

Bishop Hugh's funeral

Wendy S Robins writes:

ON SATURDAY 21 May, St Mary Magdalene, Wandsworth Common, was absolutely full as people gathered to say goodbye to Bishop Hugh Montefiore.

In a service led by Kevin Parkes, the Vicar, Bishop Hugh was remembered with poignant readings by his daughters, an address by the Very Rev David Edwards, former Dean of Southwark Cathedral, and in readings from the Jewish tradition.

Neil Sebag-Montefiore read from the Kaddesh Derabbanan in Hebrew and Mary Davidson read the Hymn of Praise from the Passover Service.

David Edwards spoke of Bishop Hugh's conversion experience – he described himself as a Jewish Christian – and of his determination to be a true disciple, just as St Peter, a Jewish Christian, was in the reading that had been read from John 21. He spoke

of the man who was 'an apostle to the whole nation saying 'that there were few, he believed, who would not have seen him on TV or read about or something by him.

He spoke of how Bishop Hugh had befriended many people privately and in the background and helped to keep them going, and of his passionate stance on ecological matters and against war. Noting that Bishop Hugh got into rows not

simply because of his energy and enthusiasm about also because of his belief in Jesus, David Edwards said that, like Jesus, Bishop Hugh, took sides with the outsiders.

In learning to care for his beloved wife Eliza in their later years, as she battled with Alzheimer's, David Edwards, said that this was 'the finest thing Bishop Hugh ever did'.

It made his discipleship an incontrovertible fact and made Bishop Hugh dearer

than ever to his wife, children and the parishioners at St Mary's, his parish church.

In closing David Edwards, said that today we have gathered to give thanks for 'this other Jewish Christian, our friend, pastor and prophet in our time'. He then invited the congregation to do something 'unusual here, but they do it in Rome, clap him to the glory of God'.

And we did - for a long, long time.

How far is it to Canterbury?



About 44 miles from Bluebell Hill - just south of Rochester.

At least, that was the calculation of the 14-strong party from the parish of Mortlake with East Sheen which walked the distance over the early May Bank Holiday weekend.

The group, with a wide diversity of ages and walking experience, led by Chris Palmer

(Team Vicar of All Saints), set out from NW Kent on a four-day adventure paralleling part of the medieval Canterbury Tales route.

After walking about 8½ miles on the first and last days and 13 miles on the middle ones, they are pictured outside Canterbury Cathedral with the Canon Pastor, Clare Edwards (formerly Rector of Bletchingley) before tea and home... in a minibus!



Pentecost starts centenary celebration



The Diocesan Centenary celebrations have begun - with a weekend of events at Pentecost in the Cathedral.

The Cathedral's own celebrations started things going - first of all on Friday evening when the chairs were cleared and everyone was invited to a Ceilidh, which saw people jigging around and having a really enjoyable evening.

Then on Saturday the Cathedral's new bell was rung and we are told that the bell ringers downed three barrels of beer in celebration!

On Sunday afternoon some 450 people, all of whom do volunteer work at the Cathedral, were invited to a

special Evensong of Thanksgiving for all that they do, followed by a strawberry reception. People from across the Diocese and beyond spent time getting to know each and finding out about the many jobs that ensure that the work of the Cathedral continues.

'Travelling in the power of the Spirit'

ON SUNDAY afternoon, the walkers from the Diocesan Pilgrimage arrived at the Cathedral to be greeted by congregation and hundreds of others from around the Diocese who had gathered for the annual service for Pentecost.

The service was led by Bishop Richard with enthusiastic and much appreciated help from the drummers from the Thamesmead Team Ministry.

The congregation were greeted outside the Cathedral and then went inside to gather around the font for the penitential rite and to be sprinkled with holy water as a sign of refreshment.

Those who had been on the pilgrimage spoke of their journey (see page 10) and then Bishop Richard gave the

address. He spoke of three themes: the pilgrimage that had just finished, the centenary year of the diocese and Pentecost. Bishop Richard thanked Ann and David Wright for their work in organising the pilgrimage. He spoke of the Pilgrim church being like the church in Acts – a people on the move. Pilgrimage he said is alive and well today and there is much importance of visiting holy places and 'kneeling where prayer had been valid'.

The Diocese, he said, was also on a pilgrimage in which it was

learning more and more about the importance of understanding the richness and diversity of the church. Finally, he spoke of Pentecost and reminded those present that they travel in the power of the Spirit and that in this service it was important to commission themselves afresh to walk in that power.

At the end of the service the congregation gathered again around the font, each with a shell that would act as a reminder as they were re-commissioned for ministry.



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SIX SOUTHWARK churches and the Cathedral were 'visited' by Mystery Worshippers from the 'Ship of Fools' website

(www.shipoffools.com) on Sunday 24 April. The Mystery Worshipper arrives unannounced at a church and afterwards publishes on the

website a report on the worship - the welcome, the sermon, the atmosphere, even the after service coffee. And it's not always flattering!

The Southwark 'victims', in addition to the Cathedral, were: St John's, Waterloo; St Mary's, Newington; All Saints', Blackheath; St Stephen's Lewisham; St Alfege's, Greenwich and St Anne's, Kew. But they can all breathe easy -

well almost. On the 'would you go back?' question, one scored 8/10, two 7s and those lower were 'not my style'.

And they all made the worshippers 'glad to be a Christian', even if some were criticised for the welcome and post-service experience.

Seventy London churches of different denominations were visited in all.