

SPIRE

St. Stephen's Community Magazine
Harvest 2019
Issue 30



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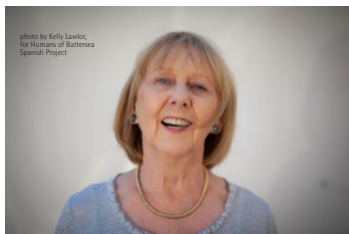
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WELCOME

Angela Emmott - Editor



In August 2019 the 45th World Skills Competition took place in Kazan, Russia, with President Putin giving the final address. The United Kingdom came 12th out of 60 countries, winning 15 medals for skills in Floristry, Bricklaying, Plumbing and Heating amongst others. A Gold medal in Beauty Therapy. So, skills are important, and clearly, we have many! In this edition of Spire, we see how some affect us and how we gain or regain others!

The Vicar brings us the story of Joseph and his coat of many colours; of his brothers' hardship, famine and migration to learn a new way of life. New challenges often come with the chance to gain new skills too, as Tomas our Curate tells us.

Opportunities for fun and learning are developing on the Kingswood Estate; both at Kingswood House and at the Kingswood Community Hub, also at Ignite, Youth Group

Sandra reflects on some of the physical and wellbeing issues that we may face in life, whilst Max, her dog, is supporting basic skills learning. Find out how!

Please look closely at the story of Joe Hammond, and his newly published book "The Fear of Falling." It is a remarkable insight into how life can change and how adaptations can be made to retain a loving family life. Finally, Martin invites us to walk around the Manor of Dulwich, looking back at the location chosen by Edward Alleyne in 1619.

We hope you find some interest in our focus on basic skills, and we invite you to join us on any Sunday; especially at Harvest Festival and other special services listed on our back page. We look forward to meeting you.



Music at St Stephen's

Our Church Choir is always keen to recruit new members, both adult and children: the primary requirements are enthusiasm and reliable commitment. The choristers practise each Friday in term time, and the adults join them once or twice a month and for Festivals. Sundays 9am rehearsal for 10am service. For further information, contact Rupert Perkins on ststephensDOM@talktalk.net, or telephone 079597461677.

Baptisms & Wedding bookings

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

St Stephen's Millennium Hall is available for hire from £60/hr. To book please visit <http://www.ststephensdulwich.org/millennium-hall/>



The Church has also proved to be an attractive venue for Chamber and Choral Concerts. It is a bright and beautiful building with a warm and vibrant acoustic, conveniently located next door to Sydenham Hill Station. Enquiries may be made of the vicar by email: schunemann@btinternet.com, or via the website. Concerts are listed on the concerts page on the website.



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A story of migration, that builds new life

by Revd Canon Bernhard Schünemann



I was delighted that this summer has seen a West End Revival of the musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat." It even features Jason Donovan playing the part of Pharaoh, having originally appeared as Joseph in the 1991 landmark production which was also at the Palladium!

Two of the most successful musicals of the Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber partnership deal with some of the central narratives of the Christian Bible, the story of Jesus in "Jesus Christ Superstar" and of Joseph, from the central chapters of Genesis (37 to 46), in this wonderful musical. For those of us who like novels we can re-read the stories about Joseph and his brothers in the highly literary novel of the same name by Thomas Mann. Mann colours his narratives with insights of modern scholarship and world depth psychology – little wonder really since dreams play such an important and recurring role in this tale.

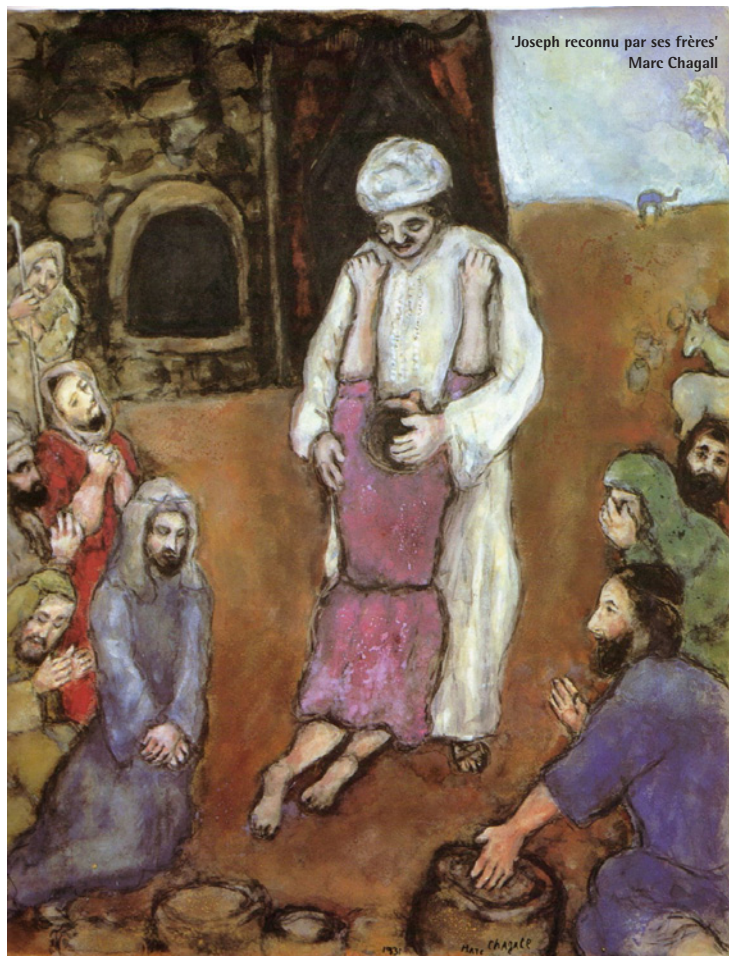
The story is a great family saga, with brotherly love between Joseph and Benjamin, deep jealousy and betrayal, and even attempted murder between brothers! A spectacular reconciliation is the heart of the story and it is little wonder it appealed to the young Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. God does not get even a single mention in all of these chapters of the Bible. It's a story that tries to

explain how these nomadic people from Palestine somehow ended up as impoverished migrants and slaves in Egypt, and it is only there that their identity as a people of Israel is forged and the unique relationship with a God whose deepest desire is to save, begins to be formed.

But for me this Harvest Season of 2019 the story of Joseph and his brothers reminds how ecology, and more particularly ecological uncertainty and even disaster, can lead to a movement of people – in other words migration. We cannot shut ourselves off from such events and such trends but we can listen carefully to those who suggest ways to slow and mitigate climate change. Solutions to this

most pressing crisis are never only technical, they will involve profound lifestyle changes of us all, as individuals as well as those politicians who will make finding solutions their top priority.

We as a Christian Church have not always been good allies in finding solutions to this most important and pressing challenge, perhaps we have misunderstood the role of humanity as the pinnacle of creation rather than as chief protector and preserver of all that is created. Be that as it may we can now model a lifestyle that is full of joy and contentment, while at the same time drastically reducing consumption, so important as we reflect on our good fortune at this Harvest Time.



Learning through Kingswood

by Jane Wenlock, Chair of the Friends of Kingswood House

Not only does the Kingswood Estate have the Community Hub, on Seeley Drive, but those who live there or nearby have ample opportunities at Kingswood House, which nestles in the centre of the Estate, to go on learning through and well past their school days.

The House is affectionately called 'The Castle' and for a time was the home of John Lawson Johnston, the inventor of Bovril. In its time the house has also been home to a Russian prince, wounded Canadian soldiers, and the founder of the Blue Star Line shipping company. Today, it is a place for Cubs, Beavers, parties and celebrations, exercise and drama classes, and for social get-togethers. It takes part in Open House weekend in September, and has in the past had Festivals and Victorian events. It also houses a Southwark Council library and the office of Paxton Green Timebank.

The Timebank gets people to help one another in exchange for time credits. From time to time it provides learning events such as portrait painting, social games, gardening, SpaceCraft knitting, language lessons (e.g. Italian and Spanish), keep fit, healthy eating, and movement workshops. Not to forget breathing and relaxation, cultural and International cooking, health and wellbeing, sense and storytelling!

Now there is a plan in the pipeline for the Friends of Kingswood House to learn from the residents of the Estate about their experiences,

contentment and hopes for the future. If it comes to fruition the Estate could be an example of friendship and social cohesion that will be the envy of many. Those living on the Estate have stories and memories, going back to when the Estate was first built after the Second World War (and residents successfully campaigned to prevent Kingswood House from being demolished) through to the present day, with the stories of more recent residents who have come to live here too.



Kingswood House is owned and managed by Southwark Council. A charity, Friends of Kingswood House, actively promotes the history of the house and its use for the local community. Like an older member of a family, Kingswood House increasingly needs more care and attention but is rich in stories and capacity to share for the benefit of the whole community. Please consider joining the Friends of Kingswood House so the house can continue to be a source of fun and learning.

You can contact the Friends of Kingswood House at: friendsofkingswood@gmail.com



WELCOME...

to our newly appointed curate

Revd Tomas Reed



He tells us something of the new skills gained during his training, which he will certainly be using at St Stephen's!

An edition of The Spire focusing on basic skills is a very appropriate one in which to reflect on my first few months as the new curate at St Stephen's. Coming to ordained ministry after a career of more than ten years in teaching, it seems to me that whilst many of the skills honed over the course of a decade continue to be essential, there are also a good number that my previous career did not equip me with. Consequently, the lead up to ordination and curacy has marked a point in my life in which I have had to take stock of what I have learned elsewhere and begin afresh to develop other skills that are necessary for my new role. This article briefly explores three such examples.

The first and most obvious basic skill I've needed to acquire has been a good grounding in academic Theology. This was the most substantial component of the training for ordination I undertook at Westcott House in Cambridge over my two years prior to arriving at St Stephen's. Whilst I faced an initial challenge of returning to academic study

myself after having spent so long assisting others in their studies, this was compounded by my background in Physics which also required me to adjust to a contrasting way of thinking. Getting to grips with writing essays on a weekly basis was a very different way of working compared with the way you approach Physics problems, taking me the best part of a year to get used to.

The second was adapting to communal living in a theological college, perhaps the most obvious marker of student life! Returning once more to a single study bedroom, with the associated sharing of facilities and reduced privacy, was something of a shock to my system. Thankfully, however, the people I encountered at the college turned out to be some of the most well-meaning and caring individuals I have ever encountered, and amongst them I have made some very close friends. I am also certain that the experience of learning to get along with a wide variety of very different people will be an invaluable life lesson.

Finally, there is the pattern of work and the rhythm of life inherent to ordained ministry, which are very different from those in

education. Teaching is a highly structured environment where schools, out of necessity, rely on a timetable to tell everyone where and when they need to be. One of the great strengths of this approach is the freedom it allows you to concentrate on what is at the heart of your role. However, its downside is that it could occasionally feel inflexible when I wanted to respond quickly to changing priorities or situations. Ministry is completely the opposite, giving you both the privilege and the opportunity to have a great deal more control over your day. Consequently, another of the basic skills that need to be acquired, is how to make the very most of this freedom!

Coming to St Stephen's has been an exciting and exhilarating experience. With so much to learn, especially after a great deal of experience in another field, being aware of this has also been, slightly daunting. That said, the welcome I have encountered here has been extraordinarily warm and is something for which I will always be extremely grateful. I have learned so much in a very short time and look forward to continuing to do so. revdtomosreed@gmail.com



Local residents also have the chance to learn new skills and take part in activities at the Kingswood Community Hub.

In the next edition Jo Hunt, the Project Manager, will share the story of how the opportunity to train and develop at KCH, has opened up a new path for one determined resident.

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A Short History of Falling:

by Angela Emmott



A Short History of Falling - Everything I Observed About Love Whilst Dying by Joe Hammond.

Published 5th September 2019 by 4th Estate. Launched at THE BOOKSELLER CROW, Crystal Palace. 6th September 2019

Joe and Gill Hammond were married at St Stephen's Church in 2010. They lived in Crystal Palace and enjoyed the friendly community here, making life-long friends. In 2012 they brought their son Tom to be baptised at our Church in College Road by Bernhard, the Vicar. It was a joyful time for them with the publication and production of Joe's play 'Where the Mangrove Grows.' Joe wrote for us at St Stephen's, about this special time in his life, in The SPIRE Magazine, Christmas 2014 saying..." Many of my long-held desires materialised that year. Experience and striving distilled into these tiny forms. A baby. A play. It was a rare time. A coming together." He commented happily, that life is a "mess" ... "without the mess we wouldn't have any stories."

Now he brings us his own story, open, honest, funny, painful and brutal, with a richness of description that is like savouring that special flavour of a favourite

treat. He shares with us the escalating toll that physical illness has taken on him, his body and his family.

He writes. "This book is about the process of saying goodbye. To my body, as I journey from unexpected clumsiness to a wheel chair that resembles a spacecraft... To this world as I play less of a part in it and find myself floating off, into unlighted territory. To Gill, my wife, To Tom & Jimmy."

At the launch of his book many friends from over the years gathered to share stories and look back with pleasure at the times

they have shared. Joe even sent a short story for us to hear about his encounters with an elderly neighbour back in Crystal Palace, a buddy with opposing views on most things whose company he so enjoyed! We were privileged to hear from Gill telling us of "the blessing of real relationships," in their family life. As a close friend, Julia, said... "this book is inspirational."

I've just finished reading your book, Joe, and don't really know how to thank you for allowing us your readers to stand on the doorstep and see into your life in such a personal way. I have laughed and smiled with you at





always with an upbeat style, but senses the difficulty others may have in coming to terms with what he has had to accept. He reminds us that though births and marriages are openly celebrated in many instances... "death is acknowledged with, at best, an email."

Is this a sad book? Of course. But it is laced with those splendid retellings of his experiences on this journey: the indignities of care, the stains on the t-shirt, his son putting on his socks, the struggle to relearn basic skills again. But throughout his story his love for life and his family is paramount. It shines through his writing. Joe and Gill, it has been a privilege to read your book and on behalf of St Stephen's and our vicar Bernhard and team, we send our best wishes and love to the family.

those early encounters of falling, all 6ft 3ins, into your son's empty cot, off the edge of the pavement on the way to Tom's school. But the transition to this as a more regular and solemn occurrence, led to you discovering, "That unexpected diagnosis of a degenerative disease has settled the challenge to learn new skills and adapt..."

contact, made more difficult as his movements have reduced.

Joe and his family lived in Portugal for a time and shared many adventures; back in England they have made many friends along the way. He is concerned to be honest about his dwindling ability,

Joe shares his early upbringing and weekend stays with his Dad, and that profound sense it gave him as a parent to spend time having fun with his boys, which his earlier time as a writer allowed him do. He tells us..." Children are like ivy, the way they reach into you and wrap around you, asking questions with their bodies and finding routes through." Parenting taught him so much about love and the importance of physical



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Essential skills for schools, with special help from Max



Hello! My name is Max. I've been with my lovely owner, Sandra, since I was a little puppy. I'm a large and very friendly black dog now, I enjoy walks in the park, lying on her comfy bed and a good dinner every night. As a more elderly chap these days, I don't have a lot to do but there is one very important engagement I wouldn't miss for all the treats in the world!

Once a week, Sandra and I walk through the park to Dulwich Wood Primary School where I meet lots of friendly children and a few grown-ups. You all set a huge store with what you call the Three Rs, which I know now stand for Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, though even as a dog I can't quite understand why it's not R, W and A!

So why do I go to school? I don't need to learn to read and write, Sandra reads to me and I can't recall ever asking her to write anything for me!

Well, the lovely answer is that the children clearly enjoy my company and love to show off their reading to me. They read me their stories and show me the

pictures, sometimes the books are about animals, I enjoy those the most, especially the ones about other dogs. My favourite one is Henry, the Dog with No Tail, all Henry ever wanted was a tail and I know exactly how he feels as I don't have a tail because I injured it when I was a puppy and it had to be cut off! I'd love to be able to thump it on the floor when a child is reading to me or is giving me a hug but at least I can wag my little tail stump to show them all how happy I am!

It seems that reading to me, really helps these young people to practise their skills, because I listen so attentively. So here I am Max of the 3 R's, a basic skills support volunteer. Pity they can't practise throwing me balls to fetch as well!

Realigning your basic skills

by Sandra Potter

When we think about essential skills, we probably think about reading, writing and speaking. But what about the gross motor skills? Defined as movements of the large muscles of our bodies controlling the arms, legs and torso, they involve the coordination of our muscles and the neurological system. They impact balance and our ability to make smooth movements. They give us our physical strength and affect our reaction time.

Then there are the fine motor skills which use the small muscles in our hands and wrists that help us make small movements, such as threading a needle or holding a pencil. Most of us learn these skills as babies as part of our natural development but there are some children who struggle to control these muscles, a condition known as dyspraxia or developmental coordination disorder (DCD). These children can be helped with targeted exercises and the assistance of an occupational therapist. They may continue to

be 'clumsy', or not great at sport, but they will have the essential skills to lead a normal and fulfilled life.

But what happens if someone has a stroke, a major car accident or a heart attack? They may lose one or more of the essential skills that they have taken for granted all their lives. After all, which one of us remembers learning to walk or talk? I certainly don't.

Fortunately for us, there is a whole army of people who have been trained to reteach lost skills to help with adjustment or rehabilitation. Physiotherapists design specific exercises to help address each individual's needs. For instance, a person who has lost the use of their legs will need to teach their leg muscles to work again. This might have to start right at the very beginning with learning to balance again. Going back to childhood, a child has to learn to stand before being able to walk. It is just the same with an injured adult. Once balance is regained,

they will start on parallel bars to shuffle a few inches at a time. It sounds tortuous and it is! Enormous patience, courage and determination are required both by the patient and the therapist.

The injury to the brain caused by a stroke can rob a person of the ability to speak or swallow, amongst a raft of other problems. A speech and language therapist might use speech entrainment where patients are exposed to audio-visual speech stimuli and instructed to mimic the stimuli enabling them to slowly relearn speech. They will also work on the ability to swallow which interestingly is closely allied to the ability to talk. Music therapy helps stimulate multiple brain functions including the ability to speak.

Please remember when reading this that I am not a doctor or a therapist, just an interested human being and volunteer, who helps at our local hospice, and who sees the amazing support that is possible, to strengthen those whose health needs have changed.

Yr 6 and above to join St Stephen's Youth Group, Ignite
by Clare Perkins



IGNITE: - a welcoming youth group to learn, share and have fun.

We meet every Friday during term time from 7-8.30pm in the church hall at St Stephen's. After relaxing over a meal together we play games and sports and then work on a bible study.

Last year we started going through the bible as a whole story, with videos, to explain things. Every Ignite member has been given their own study bible and we began to learn how the bible instructs us in how to live our lives today. Through discussions and praying together we are getting to know each other and discover



how we can build friendships and learn to trust in God.

We've had some great fun events too, throughout the year, including ice skating and barbeques as the photos show.

Ignite has an exciting new leader called Ramond Mitchell taking over from this term – read more about him in the next Spire!





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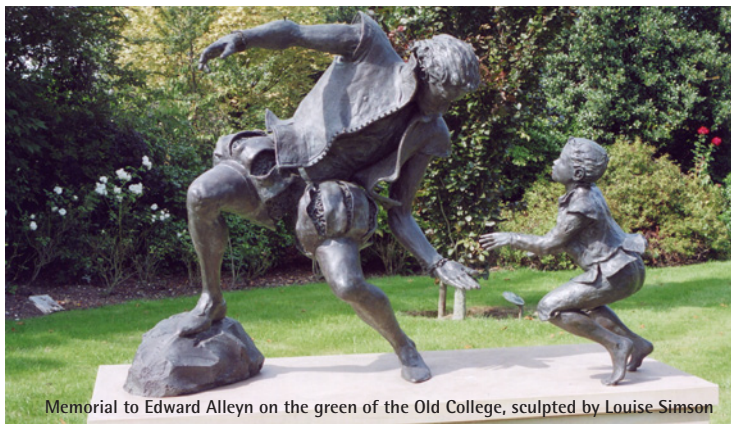


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The Manor of Dulwich changes

by Martin Knight



Memorial to Edward Alleyn on the green of the Old College, sculpted by Louise Simson

Martin Knight, a retired geography teacher and lifetime resident of Dulwich, has long been fascinated by the particular quality of our area. He writes: -

What was the Manor of Dulwich like in 1619, and how, when and why has it changed?

Much has been written about the influence of Edward Alleyn on Dulwich, but it would seem appropriate in this year, the 400th anniversary of his Foundation, to say more about the setting and character of the place he chose. Geographers study places – their location, environment and land use, and also the interactions of the people who live and work there.

The Manor of Dulwich was located about four miles south of the City of London, along the border between the medieval counties of Kent and Surrey. In 1619 it constituted the most rural part of the large medieval Parish of St Giles, Camberwell, whose only connection with London was via the bridge over the River Thames, three miles to the north in Southwark. Here were located inns and taverns, markets, and industries, trades and services – deemed unseemly by the Crown, the Church and the City aldermen at the time (including Alleyn's

Fortune Theatre, and some other dubious 'leisure' activities that were the source of much of Edward Alleyn's wealth!).

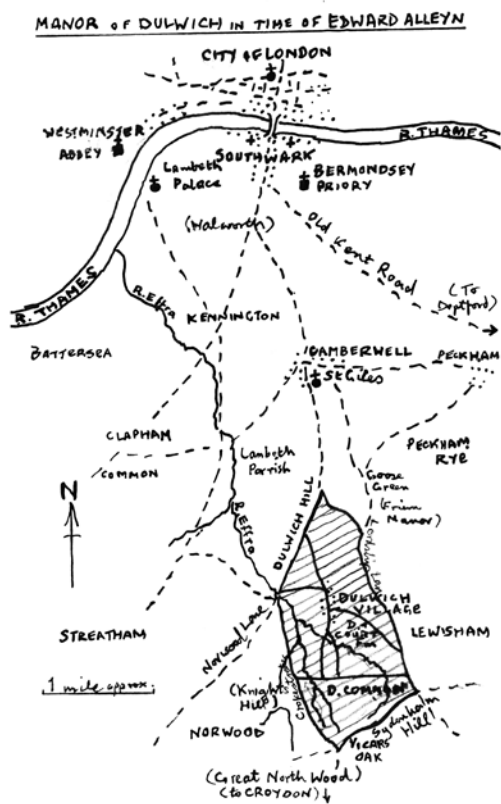
Until Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536-8, much of the land south of the Thames, including Southwark and Camberwell, was owned by Bermondsey Priory. 'South London' as we know it did not exist: this mainly rural land was used to pasture livestock for milk, or to fatten animals for slaughter at nearby markets; their manure supported a few orchards and vegetable plots. Dulwich was then a rather isolated hamlet of perhaps 150 souls, comprising 1100 acres of the small Effra river basin. It had heavy clay soils, was surrounded by steep wooded hills, and had no roads passing through it to encourage movement and trade. Alleyn was therefore able to purchase the Manor cheaply, and to have funds left over to endow the 'College of God's Gift' he sought for the education and welfare of the local poor, and of the parishes of the City and Southwark in which he had lived and worked.

The 1100 acre Manor was the upper part of the Effra river basin, draining the north-facing woodland and meadows of Dulwich to the Thames in Lambeth.

It was orientated northwards from the 'Vicar's Oak' (highest point of The Great North Wood of Surrey), to the lower line of Dulwich Hills (later Denmark Hill and Grove Lane), overlooking Camberwell and the Thames Valley. Its eastern boundary was Lordship (= 'manor') Lane, the road from Sydenham and Lewisham to Peckham and Camberwell. On the west, it followed a larger branch of the Effra along 'Crokestrete' (Croxted Lane bordering Knight's Hill), that separated Dulwich from Norwood and the road between Lambeth Palace and the Archbishop of Canterbury's alternative residence in Croydon.

The village had two small hostleries, but no church or market. Court Farm administered local affairs, and occupied the central parts of the Dulwich basin, which included many ditches draining water meadows, and feeding ponds that nurtured 'fur, fish and fowl'. Alleyn lived at Hall Place near Crokestrete, but built his College in the village where Dulwich's Court Lane joined the 'High Street'. South of that was Dulwich Common (open, unimproved, damp pasture with some 'ridge and furrow' cultivation), and King's Coppice (the Dulwich part of the Great North Wood) – but there was no road over the very steep 350-foot-high Sydenham and Upper Norwood Ridge.

Such was the geography of the Manor of Dulwich in Alleyn's time. It is remarkable that its sleepy rural character changed little for two hundred years, apart from the growing number of large middle-class villas appearing along roads that led to London. It was the growing influence of London in the 18th century, the spread of railways in the 19th century, and of motor cars in the 20th, that produced the busy suburban environment we see today – a story for for a future edition?



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Autumn 2019 at St Stephen's Church

Sunday 29th September

10am Celebration of the Feast of St Michael and All Angels with special music and our guest preacher Revd Professor Teresa Morgan of Oriel College Oxford and soon to be Professor of New Testament at Yale University.

Sunday 6th October

10am HARVEST FESTIVAL An All Age service with our choir, please bring harvest gifts for our local refugee charity, followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

Sunday 3rd November

6pm All Soul's Memorial Service. A choral service offers to remember, give thanks and pray for the departed, followed by a blessing of graves in our church garden.

Saturday 9 November

7.30pm Concert - Ionian Singers conducted by Timothy Salter with Marina Finnamore clarinet. Music by Finzi, Brahms, Poulenc, and Walton plus the first performance of a new work by Nicholas Ansdell-Evans, Ave Verum for double choir.

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Sunday 10 November

10.15am Remembrance Sunday Service with an act of Remembrance around our war memorial with 2 minutes' silence at 11am.

Sunday 26th November

10am The feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Christian year.

Sunday 1st December ADVENT SUNDAY

10am Choral Advent Sunday service, including the lighting of the first candle of Advent on our Advent wreath.

Sunday 15th December

6pm Festival of Lessons and Carols

Regular Services

Sundays

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

Monday to Friday

8.30am Silent Prayer followed at
8.45am by Morning Prayer

Wednesday

9.45am Holy Eucharist

St Margaret Clitherow RC Church

4 Kingswood Drive, SE19 1UR

Fr. Chris Keen

Parish Priest (020) 8670 1639

<http://www.stmargaretclitherowdulwich.org>

Regular Services

Sunday Mass 10.30am

Portuguese Mass 9.00am

Holy Days: Mass 9.30am & 7.00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 5.45pm-6.00pm

Kingswood Community Baptist Church

Dulwich Wood Federation Primary School,

Bowen Drive, SE21 8NS

Pastor: Mawuli Doe

(info: Sandra Surrey 07986 002389)

Regular Services

Sundays 10.30am

Wednesday 7.30-9.00pm

Non-denominational Bible Study Ketra Rooms

Saturday Prayer Group 10am-12noon

37 Kingswood Drive, Pastor Mawuli's home