

St Anne's Record

Issue 6

13th September 2026

We continue to get articles to fill a growing newsheet. Thanks to those who have provided items for this issue. Keep them coming in to keep the flow of news going. We do seem to get most of our contributions from a few contributors; how about some input from more of the congregation? The main items in this issue relate to Jude's retirement and celebrating his time with us. There is also an item from KidzPlay a new group in the Centre.

AFRO CARIBBEAN EVENING 18TH JULY 2026

As you can see from the photos it was a popular event and we were able to enjoy great food, each other's company and, if you were that way inclined, dancing.

A lot of work goes into organising an evening like this. Planning, publicity, shopping, cooking, selling tickets, organising the raffle, decorating the hall, setting up the



tables and

chairs and putting them away, washing and drying up, serving the food, clearing the tables, sorting out the music and things I haven't even thought about.

St Anne's is very lucky to have so many people who are willing to put in so much work to make sure we are all having a good time. Thank you to every one of you.





JUDE'S FINAL SERMON – 26TH JULY

It has been very difficult to avoid 'Ancestry.com' adverts on the telly. You know what I mean. you are treated to an aged piece of footage, because someone using the app has discovered that their great grandma was a suffragette or some forebear had fought in the Somme etc. My Dad was very keen on tracing the family history, though I am not entirely sure how far he got. When we reflect on our patronal saint, Jesus' granny, Anne you get a glimpse of why this matters to us. We don't just pop out into existence, each of us can trace their lineage back so far, but we all know there was a 'before that' and then there was a before that as well – all the way back to the Big Bang. We are born into a community – at first the family, and then the society in which the family functions and so on. We are never quite the autonomous individuals we think we are. A lot of history has gone into making each one of us. Jesus was no different. And just as Mary was shaped by Ann and Joachim and all their forebears – Jesus was shaped by Mary and Joseph.

And that is true for all of us. Each one of us is the embodiment of thousands of generations and we hold the torch for a time before it is passed on. The family is our first community, as we get older we join other communities; schools, the world of work, the world of things that interest us. The Communities to which we belong shape us and we shape them - faith communities are no different. And I don't just mean The Christian or faith community as a whole, I mean the local faith community to which we belong. For example, this community here at St. Anne's

I have an image – a group of people walking along a road which is sometimes busy, sometimes scenic sometimes wet, cold, tedious and tiring. Always interesting though, if only in retrospect. Sometimes a journey of laughter and happiness, other times, filled with sadness, doubt and fear. Above all the journey is pregnant with meaning. The crucial idea is that of journey. And that we journey together. Which is why a pilgrimage is a metaphor for all of our respective lives. The journey taken with others between cradle and tomb. In so many ways the destination is not the important part. It is the journey itself which matters. Because for each faith community making this journey – there is an ongoing conversation into which we are all invited to contribute. And of course people join this community and people leave it, and their memory remains a blessed part of the conversation.

This journey is full of insight, there are the sacred stories of those who were part of this community long before we ever turned up, their writing and their witness are central to this community's journey. And of course as time goes on those writings mean different things than once they did – something that the more conservative voices on our journey struggle with. There was a time when to join the journey meant excluding those who didn't agree. Things are very different now.

The Christian community itself emerged from our eldest and oldest family members – the Jewish community. A fact that at times Christianity forgot about and to its shame set about persecuting instead of welcoming - a deep scar and stain on everything Jesus stood for. I am immensely grateful that Rabbi Richard of ELELS (East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue is

here with us today. We have over the years built up bonds of friendship, worshiped together, general knowledge quizzes and frequent pizzas. And of course, we have learned so much from each other. Long may this relationship last.

When I reflect on nearly 21 years of ministry in this wonderful community of St. Anne. I am acutely aware that I am reflecting on the privilege of my life. To have been a part of this community as it journeys onwards has been an honour for which I am eternally grateful.

Just a little bit of an aside – I don't know if any of you are familiar with the Myers Briggs personality profile – if you are not familiar with it: Ask me afterwards before I have had anything to drink. Well... when I was studying psychology at Seminary we all did the test and I came out as an INTP – again not going to explain what the letters stand for but each profile tells you a great deal about yourself and your strengths and weaknesses. My particular type is characterised - you would never have guessed! - by a dislike of authority and a dislike of being in authority. My style of being your vicar for the last two decades, has been as brother with responsibilities for the community but not leader. Friend, not authority. Of course, I discovered to my cost that the buck has to stop somewhere and it has stopped at me. Fair enough, my fault, this is life and we try to make the best sense we can of it.

There are many people I need to thank who have shared my part in this community of St. Anne's journey and I will say more about that later but since this is my 'last sermon' – I would rather well - preach.

And I thought that focusing on 3 themes which have been dominant in my thinking over the years we have been together on this journey.

1) The shortest verse in the New Testament 'Jesus wept' – of course in the text he was weeping over the fate of Jerusalem, in the current situation he probably still is.

Just consider the world we live in and the damage our species has done to each other and to our holy mother – the earth. And also consider just who Jesus was. There is an awful tendency to depict him as a northern European with improbably golden hair staring perpetually upwards dropping nuggets of divine insight as he walked along. The Jesus of the Bible was not like that - just going to quote from John Fugelsan a contemporary theologian.



**JESUS WAS:
A PEACEFUL, RADICALLY NONVIOLENT
REVOLUTIONARY WHO WASN'T AMERICAN,
AND NEVER SPOKE ENGLISH. WHO HUNG
AROUND LEPERS, HOOKERS, AND CROOKS.
NEVER SOUGHT TAX CUTS FOR RICH
NAZARENES. WAS ANTI-WEALTH AND
ANTI-DEATH PENALTY. ANTI-PUBLIC
PRAYER, TOO (MATTHEW 6:5). NEVER
ASKED LEPERS FOR A CO-PAY. NEVER
CALLED POOR PEOPLE "LAZY."
NEVER EVEN SLIGHTLY ANTIGAY.
NEVER MENTIONED ABORTION.
SUPPORTED PAYING TAXES AND WAS A
LONG-HAIRED COMMUNITY-ORGANIZING
AUTHORITY-QUESTIONING
ANTI-SLUT-SHAMING BROWN-SKINNED
PALESTINIAN UNARMED HOMELESS JEW ...
BUT ONLY IF YOU BELIEVE
WHAT'S ACTUALLY IN THE BIBLE.**

JOHN FUGELSANG
SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND HATE

HAPPY RETIREMENT JUDE

On 26th June 2026, St Anne's Day, we said Goodbye to Jude, our Vicar for over 20 years. It was a befitting last service, which included contributions by the St Anne's Rejoicing Singers (STARS). Jude instigated the setting up of STARS, now led by Bill, our organist, at the end of last year. After the service we all enjoyed a typically convivial shared lunch in the Church Hall.



Jude and the St Anne's Congregation 1

I shall always remember Jude for doing something that I thought was impossible – making me wish that a sermon would carry on a bit longer!



Jude's last sermon at St Anne's was followed by a convivial lunch in the Church Hall

MEMORIES OF JUDE

The following are some memories of Jude's ministry at St. Anne's from members of the congregation:

Jude's capacity to absorb whatever occurred into the context of worship – combining the solemnity of lighting the Easter candle in the garden and processing it into the darkened church, with the reality of raging bonfires

almost too hot to get near, or gusty winds that would blow out any candle he managed to light; greeting and waving to new arrivals during the opening procession of a service, so that all felt welcome; welcoming the varied noises off from babies and children during sermons or prayers (and somehow children managed so often to complement Jude's words ...). A sense that nothing was ever an interruption - everything and everyone belonged.

Dr Who – in anecdotes; in the visits of a dalek to Chingford Hatch Day; at a Friday morning service, when the post communion quiet was punctuated by the Dr Who theme tune from Jude's phone in the vestry, and a murmured "sorry" from behind the altar...

Jude's seeming capacity to preach at the drop of a hat, not least in his short but memorable unscripted homilies on Friday mornings. And then just one occasion, a Friday morning immediately following Christmas and Boxing Day and the December mountain of services and preaching, when all that needed to be said had been said and the homily was replaced by "shall we just sit quietly for a few minutes"

Jude also had the ability to explain obscure theological points in an understandable way. I well remember after one of his first sermons here on something I had never really understood going home thinking "so that's what this means!"

And other times of quietness – Holy Week evenings, quiet days, moments in informal services – Jude leading us in new forms of prayer and reflection, of stillness and the depth of shared silence ...

As my training Incumbent Jude has given me much help and great support in my journey into ordained ministry. His knowledge, wisdom and support have been invaluable.

Thank you, Jude

PAT AND BILL FARROW – THEN AND NOW



Bill and Pat got married at St Anne's by Revd Peter Simpson on 1st June 1968 and had their 58th Wedding Anniversary this year.

Pat had a bouquet of yellow roses and Bill played in the band at the wedding reception because the bass player broke his arm the day before the wedding. Pat and Bill did have their first dance though and honeymooned in Somerset.

KIDZPLAY EARLYRISE

Hi all,

I hope you're well.

Please find below our latest update from KidzPlay EarlyRise for this month's church segment. We've included a little about who we are, what we've been up to during our Summer Holiday Club, and what's coming next as we return to our Afterschool Club this September.



Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to share what's been happening at KidzPlay EarlyRise and for your continued support.

KidzPlay EarlyRise has had a wonderfully busy summer at St Anne's Church! We provide a safe, nurturing and engaging childcare environment for local children and families, offering both our Holiday Club during the school holidays and our Afterschool Club during term time. Our aim

is to create a space where children feel happy, comfortable and included, while giving parents the reassurance of reliable, high-quality childcare.

This summer, we welcomed children to our Summer Holiday Club, where the weeks were packed with fun, friendship and new experiences. The children



enjoyed a fantastic variety of activities, including arts and crafts, baking, sports and team games, mindfulness and wellbeing activities, bouncy castle and water-play days, as well as trips out into the local community. We visited local parks and nature areas, enjoyed swimming and trampolining, and even had a cinema trip! It was lovely to see friendships grow throughout the summer, with children trying new activities, building their confidence and, most importantly, having plenty of fun.

After a short summer break, we are now getting ready to welcome everyone back for

the new school year as our Afterschool Club returns this September. KidzPlay EarlyRise provides school collection from Whitehall Primary School and other local schools, bringing children back to St Anne's Church where they can unwind after their school day in a familiar and welcoming environment. Afternoons are designed to offer a balance between relaxation and fun, with opportunities for creative activities, games, socialising, wellbeing and quiet time. Children can also enjoy a hot meal during the Afterschool Club, making the evenings that little bit easier for busy families. We know that children have already had a full day at school, so our focus is on giving



them somewhere they can feel at home, enjoy time with their friends and be cared for until their families are ready to collect them.

We are incredibly grateful to be able to run KidzPlay EarlyRise from St Anne's Church and to continue becoming part of the local community. After such a memorable first summer, we are excited to see familiar faces again, welcome new families through our doors and see what the new school year brings. Here's to another term filled with friendship, laughter, learning and lots of KidzPlay fun!



WHERE DID YOU SEE ST. ANNE?



Erika and I recently attended the funeral of a Livery Company friend in the City, at St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe - close to Blackfriars station. There has been a church on the site since 1244 but this one was the last built by Sir Christopher Wren, in 1685, after the Great Fire of London in 1666. It got its strange name because, in 1361, the King's

Great Wardrobe, previously in the Tower of London, was moved by King Edward III to purpose-built accommodation next door. The fire destroyed both buildings and most of the ceremonial robes and accessories still being stored in the Wardrobe.

So, where does St. Anne come into it?

Well, the fire also destroyed the church of St. Ann Blackfriars, also very close by. At the time that was a relatively new church, only built in 1597, whose parish occupied much of the previous estate of the Dominican "Black Friars" monastery, which had been dissolved by Henry VIII. The church was not rebuilt and the parish was merged with St. Andrew's although a part of the churchyard still remains - where the composer John Dowland, whose music we celebrated a few months ago, is buried.

Saved from the flames was a precious wooden statue of St. Anne, now displayed in the sanctuary. It is quite unusual as it shows the saint holding her daughter, the Virgin Mary, who in turn holds the Christ child. It is thought that it is probably north Italian, dating to around 1500. The story of how it got to the City of London is a mystery - but so is much else!



ST ANNE'S FLOOR REFURBISHMENT

Here are some pictures of the preparation for the refurbishment of the church floor. There will be more on this project in the next issue.



Many hands make light work



Instead of flowers



Ready for work to start

Forthcoming Events

October and November 2026

	Sat 3 rd Oct	Jumble Sale	10am- noon
	Sun 18 th Oct	Messy Church	3pm- 5pm
	Thu 26 th & Sat 28 th Nov	Christmas Bazaar Adult Admission: 50p	Thu: 2pm-5pm Sat: 10am-3pm