

September
2025

EDGEWAYS

Sacred Heart Parish Magazine

Vol. 36 No. 8

sacredheartwimbledon.org.uk



Farewell, Frs Jackson Sebastian and David Hunter!

- Sacred Heart Wimbledon is South London's latest Be Well Hub (*pp.6–7*)
- Sarah Norville: New Sacred Heart Head-teacher speaks from the pulpit (*pp.10–11*)
- Edge Hill Players present *Annie!* (*pp.12–13*)

FREE but donations are always welcome

What is 'theology'?

The word 'theology' comes from two Greek words – *theos*, meaning 'God', and *logos*, meaning 'word'. Put together, theology is the study of God and, widening the definition a little, things divine.

No doubt somewhere a professor has written a multi-volume book describing what theology is using lots of long, barely comprehensible words, but really, it is quite simple. Just as geology is the study of the Earth and sociology is the study of society, so theology is the study of God.

'Thoughtful conversations about God'

In his *An Introduction to Christian Theology* (2013), Dr Anthony Towey of St Mary's University in Twickenham describes theology as 'thoughtful conversations about God'. There are two points to emphasise here.

The first point is that, although there are professional theologians who conduct research, teach in our universities, and write books, anyone who thinks about God is a theologian. Anybody can 'do' theology. Even me. Even you!

Secondly, theology matters. It is the study of important questions and issues, but always based on the belief that God (or a god) is central to the answers. However much individual theologians disagree about the exact answers, they all agree that to understand our reality and existence, God is part of the solution. Thus, theology addresses basic questions like 'what is the meaning of existence?', 'is death the end or is there an afterlife?', 'how should I lead my life?', and 'what view should I take on important issues like war and peace, the environment, sex, and relationships?'



What distinguishes Catholic theology?

We can go further and say that there are two significant features of Catholic theology.

Firstly, in our tradition, theology is something we do *together*. We do this in two ways. One way is that we theologise together over time; that is to say, we make use of all the writings of numerous theologians throughout the centuries whose ideas and opinions the Church regards as correct.

Sometimes, what a theologian of many centuries ago wrote doesn't seem very meaningful today. But the writings of great thinkers about God – such as St Bede, St Anselm or St John Henry Newman (just to mention some English theologians) – are still surprisingly relevant nowadays. Theology thus has a strong historical component – indeed, there is some 2,000 years' worth of theology we can study with profit.

You will often hear the phrase 'the Church believes that ...' or 'the Church teaches that ...'. People misunderstand and think that this means that the Pope simply tells us what to believe and Catholics blindly follow, like thoughtless sheep. But what it really refers to is that, after many centuries of careful reflection and discussion by hundreds of theologians all over the world, the consensus is that a particular belief or interpretation is the correct one. The considered view of the Church is thus likely to be the one we should adopt, unless we have good reason to think otherwise.

The second significant feature of Catholic theology is that our beliefs and the practice of our daily lives go together.

What we believe about God influences how we behave. For example, if we believe that God has given us certain rules (like the Ten Commandments) and guidance (like Jesus' directive to love God and our neighbour), then we will try to lead our lives in a good moral way according to these rules.

Theology is not merely academic; it motivates us and shapes how we lead our lives. It can happen that some students study a subject which has no impact on their lives. If you study theology, however, be prepared for it to affect your daily behaviour!



Do you have a question you would like Canon David to answer? Email the editor at:

wimbletonedgeways@rcaos.org.uk

Canon David

Sunday 14 September: Welcome to new parishioners – and to Fr Edwin! – in the Lounge



What a lot of changes!

Two goodbyes and two hellos – since July's *Edgeways*, we have said farewell to Fr Jackson Sebastian and David Hunter (*front cover*) and hello to Fr Edwin Raj, who joins the parish clergy, and to Sarah Norville as the new Headteacher at the Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School.

New parishioners and their families will have met Fr Edwin at the now-termly **New Parishioners' Tea** (*p.3*), organised by the Parish Pastoral Council. Fr Edwin had arrived from Kerala just two weeks earlier!

Sarah spoke at the Family Mass on **Education Sunday** (*pp.10–11*), reflecting on the values of a Catholic education from across our four schools. She was accompanied by children from the school choir, who sang from the Sanctuary.

After a welcome summer break – it is not just schoolteachers who need to recharge their batteries! – Canon David tells us about the **meaning of theology** (*pp.2–3*).

With a focus on caring for mental health, we report on the launch of the parish's Citizens UK **Be Well Hub** (*pp.6–7*) and a successful supporting grant application from the Archdiocese. Meanwhile, Anthony Lee, our parish resident psychotherapist, provides a broad insight into what is really meant by **mental health** (*pp.8–9*). The launch of the parish's Be Well Hub follows a celebration by **South London Citizens** on different groups' achievements across the region (*pp.20–21*).

Merton Citizens invite you to a Citizens' Assembly from 6.00pm to 9.00pm on Tuesday 21 October at St George's Cathedral. Local decisionmakers will be held to account on their pledges. Please contact David at dthurst52@gmail.com.



On a musical note, Edge Hill Players brought us four energetic performances of that kids' favourite, **Annie** (*pp.12–13*), not forgetting the well-behaved dog, Fizz. More is to come with the second evening of **Poets & Prophets** (*back cover*) – and **Grace Oskiera-Vooght**, one of the event's co-organisers, appeals for our help (*p.5*).

Around the parish, we hear from our near neighbours, **Jesuit Missions** (*pp.16–17*). At a recent Mass in our church, supporters welcomed a very special visitor from Zimbabwe, who spoke about the Jesuits' great work across southern Africa.

Finally, we celebrate the **exam successes** of our parish's secondary schools (*p.15*); we report on our visit by the **relics of Ss Andrew, Columba, and Margaret** (*p.14*); Matteo Baccaglini reports on this year's working party of the **Wimbledon College Lourdes Hospitalité** (*pp.18–19*); and we review the **Edgeways archives** (*pp.22–23*).

David Hurst

We welcome your letters, feedback, and article suggestions! Please email the editor at wimbletonedgeways@rcaos.org.uk.

Production credits: David Hurst (Editor, wimbletonedgeways@rcaos.org.uk), and Matteo Baccaglini (design and layout)

Can you support Grace's musicianship appeal?

Hello, fellow parishioners!!

I'm reaching out to share an exciting opportunity that's close to my heart. I'm raising funds for the One Hope Project Academy, a programme designed to help me grow in worship leading and musicianship.

The One Hope Project Academy (onehopeproject.co.uk/ohpacademy) is a six-month online worship school for aspiring worship leaders, musicians and songwriters who want to invest in their leadership.

Since childhood, I've had a love for singing and a dream of performing with bands like Coldplay. My journey has led me to a deeper passion for using music as a way to praise God and create spaces for others to encounter Him. I have loved leading the First Monday Adorations and hope to advance my skills to facilitate an even more contemplative and prayerful space.



Every contribution will directly support my tuition for this academy, equipping me both musically and spiritually to serve better in worship - be it at my parish, in mission work or wherever God leads me next.

Your support means the world to me, whether it's through donations, sharing my campaign, or simply cheering me on. Thank you for being part of this journey!

God bless. Peace and love <3

Grace Oskiera-Vooght



Scan to donate
gofund.me/10ba5d7d



Sacred Heart Wimbledon recognised as Merton's 13th Be Well Hub

Lucky for the mental wellbeing of Wimbledon – and the whole of South London?



Community members gathered at Sacred Heart Wimbledon to celebrate the Be Well Hub.

Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon has been officially recognised by South London Listens, a partnership between local mental health trusts, local authorities, and Citizens UK, as Merton's 13th Be Well Hub, joining a growing network of community spaces dedicated to improving mental health and wellbeing across South London.

The Be Well Hub was formally recognised in September 2025 and is based at Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon. A grant from the Archdiocese of Southwark will support the development of new services and outreach programmes.

The Hub consists of a wide range of social and welfare groups for parishioners and members of the local community to join. A growing number of these groups are welcoming NHS-trained Mental Health Champions as members. These Champions are trained to talk to people about mental health problems and signpost them to relevant local support networks and mental health services. With the new funding, Sacred Heart Wimbledon plans to expand its programme, strengthen partnerships, and improve facilities to better serve those facing isolation, stress, life transitions, and mental health problems.

In addition, both South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust – the parish's local mental health trust – and the Archdiocese of Southwark have expressed strong interest in encouraging all 175 diocesan parishes across South London to follow Sacred Heart Wimbledon's example.

Graham Kennedy

If you would like to learn more about or get involved in the parish's Be Well Hub, including training as a Be Well Champion, please email Graham at wimbledonbwhc@rcaos.org.uk.

“

'Being recognised by South London Listens, the Archdiocese, and our local mental health trust is a huge endorsement of what we're doing. With the Trust's and Archdiocese's support, we have the potential to make an enormous impact on the mental health of everyone in South London.'

– Graham Kennedy, Sacred Heart Wimbledon's Be Well Hub Coordinator

Christmas Lunch Lead Volunteer needed! Every year, the parish organises a Christmas Day lunch for those who may be alone during the festive season. The lunch is a joyous affair, including drinks and nibbles, carol singers and musicians, Christmas dinners with all the trimmings, and a visit from Father Christmas himself. We are looking for a volunteer to lead this year's organisation of the lunch. If you would like to find out more, please contact Thelma in the Parish Office.

Volunteers needed! – Merton Faith in Action Winter Night Shelter

For eight consecutive Thursday evenings and Friday mornings from 22 January to 12 March inclusive, we will welcome rough sleepers to sleep in our Lower Hall. We would be most grateful for your help if you are able to:

- spend just ONE night providing overnight supervision to our guests, from 9.30pm to 6.30am (a current DBS check is required), or
- serve TWO or THREE Friday morning breakfast shifts from 6.30am to 8.30am, or
- drive luggage on a couple of Thursday or Friday mornings at 8.00am between our parish and another local church.

If you can help, or for further details, please email Nandita Nelson at sacredheartwns@rcaos.org.uk.

What is 'mental health'?

As the parish prepares to launch as a Be Well Hub, we continue a feature-series of articles discovering what this means. This month, Anthony Lee, our resident psychotherapist, takes some of the mystery out of mental health.



'Normal mental health', 'mental health problems', 'mental illness', and 'serious mental illness' (SMI) represent a spectrum of wellbeing, from everyday experiences to more significant and debilitating conditions.

'Normal mental health' is characterised by a general ability to think, feel, and react in ways that allow for effective daily functioning. 'Mental health problems', which are not the same as 'mental illness', involve challenges in thinking, feeling, or behaving, but they don't necessarily impair daily life.

'Mental illness' is a health condition that affects a person's ability to function, often requiring treatment. SMI represents a more severe subset of mental illnesses, significantly impacting daily life and requiring specialised care.

You can find a more detailed breakdown of the different categories on the next page!

In summary, the key differences are:

- **Severity:** Mental health problems are less severe than mental illnesses, with severe mental illness being the most troubling.
- **Impact:** Mental health problems may have a limited impact on daily life, while mental illnesses and SMI significantly impair functioning. Mental illness and SMI typically require treatment.
- **Duration:** Mental health problems are often temporary, while mental illnesses can be chronic and require ongoing treatment.
- **Treatment:** Mental health problems can often be managed through lifestyle adjustments and self-care, while mental illnesses and SMI may require medication, therapy, and other specialised interventions.

If you are in any doubt, please seek advice or treatment. Do not wait for a crisis or let stigma silence you. Advice and treatment are available – and they work!

Anthony provides free counselling and psychological services to parishioners. All services are strictly confidential and adhere to the codes of ethics set by professional regulatory bodies. To make an appointment with Anthony, please contact Thelma in the Parish Office: call 020 8946 0305 or email wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk.

Normal mental health		
Description: This refers to the overall state of a person's well-being, encompassing their ability to think, feel, and react in a way that allows them to live a fulfilling life.	Characteristics: Individuals with good mental health can generally cope with everyday challenges, maintain healthy relationships, and achieve their personal and professional goals.	Impact: This state allows for a positive and functional life.
Mental health problems		
Description: These are temporary or situational challenges that affect a person's mental well-being, often triggered by specific life events or circumstances.	Characteristics: Individuals may have trouble managing stress, coping with challenging situations, or feel overwhelmed.	Impact: These problems can impact daily life, but they don't necessarily lead to long-term impairment or require specialised treatment.
Mental illness		
Description: A mental illness is a health condition that affects a person's ability to function, often characterised by persistent and significant symptoms.	Characteristics: Mental illnesses can manifest in various ways, including mood disorders, anxiety disorders, and personality disorders.	Impact: Mental illness can significantly affect a person's ability to work, maintain relationships, and engage in daily activities. Treatment should be sought.
Serious mental illness (SMI)		
Description: SMI is a more severe subset of mental illnesses, often characterised by debilitating symptoms that significantly impact daily life.	Characteristics: SMI can include conditions like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression, which can lead to psychosis (hallucinations and delusions).	Impact: Individuals with SMI may have trouble with basic daily tasks, social interactions, and employment, often requiring specialised treatment and support.

Sunday 14 September: New Headteacher Sarah Norville speaks on Catholic education

At the end of the 10.00am Family Mass on Sunday 14 September, Sarah Norville, new Headteacher at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, addressed congregants on the value of a Catholic education. We are delighted to share the text of her address here in Edgeways.

I would like to start by thanking Canon David, the clergy team, and all of Sacred Heart parish for the warmth of their welcome. I am delighted to be back in the Archdiocese of Southwark after eleven very happy years as Headteacher at St Mary's in Wimbledon.

As this is Education Sunday, I hope you will indulge me with a few minutes of reflection on our Catholic schools and why they are such a blessing to our parish and our families.

I have spent my career working in Catholic schools, and I cannot imagine working anywhere else. Catholic schools are special places. Those who work in them are in the privileged position of walking alongside children and young people on their faith journey, regardless of where they are on that journey. Our Gospel values form the core of everything we do within our Catholic schools, and it is this that can be seen, felt and experienced by those who learn and work within them.

How many of you can go to work each day and be open about your faith? To talk about it without embarrassment or fear? To ask questions and know that, while there may not be answers, there will be open and frank discussion? To know that, if you need it, there is a place for quiet prayer and reflection?



If you don't have children, or your children are already grown up, do consider joining us for a School Mass – you would be very welcome – or supporting our schools at their Christmas or summer fairs. The dates of all these events are shared via the weekly parish newsletter, or visit each school's website.

All of these things are not only present in our Catholic schools, but integral parts of what makes them special and what helps to shape our children and young people into well-rounded, happy, achieving young adults.

If you are considering a Catholic school for your child, I urge you to go and visit our schools. This parish is blessed with four incredible Catholic schools, taking children on their educational journey from Nursery to 18.

Our links with our parish are very important. Without the parish, there is no school, so we want to do all we can to be part of parish life.

Finally, I ask you to keep in your prayers our schools, the pupils who learn there, and the staff who work there. Being a young person in today's world is not easy, but the world they will live and work in as adults is even more uncertain than the one we live in now.

Our Catholic schools are working hard to prepare your children and young people to have the integrity, determination, work ethic and moral compass to thrive in a world of uncertainty, and to be the ones to make it a better place.



Siobhán Heffron and James Bush accompany the pupils at Mass



Children from the school choir sang from the Sanctuary at the Family Mass on Education Sunday

Edge Hill Players present ... Annie!



Photographs by John Stone

Friday 22 August: Sacred Heart welcomes the relics of Ss Andrew, Columba, and Margaret

On the evening of Friday 22 August, our parish welcomed the relics of Saints Andrew, Columba, and Margaret. The relics were venerated after the 6.30pm Mass, and again after the 10.00am Mass the following day, before the relics left for the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

The three saints all have links to Scotland. From at least the eighth century, the cult of St Andrew the Apostle was established in Scotland. A medieval legend holds that an angel instructed St Regulus, a monk, to bring St Andrew's relics from Patras, the Greek city where he was crucified, to 'the ends of the earth' for their protection, only for St Regulus to end up shipwrecked in Kilrymont (now St Andrew's).

Born in County Donegal as a descendant of the High Kings of Ireland, St Columba of Iona sailed to Scotland in 563 AD. He settled on the island of Iona, where he founded a monastery that became his base for the evangelisation of the Picts. Among his miracles, St Columba is believed to have banished a 'water beast' from the River Ness – the earliest report of the Loch Ness Monster.

Born in Hungary to exiled English royalty, St Margaret of Scotland was Queen Consort of Scotland from 1070 to 1093. Chronicles agree that St Margaret was a pious woman with a 'civilising' effect on her husband, Malcolm III of Scotland. She sponsored a ferry over the Firth of Forth for pilgrims visiting St Andrew's, served the orphans and poor before eating, washed the feet of the poor in imitation of Christ, rose every night to pray, and invited the Benedictines to found a monastery in Dunfermline, Fife.



Our parish was the relics' final stop in the Diocese of Southwark as part of this year's nationwide Holy Relics Tour, an initiative of the Knights of St Columba (ksc.org.uk). The Knights are an order of Catholic laymen dedicated to charity, unity, and fraternity. Also exhibited with the relics was the Fraternal Cross, a symbol of the Knights' unity and fraternity. The Cross is encircled by the names of twenty-four countries where the Knights are active.

Photographs: Paul Davis



Exam successes all round at Ursuline High School and Wimbledon College

Congratulations to pupils and staff at our parish's two Catholic secondary schools for their outstanding exam successes!



At Ursuline High School, 43% of all GCSE grades were Grade 7+ (A Grade) – almost twice the national average – while 80% were Grade 5+ and 90% Grade 4+. 200 Grade 9s were achieved across subjects.

At A-level, 62% of grades were A*–B. 22 students achieved three As or more. Special congratulations to Mathematics students and teachers, with 45% of all A-level results at A*/A. Meanwhile, 100% of T-level students passed the equivalent of 3 A-levels, and 83% achieved Distinction* to Merit (equivalent to A*–B).



'I really am immensely proud of our students ... Today is validation for all the resilience, hard work, and dedication of our staff and students. Great credit goes to the parents and carers for their support and guidance who share in the joy today. Finally, of course to the students themselves, congratulations on the rewards of your resilience, hard work and focus.'

– Eoin Kelly, Headteacher
(Ursuline High School)



At Wimbledon College, 36% of all GCSE grades were Grade 7+ and 72% were Grade 5+. 76% of pupils achieved Grade 5+ in English and the same number achieved Grade 5+ in Maths. Over 40% of pupils achieved Grade 7+ in Maths and Religious Studies. 72% of pupils achieved at least two Grade 5s in Science.

The A-level pass rate exceeded 99%, with over 34% of grades at A*/A, 61% at A*–B, and 85% at A*–C. Vocational course results were equally impressive, with a 100% pass rate and just under half of all grades were at least Distinction. These figures, achieved in a wide range of subjects, continue to be well above national figures.



'There are so many outstanding personal achievements that have to be acknowledged and celebrated. Such successes are only achieved through the students' commitment and hard work and the support that they receive from their parents, subject teachers, and our Sixth Form team.'

– Adrian Laing, Headteacher
(Wimbledon College)

Wednesday 20 August: Jesuit Missions welcomes a special visitor from Zimbabwe



On Wednesday 20 August, a group of Jesuit Missions supporters and benefactors – including many parishioners – gathered for a special thanksgiving Mass in our church.

Headquartered at 11 Edge Hill, Jesuit Missions is the international mission and development office of the Jesuits in Britain, supporting partners in ten countries. Guests at the thanksgiving Mass were thanked for their consistent and ongoing support for Jesuit Missions, which has enabled it to carry out life-changing work across the world for decades.

The service was followed by a 'fireside chat' with Fr David Harold-Barry SJ, a Jesuit who has lived and worked in Zimbabwe since 1966 and has maintained a strong relationship with supporters in the UK and Ireland.

Fr Michael Barnes SJ, who celebrated the Mass, highlighted the generosity referenced in the Parable of the Vineyard Workers in the day's Gospel. He likened this to the kindness of Jesuit Missions' supporters and noted that the organisation is grateful to all who get involved.

“

'The message [of the Parable of the Vineyard Workers], I hope, resonates with our gathering today.

Each and every supporter of Jesuit Missions, regardless of when or how we've contributed, is part of a shared mission – God's mission. One that bears fruit not just in this life, but in the life to come. Your generosity mirrors the vineyard owner's: open-handed, rooted in trust.'

– Fr Michael Barnes SJ

In his talk, Fr Harold-Barry spoke of global challenges – including those facing Zimbabwe – but said that he remains 'optimistic' for the future thanks to the work of organisations such as Jesuit Missions.

He added he is buoyed by the messages shared throughout the Church in the Jubilee Year of Hope and positively referenced the late Pope Francis's commitment to 'process', noting that things can 'take time' to yield results.

Paul Chitnis, Director of Jesuit Missions, explained how his organisation's work has changed over the years – including moving towards indigenous communities leading the bulk of the projects – but that its core values have remained.

'Development, and the promotion of justice and reconciliation, all in the service of faith, are the watchwords for our work today,' he said.

Jesuit Missions' projects cover subjects such as human rights, education, and the environment. We invite you to visit jesuitmissions.org.uk/donate to give towards their work, including information on leaving a donation or a legacy.



This article was adapted from the original (tinyurl.com/4rd5bytv) on the website of Jesuit Missions.

Photographs: Jesuit Missions



Calling all singers! Can you help us create a big choir of 100+ voices? Katy's Songbirds ([instagram.com/ksongbirds24](https://www.instagram.com/ksongbirds24)) invite you to lend us your voice for our Christmas Celebration Concert, hosted in our church at 7.45pm on Thursday 18 December. The concert will support Breast Cancer Now and BEAT Eating Disorders.

Rehearsals will be held from 8.30pm to 9.30pm on Mondays from 10 November to 15 December inclusive at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School (Burlington Road, KT3 4ND) – come to as many rehearsals as you like! To register, please email katylees3009@gmail.com.

A record year for Wimbledon College in Lourdes



Wimbledon College Lourdes Hospitalité is a group of alumni, families, and friends. Every summer, we travel to Lourdes, in the foothills of the French Pyrenees, to spend a week volunteering in service of Our Lady and visiting pilgrims.

With 21 members, the August 2025 volunteering party was our largest group in recent years. Our numbers were:

- eight '18 Wimbledon College leavers (Frank, John, Leo, Luke, Ollie, Richard, Samuel, and Sean);
- two recent Ursuline High School leavers (Emily and Miriam);
- two '18 leavers from other schools (Marquez and Zach);
- four other OWs returning for a second year of service (Andrew, Paul, Jeremy, and Paddy);
- the ever-amazing Fr John Moffat SJ returning as Chaplain;
- four OWs of long service in Lourdes (Ed, Jonny, Martin, and myself); and
- five pilgrims (Alex, Cristina, Gerry, Lesley, and Lourdes) joining in a non-working capacity.

Throughout the last week of August, OWs in maroon polo shirts could be spotted volunteering across the Sanctuary and wider town – welcoming pilgrims to the baths; marshalling crowds at processions and services; supporting pilgrims in prayer at the grotto; cleaning windows in pilgrim accommodation; and lifting wheelchair users and those on stretchers on and off their trains at the station.

In some particularly precious moments, Andrew was invited to lead the Rosary at the grotto (twice!), and John's training in the College Choir was put to good use as he led volunteers from across the world in a stirring rendition of *Amazing Grace* at the weekly volunteers' Mass, for which he was roundly complimented and applauded.

As reported in September 2024 Edgeways, last year's group walked to Bartrès – a town in the hills where St Bernadette lived immediately before the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her in the Grotto at Massabielle in 1858. That pilgrimage was so spiritually fulfilling that it was reprised this year by popular demand, a fruitful

collaboration between the College and the Italian scouts and friends that led last year's walk. The group followed the route that St Bernadette would have walked, and were encouraged from the outset to rotate walking partners every few minutes in order to make new friends. In the presence of St Bernadette's relics, Fr John celebrated a moving sung Mass in the town's church, complete with an Italian translation of the homily.

As for the evenings, gatherings invariably began in the volunteers' bar; its staff came to look forward to our arrival each night, and we began to transform the place into a lively, intergenerational dancefloor of international music for everyone to join in! We were always joined by our friends from all over the world – Italy, France, Spain, USA, Mexico, just to name a few countries – and as the week continued, we accumulated many more new friends.

Pilgrims were welcomed; fun was had; and once again, the Wimbledon College Lourdes Hospitalité served in Lourdes as men and women for others.

Matteo Baccaglini (OW '18)

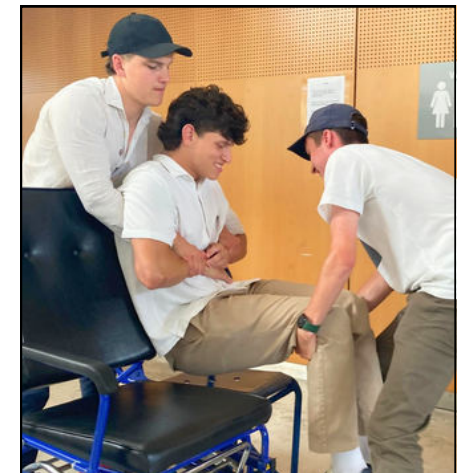
You can learn more about the Wimbledon College Lourdes Hospitalité at wimbledonlourdes.org.uk. Interested in joining next August? Drop Matteo a message at matteo@baccaglini.london.



Dancing at the volunteers' bar



A warm welcome from returning friends on the arrival night



Practising how to transfer pilgrims across chairs at the station



Some of the group on the walk to Bartrès

Tuesday 22 July: Celebrating the South Londoners making a difference



At Citizens UK's South London Listens Summer Showcase, NHS leaders, community groups, and voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations from across South London came together for an afternoon of celebration, appreciation, and harnessing the power of collective action.

The event highlighted ongoing efforts to address mental health concerns, tackle the wider determinants of ill-health, and build strong, lasting relationships between communities and statutory services.

South London Listens is a community partnership tackling systemic barriers to good health and wellbeing across South London and addressing mental health recovery. Born out of the COVID-19 response and ongoing cost-of-living pressures, it brings together local communities, the NHS, and local authorities to prevent ill-health and support communities to thrive by working together to identify the solutions that really matter most to them:

- mental health, social isolation, and digital exclusion
- work and wages
- children, young people, and parental mental health
- access to mental health services for migrants, refugees, and diaspora communities
- health and housing

Hosting the event were community leaders Jojo Sangrado Ford (St Barnabas, Mitcham), Jesse Ashiegbu (Ndukauba CIC, Greenwich), and Janet Emmanuel (St William of York, Lewisham). They shared their own transformative work in the community and led the celebration of key achievements from across South London, including:

- The Recovery College: delivering culturally-sensitive Spanish courses for the Latin American community for parents and children with ADHD.

- Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, Healthwatch Greenwich, and Greenwich Council forging new partnerships with community organisations through the Be Well programme.
- Health and Housing Coalition: YMCA St Paul's/Wimbledon shared their work tackling the link between health and housing through joint work with the NHS, local authorities, and residents across South London.
- Mlesh3UK: working with South London Listens to engage the Arabic community to dismantle mental health stigma and offer tailored support.
- Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network: advocating for health justice and equitable care for migrant populations.

The meeting also saw the launch of a new round of microgrants for South London Listens Be Well organisations. The Be Well microgrants programme provides up to £800 for individual recipients or £2,000 for those collaborating with other community grants to support community-led health and wellbeing projects. Presentations by past Be Well microgrant recipients also showcased how small grants have made a big impact to local residents.

This article is adapted from the original (tinyurl.com/msrrnhm8) on the website of South London Listens.

Merton Citizens invite you to a Citizens' Assembly from 6.00pm to 9.00pm on Tuesday 21 October at St George's Cathedral. Local decisionmakers will be held to account on their pledges. Please contact David at dthurst52@gmail.com.

Jodie always cheers me up

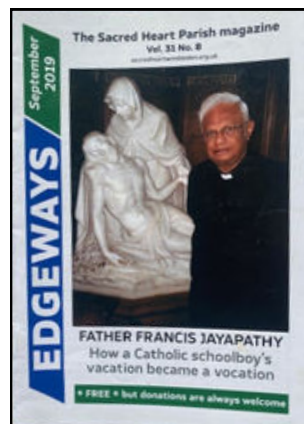
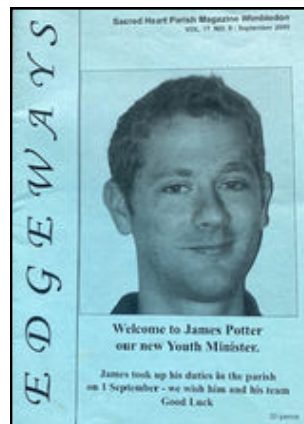
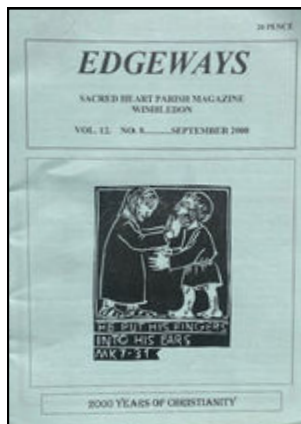
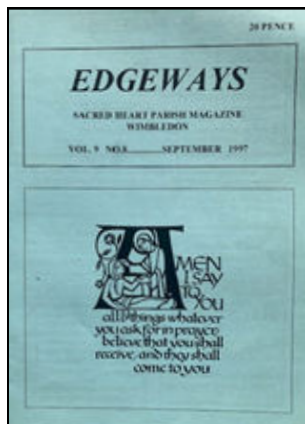
We always have time for you. Compassionate Homecare beyond compare.

For a friendly chat, call: 0203 1501 888
email: wimbledon@gacarers.co.uk
visit: [gacarers.co.uk/wimbledon](https://www.gacarers.co.uk/wimbledon)

Guardian Angel carers
People you can get on with

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

This month, we include back issues of Edgeways showing what was happening across the parish in September 1997, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2019.



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

September 1997 (Vol. 9 No. 8)
top-left

- The Catholic Association of Racial Justice reports on Racial Justice Sunday
- The 9th Venture Scouts and the 28th Guides report on their summer camps

September 2000 (Vol. 12 No. 8)
top-centre

- New Parish Priest Fr Gerard Mitchell SJ discusses the future of the parish
- The parish Catholic Women's League marks the new Millennium

September 2005 (Vol. 17 No. 8)
top-right

- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School celebrates 75 years since 1930

September 2010 (Vol. 22 No. 8)
bottom-left

- Preparation for Pope Benedict's visit
- Fr Keith McMillan SJ, Parish Priest, reports on the church refurbishment

September 2015 (Vol. 27 No. 8)
bottom-centre

- Farewell to Youth Minister John Quinn
- Parishioners Peter and Mary Connellan honoured at a School Mass

September 2019 (Vol. 31 No. 8)
bottom-right

- We talk to Fr Francis Jayapathy SJ, who is on sabbatical from Tamil Nadu
- Marie-Claire Lindsay reports on Edge Hill Players' *Anything Goes*

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

We welcome into the family of the Church the following who have recently been baptised: Henrietta Elizabeth Rayfield • Gordon On-Yau Leung • Vincent John Gregory Hernandez • Eva Florence Hewitt-Smith • Isabella Jane Converso • Verona Therese Daisy Watson • Indi Wren Verow • Auden Albert Bertrand Denis-Vallint • Maximilian Christopher Moussali • Aidan Thomas Molloy • Joseph Max Molloy • Leonardo Prego de Faria • Zachary Edward Orton

We congratulate those who have recently been married in our church: Jeremy Bruce Lyons & Sweedal Simran Alberts • James Andrew Kennett & Isobel Alice French • John Michael Waghorn & Madeleine Emily Garner • Thomas Oliver Everatt & Therese Marie Margaret Monaghan • Mcugen Newton Savio Rebelo & Danielle Jodie Ferrao • Patrick O'Donnell & Catherine Porter • Carl Ricardo Dos Remedios Cota & Quency Michael Dcosta • Bernard Nelson Benjamin & Anne Worthington • Richard Michael Jirjis & Monica Jane Lopez • Sivananthan Ahrooran & Yvonne Suvendrarajah • Leon Alexis-Bailey & Simone Yvette Atallah

We offer sympathies to the families and friends of those who have died recently: Leslie Bernard Gonsalves • Maria Carmela Rosell Boza de Perez • Louise Mary Phyllis Jayaratne • Mary Vaughan-Neil • Derek Lathey • Terence Roberts • Jade Mayhew • Philip Burling • John Edmund Ridge • Anna Margaret Vaughey

Poets & Prophets

"Your sons and daughters will prophesy..." Acts 2:17

Join us for an evening of heartfelt poetry and timeless wisdom,
where every word invites you to listen a little deeper.

Featuring spoken word, poetry, live music, and original artwork.

Don't miss the opportunity to be moved and enlightened in the beautiful
atmosphere, words and art that awaken us. Whether you're here to reflect,
connect, or just enjoy the creative spirit **all are welcome**.

Scan QR code for tickets:

Date: Saturday 11th October 2025
Location: Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon.
Time: 18:30 - 22:00



@poetsandprophets.events

