



Churches
Together in
Westminster

An Occasional Newsletter

Welcome to Issue 24 (Spring/Summer 2022) of our Occasional Newsletter. Please do feel free to photocopy this for distribution amongst your congregation.

ECO CHURCH IN WESTMINTER AND LONDON by Rev'd Joan Ishibashi

The focus of our most recent AGM was "Beyond COP26 - What Next? Eco Church and Beyond." The climate crisis is no longer something we have to worry about in the future. It is here and impacting the entire world this very moment.

A number of CTIW congregations are engaged in the A Rocha Eco Church movement as a way to mitigate the effects of human activity on the environment. Churches have a unique role to play in addressing the spiritual and emotional trauma of the climate crisis, as well as articulate the theological foundations of our place in God's infinite realm. The Eco Church movement is growing, and I was asked to speak at the City of London Deanery Synod on this topic. There are Anglican City churches looking forward to collaborating with Westminster churches. My hope is that we can continue to build momentum and play our part in tackling the climate crisis.

Here is a bit of what I shared at the Deanery Synod:

Isaiah 65: 17-18, "For I am about to create a new heaven and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating".

We are called to care for God's creation, as just stewards of the good gifts that God has given to us. But more than that, we are part and parcel of God's creation, not separate from creation, as a steward or caretaker, although this is important. We are not over and above all creation; we are not only a gardener or farmer looking at their fields and gardens to manage resources for their own use. We are, rather, interconnected, interdependent, interrelated, totally bound to every part of this good earth and all its flora, all its fauna. From the very beginning, we are in relationship with God, in relationship with all that God has created. We are born to belonging: belonging to God, to each other in the human family, to the Earth and everything that makes up this wondrous place, and we have a responsibility to do our bit as part of God's good creation.

On our little bit of planet Earth, when humans behave badly toward our interconnected, interdependent, interrelated planetary home, it affects all of us profoundly. In our little bit of planet Earth, this is why we are heartened by the Eco Church movement, and a growing awareness of what we can do to mitigate the growing climate crisis.

We can be agents for a new heaven and a new earth, here and now.

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CTIW “MEET THE NEIGHBOURS” AT THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH ON TUESDAY, 10 MAY

At last Covid seemed to be easing and we were able to hold a “live” event once again in the form of a “Meet the Neighbours” at The American International Church, 79A Tottenham Court Road, W1T 4TD. We were warmly welcomed by Rev Jared Jagers (Senior Minister) and Jonathan Miller (Community Minister and newly-joined CTiW Executive member). Over 20 people attended from 11 CTiW churches.

We learned from Jonathan that the original chapel was built on this site in 1756 for the Evangelical preacher James Whitefield, and indeed the present building still bears his name. At that time fields surrounded the chapel, and over the years many changes took place, including the chapel’s extension and rebuilding. However, in 1945 the building was hit and totally destroyed by one of the last V-2 rockets to fall on London, but was rebuilt in 1957. This rebuilt chapel was offered to the American International Church in 1972, and it became popular with Americans living and working in London, who during and after World War 2 had worshipped at the Grosvenor Chapel close to the American Embassy, so that between a quarter and a third of the congregation was American. The American International Church began as an outreach for American military personnel, but today, the congregation reflects a very diverse community of worshipers from London and across the world and caters for some 30 different nationalities.

Following refreshments, we were taken on a tour of the building, and marvelled at the size of some of the huge basement rooms.

Present-day activities at the Church include a Soup Kitchen operating 6 days a week, which currently serves a record number of 125 people a day, together with a Winter Shelter, and support for refugees, the homeless and the poor. These operations are supported by the Church, but have their own international staff many of whom know what it is like to be a refugee. The American International Church has partnerships with many local and international churches and seeks to serve those in need wherever they may be.

Sunday Sanctuary Worship with Choir is at 11am, and is livestreamed. Communion is celebrated once a month. There is a crèche together with a Sunday School for older children.

See www.amchurch.co.uk for further information.



Photo by Rosa Postance

Above: Jonathan Miller speaking to the group

**A Blessing for CTiW by
Rev. Jennifer Mills-Knutsen,
Senior Minister,
The American International Church**



Jesus Christ, who prayed “that they may all be one,”
bind these churches together
not as one and the same, in style, shape and colour,
but one in purpose to serve,
loving you and loving our neighbours.

Nurture true friendship among members and ministers,
strengthen us in our mutual work,
to aid the poor, the homeless, the refugees,
and those in prison.

Make each congregation a spark of your glory,
shining hope into the bleakest corners of our city,
illuminating injustice and radiating peace,
a light of love to all.

CTiW PENTECOST/WHITSUNDAY CHORAL

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EVENSONG WITH SERMON HELD

AT 5PM ON SUNDAY, 5TH JUNE 2022 AT ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, PIMLICO

The joyful sound of church bells greeted us as we exited Pimlico Underground Station. London was in a party mood as the final celebrations for Her Majesty, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were taking place, but we were off to celebrate CTiW Pentecost/Whitsunday Evensong kindly being hosted by Fr Matthew Catterick and St. Saviour's Church in St. George's Square, Pimlico.

St Saviour's is a fine Anglican church, consecrated in 1864 and designed in the Decorated Gothic style by Thomas Cundy Jnr, with a tall spire, which was at one time the tallest in London. It is well worth a visit, and for further details see <https://www.stsp.org.uk/>

Fr Matthew had promised us excellent music, and we were not disappointed, with the traditional Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer being accompanied by organ and choir. Responses and Canticles were sung to settings by William Byrd



Above: Fr Andriy preaching

(1539-1623) and the anthem "I was glad" was composed by Henry Purcell (1659-1695). We were delighted that Fr Andriy Chernendo from the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family in Duke Street, W1 had kindly agreed to preach a short Sermon, and in this he made reference to the war that was still raging in Ukraine, also adding his thanks to the U.K. government and people for their support and aid for the people of Ukraine.

A spirited rendition of two verses of the National Anthem concluded our evening's worship, following which all were invited to stay on for drinks and nibbles, which gave everyone the opportunity to both meet new people and chat with old friends. Thank you to Fr Matthew and the clergy and people of St. Saviour's Pimlico for hosting this event.



Photo left to right:

Rev'd Jeremy Cavanagh (St Stephen with St John, Rochester Row), Fr Matthew Catterick (St Saviour's Pimlico), and Fr Andriy Chernendo (The Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family in Duke Street).

NOTICES

The CTiW Constitution can be found at <http://ctiw.london/wp-content/uploads/CTiW-Constitution.pdf>

The current Annual Membership donation for 2021/22 is £30.00 per annum per church. Extra donations at any time are gratefully received. The financial year of Churches Together in Westminster runs from April 1st to March 31st.

Members of the Churches Together in Westminster Executive 2022

Gillian Dare – All Saints Church, Margaret Street – Minutes Secretary
Rev'd Joan Ishibashi – St James's, Piccadilly – Treasurer
Rev'd Canon Dr Peter Babington – St Mary le Strand
Rev'd Matthew Catterick – St Saviours Church, St Georges Square, Pimlico
Major Geoff Chape – Salvation Army, Regent Hall
Rev'd Roderick Leece – St George's Church, Hanover Square
Deacon Ali McMillan, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster
Jonathan Miller - American International Church
Rev'd Dr Dominic Robinson SJ – The Immaculate Conception, Farm Street
Catherine Slater – WLM & Hinde Street Methodist Church
Martyn Watson – Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
Alasdair MacKenzie - Representing London Prisons Mission (LPM)
Rosa Postance – Administration & Communications (inc Website & Newsletter)

- **“Meet the Neighbours”** - If your church is interested in hosting a future event, we should be very pleased to hear from you. See also our Guidelines for Hosts on <http://ctiw.london/meet-the-neighbours/> As well as being happy, sociable events, they are excellent Ecumenical opportunities for the hosts to showcase their church and for everyone to visit other congregations, join with them in prayer, and learn more about their church organisations & activities.
- **“Join the Neighbours”** - If you are holding a special event, Patronal festival etc to which you would care to invite people from other CTiW churches, please do let us know and we will pass on the invitation.