school community, we are preparing our hearts for Easter by deepening our commitment to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, guided by our core values of faith, hope, and love.

Prayer is at the heart of our school, and throughout Lent, our prayer spaces have been given a special focus to help pupils reflect on this sacred season. These quiet, reflective areas encourage us to pause, pray and consider how we can live out Jesus' teachings.

“ 'When I sit in the prayer space, I think about how I can be more like Jesus in my everyday life.'

— Year 2 pupil

Inspired by Catholic Social Teaching (CST) principles, they also help us reflect on how we can respond to the needs of others with compassion and justice.

We began Lent with a beautiful Ash Wednesday Mass at school, led by Fr Jackson. Receiving the ashes reminded us of our call to renew our faith, trust in God's promises with hope, and share love through acts of kindness and service. It was lovely that many parishioners joined our School Mass too.

Throughout this holy season, we will take part in activities that reflect the CST principles, such as solidarity, human dignity, and the preferential option for the poor.



“ 'Ash Wednesday Mass made me realise that saying sorry is important. I want to be more forgiving, just like God forgives us.'

— Year 6 pupil

You may also wish to create your own prayer space at home – a simple, quiet area with a cross, a candle, or a prayer book can provide a special place to pause, reflect, and connect with God.

We pray that this Lent will be a time of spiritual growth for our school and parish community, as we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter.

“ 'Lent is a time to help others. I have been thinking about ways I can show kindness – not just to my friends, but to people who might feel lonely.'

— Year 4 pupil

Marymount International School Coombe Wood, Kingston

WRITTEN BY YOUTH JOURNALISTS

Marymount International School is a Catholic girls' secondary school located on a beautiful site in Coombe Wood. Although not strictly within our parish boundary, two Grade 8 students, Inés and Elis, spoke with Headmistress Margaret Giblin to introduce the school to Edgeways readers.

What is Marymount all about?

Located on a beautiful six-acre campus on the Coombe Estate, our independent Catholic day and boarding school for girls aged 11 to 18 offers a unique educational experience.

As the first all-girls school to offer the International Baccalaureate curriculum, we provide academically-ambitious students with a rigorous, world-class education that empowers them to reach their full potential.

Beyond academics, we nurture each girl's holistic growth, ensuring they leave us not only as high-achieving individuals but also



as compassionate, confident, and capable global citizens, ready to make a meaningful difference in the world.

How would you say that our school's Catholic faith shapes our daily life and education?

Our Catholic mission is at the core of everything we do, guiding our values and actions. We are inspired by the vision of our school's founders, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary: 'That all may have life and have it to the full' (John 10:10).

We create an inclusive community where students and staff live out this mission daily. As a Catholic school, we focus on developing the whole person – fostering academic growth, strong character, moral integrity, and a commitment to service.

How does the school foster service?

Service is deeply embedded in our school and aligns seamlessly with our IB curriculum. A key example is our Saturday School Partnership with St Joseph's Primary, where our students teach Year 5 and 6 students, here at Marymount.

Each Grade has a meaningful service partnership, supporting the Kingston Food Hub, a homeless shelter, and working with parishioners.

We aim to cultivate a culture of service, where giving back is really valued. As Head Teacher, I see my role as one of service to students, families, and the broader community.

What support exists for students, not just academically, but also spiritually and emotionally?

Our school seeks to develop the whole person. Academically, we are in the top 2% of IB schools globally, and we are incredibly proud of our students' achievements.

However, education is not just about results: it's about holistic development. Catholic students receive sacramental preparation, and all students have access to retreats and Campus Ministry for spiritual development. Emotional growth is supported by our advisory curriculum and pastoral team, helping students build resilience and self-awareness.

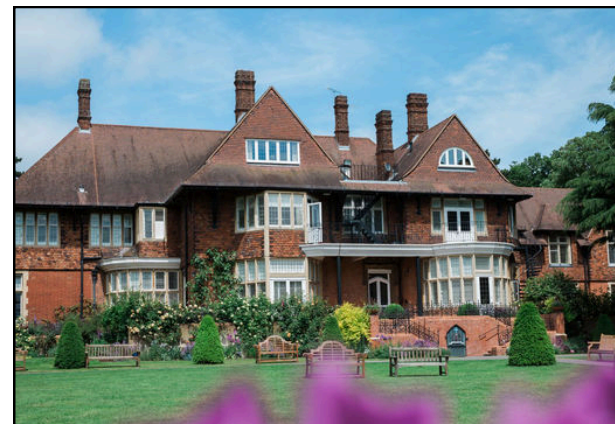
How does the school empower young women to lead?

An all-girls environment fosters confidence, ambition, and leadership by providing a space tailored to female students' needs. Our supportive community ensures every student is valued, encouraged, and empowered to pursue her passions and therefore reach her full potential.

What fun moment captures our spirit?

Spirit Week, especially International Day, is a celebration of our community's wonderfully-diverse heritages, filled with joy, laughter, and community pride!

Thank you for your time, Mrs Giblin!



Marymount School,
George Road, Coombe
Wood KT2 7PE

Our next Open Day
will be from 10.30am to
12.30pm on Saturday 26
April. For more details
and to book, please visit
marymountlondon.com.

WIMBLECOMM



Your Merton Community Hub
Connecting people, places and passions

WIMBLE COMM
www.wimbledoncommunity.org

Wimblecomm is the online presence of the Wimbledon Community Association (WCA), a local charity serving all of the London Borough of Merton.

The WCA was founded way back in 1946 with the aim to promote the wellbeing of the broad community based around Wimbledon, to further cultural, social and physical welfare, and to foster a spirit of mutual service and friendship.

WCA is an independent, inclusive registered charity, and is for community groups and community spaces to connect and to share. Please take a look at the website, wimbledoncommunity.org, to learn more.



Catholic Young Writer Award 2025

In this Jubilee Year, the theme of the annual Catholic Young Writer Award competition by the Catholic Union is 'Jesus Christ, Son of God'. Students are asked to imagine that a friend has said to them that Jesus was a great man, and wonderful moral teacher, but that they did not accept that he was God. They are encouraged to write a handwritten essay in response, drawing on the Scriptures and showing evidence of having studied the Catechism of the Catholic Church and some papal teachings.

The award is open to young Catholics and pupils at Catholic schools in Years 8-11. There is a cash prize of £50, plus runner-up book prizes. The deadline to enter is Friday 30 May. For full information and for details on how to enter, please visit catholicunion.org.uk/2025/01/catholic-young-writer-award-2025.

Southern Dioceses Environment Network

SOUTHERN DIOCESES
ENVIRONMENT
NETWORK

The **Parish Environment Group** is becoming an active part of the Southern Dioceses Environment Network (SDEN).

SDEN is a network for all Catholics and friends who care about Creation in the long-term task of stabilising our climate and protecting our common home. The group is inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, as set out by Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato si'* (2015), and teachings about caring for the Earth and one another found in Scripture.

Participants include CAFOD, diocesan staff and volunteers, *Laudato Si'* Animators, Journey to 2030, and clergy and parishioners from different parishes. All parishioners are most welcome to participate, either once or regularly.

SDEN meets online from 12.45pm to 2.00pm on the second Monday of the month, and organises other events online and in-person (see right). To join, please email David at dthurst52@gmail.com. You can also learn more about SDEN at westminsterjusticeandpeace.org/southern-dioceses-environment-network.

The parish is also represented on the 'Climate Change' subgroup of Merton Council Faith & Belief Forum, which meets every two months or so both online and in-person for discussions. If you wish to know more or to participate locally, please email David at dthurst52@gmail.com.



Sat. 10 – Sun. 18 May
Urban Tree Festival

Sat. 10 May: 'National Justice and Peace Network: Opening Doors to a Sustainable Future for All People' Networking Day at Romero House

Mon. 19 – Fri. 23 May: Creation Retreat at Buckfast Abbey, Devon, with Paula Pearce, former Director of the Franciscan Study Centre

Sat. 24 – Sat. 31 May
Laudato si' Week

Tue. 27 – Sat. 31 May: Care of Creation Retreat, entitled 'The Joy of Limits', at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria, with John Paul de Quay and Sr Margaret Atkins, exploring sustainability, art, economics, and the joy found in embracing limits

11.00am – 4.00pm Thu. 29 May: Westminster Justice and Peace Pilgrimage along the Westminster Way to celebrate the Jubilee Year

Sat. 7 – Sun. 15 June
Great Big Green Week

2.00pm Sat. 7 June: Westminster Care of Creation: Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the *Laudato si'* Encyclical

Wed. 9 July: The Climate Coalition Mass Lobby of Parliament

Jubilee 2025 at Donhead Preparatory School



Donhead students, now comprising girls as well as boys, have been involved in a number of activities to celebrate the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' for the Year of Jubilee 2025.

We have been invited to walk 40 kilometres in honour of St Ignatius' journey from his home in Loyola as part of the Jesuit Schools Jubilee celebration. Donhead children and staff completed our 'Walks of Hope', starting with laps around the lawn in houses Xavier, Loyola and Campion, raising money for Jesuit Missions. The atmosphere was filled with smiles, words of encouragement, and plenty of laughter.

Our Acutis Group, accompanied by Maria Negkaki, Head of Religious Education, joined the Jesuit Missions Solidarity Walk, alongside other schools and Sacred Heart parishioners.

We are also hosting a 'Pilgrims of Hope' House Morning, when children will take part in a range of activities including art and dance as a community as we pledge to work together for justice, peace, and love.



Thursday 27 February: Merton Citizens celebrate seven years of achievements

On Thursday 27 February, Merton Citizens gathered at Holy Trinity Church in South Wimbledon to celebrate seven years of organising, campaigning, and winning together.

- Over 170 people attended in-person ... and two Wombles!
- The celebration of campaign victories included mental health, housing, becoming a Borough of Sanctuary for Refugees, and the living wage.
- The evening included testimonies from local community members, creative performances, a choir, and a sing-along with the Wombles.



Graham Kennedy and David Hurst with the parish Lourdes banner (see pp.6-7)



Madame Cholet & Wellington Womble lead attendees in song!

Since our founding in April 2018, we have been working – and winning – on issues of housing, insecure work and wages, mental health, and making Merton a Borough of Sanctuary for Refugees.

Merton Citizens' membership consists of local charities and faith and education institutions. Our parish is a founding member alongside Wimbledon College.

Merton Citizens is an alliance of local organisations that comes together to fight for justice through the method of community organising.

As part of the national organisation, Citizens UK (visit citizensuk.org), we focus on building relationships, developing leaders, and strengthening institutions to build power and win change.





A performance by Wimbledon YMCA

The evening was led by members of local communities, and included:

- an introduction and facilitation by co-chairs from the Salvation Army, YMCA Wimbledon, and St Barnabas Church in Mitcham
- testimonies about developing relationships in the community and leading campaigns, including:
 - Mental Health Support in the community
 - more affordable homes on public land
 - user-led training for housing officers working with people experiencing homelessness
 - make Merton a Borough of Sanctuary
 - make Merton a Living Wage Borough
- YMCA Wimbledon detailing the stories of previous community organising and campaigning
- a choir singing about 'Happiness' by children from Holy Trinity Primary School
- group discussions about local issues



Tom Underwood, one of the evening's speakers

The night ended with a singalong. Everyone in attendance joined in with the local classic theme tune from *The Wombles*, with lyrics rewritten to celebrate Merton Citizens. The singalong was led by two Wombles, Madame Cholet and Wellington Womble.



Next Merton Citizens' Leaders Meeting

7.00pm Wednesday 2 April

If you would like to attend as an observer, please contact David (dthurst52@gmail.com) or Kes (kes.gillmartin@citizensuk.org).



Some members of Merton Citizens on stage – which ones can you spot?



The evening's co-chairs



Food and discussions



A group photo to be sent to Merton Council as part of the 'Make Merton a Borough of Sanctuary' campaign

This article was adapted from a press release by Merton Citizens. Photographs: Rachel Perera.

Margaret Farley 11 March 1922 – 1 December 2024

Margaret came to live in Wimbledon in 1967, after marrying my dad, Eric, and becoming stepmother to me and my younger sister, Rebecca. They married at Westminster Cathedral, opposite the flat in Ashley Gardens where Margaret lived.

At the time of her marriage, Margaret was an art teacher, commuting to work at St Michael's School, Bermondsey. She later became a teacher in adult education in Merton, and pursued her career as a freelance calligrapher and designer. She was also a talented potter, sculptor, and painter in watercolour and oils. Margaret became the Chair of The Society of Catholic Artists, as well as exhibiting her work in many places.

She took a very active part in the Sacred Heart community, attending church and joining the choir. She was also a member of the committee which welcomed new members into the church. Margaret took part in pilgrimages to Lourdes and Walsingham and was a regular attendee at Catholic Peoples Week. She had a great interest in the philosophy of religion and took part in discussion forums about theological matters. Margaret was a member of the Church Art and Architects Committee and worked on projects with senior members of the clergy and professional artists like herself.

Margaret moved to Oakhill Court in 2002 and lived next door to her great friend, Marion Spencer. There she was surrounded by parishioners at Sacred Heart; they would walk over to Mass together every morning and enjoy coffee breaks that went on for most of the day in one of their homes.



Margaret on her 95th birthday

Margaret lived in her flat, among her beloved plants and the fantastic wildlife in the garden, being cared for at home by amazing carers and family members until nearly the age of 103. Margaret was cheerful and enjoyed life until the end; she always had a smile for everyone who came to visit her. I will remember her as a very special person who was interested in so many things and who took great pleasure in being involved with her large family and many friends.

Susannah Farley-Green

Susannah would like to thank all the people who attended Margaret's funeral and donated over £200 to CAFOD on the day and online.

Edith Arendrup: The triumph over tragedy of our parish's founder

Madame Arendrup was born Edith Courtauld at Braintree, Essex, on 1 September 1846.

After several episodes of tragedies in her life, she settled in Wimbledon in 1877; she was already a convert to Catholic faith. Wimbledon was a strongly Protestant suburb with a flourishing Evangelical movement, and Catholics had to travel five miles to the nearest Mass centre at Roehampton.

Despite being surrounded by this hostile environment, Edith's Catholic faith grew strong, and she set out to change this state of affairs. With the permission of the local bishop, she built a private chapel in her residence, and it was fully opened to the faithful for celebrations of the Eucharist.

In the chapel, she made a special altar dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Her bold initiative began to bear fruit. The initial group, which was only a few hundred in 1884, had become 550 by 1886. Her private chapel could not contain the swelling crowds attending the Sunday Masses.

Edith's only solution was to build a large church – and the Lord was with her. Very soon, she bought the land on the slopes of the hills of Worple Road. She laid the foundation of the church in 1887 with the help of a Jesuit priest, Fr Morris. She insisted that the church be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The church was completed and was opened by Bishop John Butt on 17 June 1887. Edith could not attend the consecration due to her son's illness.



Tragedy followed her once again as she lost Axel, her only son, at 20 years old, in 1896. Around the same time, she also suddenly lost her friend and spiritual guide, Fr Morrison, who fostered her devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

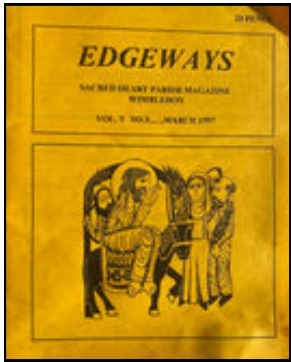
Edith's devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Heart of Mary drew her to the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, a religious order based in Paris. She joined them and, renouncing her wealth, took her vows in 1897. She started to work with the poor in Wapping, East London.

As a religious of the order in England and Ireland, Edith served the poor, especially those affected by war. She was known for her kindness and generosity. After many years of committed religious life, she died at her family house in Braintree on 10 January 1934.

This article was adapted from Richard Milward's Triumph over Tragedy: Life of Edith Arendrup, 1846–1934 (Merton Priory Press, 1991).

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

This month, we take a look at events reported in Edgeways in March issues 10, 15, 20, 25, and 28 years ago. See what you can remember!



March 1997 (Vol. 9 No. 3)

- Michael Orbell reports on the 9th Wimbledon with 200 Boy Scouts, formed in 1931
- Diana Strouts introduces our 23 Rangers, 63 Girl Guides and 60 Brownies
- Mgr Anthony Stark's 23rd talk to the Newman Circle was about Cardinal Manning
- Mary Connellan and Ted Sammons write about the parish Credit Union

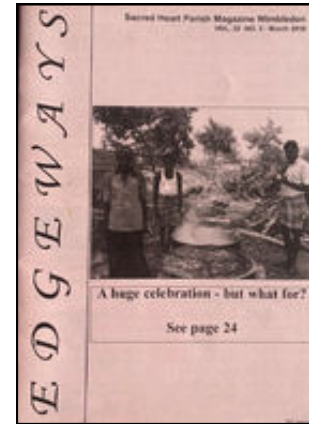
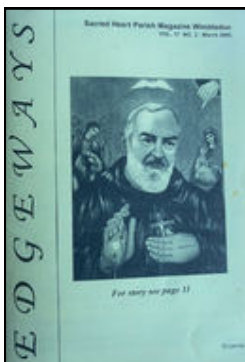
March 2000 (Vol. 12 No. 3)

- Jubilee Indulgences can be gained by visiting the Sacred Heart church [*like in our 2025 Jubilee Year!*]
- Council grant awarded for Sacred Heart Primary School 'Millennium Garden'
- Richard Millward writes about '1,000 years of Christianity in Wimbledon'



March 2005 (Vol. 17 No. 3)

- Local artist Moya Hogarth designs Padre Pio icon
- Alison Williams writes about Buddhism
- John Marshall explains the relevance of St Peter's denials



March 2010 (Vol. 22 No. 3)

- 'Youth Corner' launches with James Potter interview
- Anne Chappell on the Friendship Group's 'Sacred Heart Quiz'
- Jesuit Missions tell us about their work in flood-damaged Tamil Nadu

March 2015 (Vol. 27 No. 3) – new design and colour!

- John Symes advises on keeping children safe online
- David Hurst [*who is he?!*] writes about 'Politics and the Young'
- Eugene Byrne welcomes Professor Tina Beattie to the Newman Circle



March 2020 (Vol. 32 No. 3)

- Report from the Catholic Children's Society, our 2019 Crib Appeal beneficiary
- Anthony Howard completes his 'Mass-a-Day' Lenten Pilgrimage
- Sarah Tobin gives the verdict on parish recycling – one year on



Did you know? **March 2020** is the first issue of Edgeways available in the digital archive at sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk/edgeways.

Wimbledon Museum Art Exhibition 'A Brush with the Past'



The Wimbledon Museum is delighted to announce its upcoming exhibition, *A Brush with the Past*, an exciting new collaboration with Common Works Gallery.

Ten contemporary artists have each drawn inspiration from works of art in the museum's collection, reinterpreting the perspectives of intriguing figures such as Belgian refugee and anarchist Alois de Laet, suffragette Hilda Bather, and renowned stained glass designer Hugh Arnold.

The result is a vivid connection between past and present, bringing new life to scenes captured by past painters and offering visitors a fascinating variety of

views of Wimbledon Common. The Common has inspired artists for centuries with its sweeping landscapes, tranquil woodlands, and rich history.

This exhibition breathes new life into these iconic scenes as today's artists respond to the works of the past, offering fresh perspectives on familiar vistas. Visitors will witness a compelling fusion of traditional and modern styles, highlighting the enduring significance of Wimbledon's unique environment.

Additionally, visitors will be encouraged to respond to the paintings themselves, and to visit the Common afterwards to make their own sketches.

The exhibition includes:

- ten contemporary artists offering bold reinterpretations of historic works;
- rarely-seen paintings from Wimbledon Museum's collection, usually in storage due to their delicate nature and lack of display space; and
- a celebration of the Common's natural and cultural heritage.

FREE ENTRY until Sunday 30 March. 2.30pm to 5.00pm Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. Entrance above the Wimbledon Village Club (22 Ridgway, SW19 4QN). For more details, please visit wimbledonmuseum.org.uk/museum/what-s-on/a-brush-with-the-past.



On Wimbledon Common (1904) by Hugh Arnold, Wimbledon Museum Collection



'This collaboration is a celebration of the timeless connection between art, history, and place.

By pairing historic paintings with contemporary responses, we invite visitors to see Wimbledon Common with new eyes, exploring its legacy and relevance today.'

— Jacqueline Laurence, Museum Director



'I am repeatedly drawn to Wimbledon Common as painting inspiration and it feels magical that artists historically have been too. What a wonderful way to connect with the past.'

— Katherine Rowe, artist and founder of Common Works Gallery

Free catechetical workshops

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Archbishop's Appeal, every parishioner, as well as teachers and parents in our schools, has free access to workshops created by the Catechetical Institute at the world-renowned Franciscan University until 30 September 2025. From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For more information and instructions to access the workshops, please visit aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan.



Merton Homelessness Project presents



The London Welsh Male Voice Choir

For a Fundraising Concert

Saturday, 10th May 2025. 6:45 pm

At St Matthew's Church, West Wimbledon

London SW20 0DE

Tickets £40 and £30.

**For more information or to book tickets please
email: chair@mertonfaithinaction.org
or scan the QR code.**

