

Two parishes launch schemes to improve community access



Sanderstead - 'seven days a week' campaign

St Mary's Church, Sanderstead, has launched a campaign to turn itself into a vibrant space at the heart of local community life seven days a week.

Rev. James Percival, St Mary's Vicar, said: "With the support of the congregation and the community, the church building will play a much more prominent role

locally, feeding people not only in spirit, but in mind and body, enabling it to be a living building, providing a wide variety of cultural, communal and educational activities, as the hymn goes: 'Seven whole days, not one in seven'. The Church of England is here to serve all local people, and we want our church building to reflect that."

With the support of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, St Mary's is planning major changes within the existing envelope of the church

building to improve facilities. John Kempzell, leader of the building group said: "Working where water and drains are already available, we intend to create a kitchen capable of providing refreshments for 125; four toilets, one with disabled access; and a flexible area for meetings, meals, crèche, and other social activities."

The work has been costed at £165,000 to be part-funded by grants and church reserves, However St Mary's still needs to raise £95,000 from its congregation and the wider community.

For more information visit www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk or contact the 'seven whole days team' at: sevenwholedays@sanderstead-parish.org.uk.

Ground breaking ceremony for Purley hall re-development

Local MP Richard Ottaway led a Turf Lifting Ceremony at Christ Church, Purley on Friday 26 February to mark the start of a multi-million pound redevelopment of the church's popular 1950s-built community halls.

He was joined by Grace Comben, a long standing member of the church and Ella Onokurhese, the youngest child in Christ Church School and Christ Church Vicar, Rev. Charles Trefusis.

The ceremony was attended by local councillors, representatives of the architects and builders, members of the congregation and the whole of Christ Church School's reception

After years of planning and reviews of local needs and the services currently provided to the community by the church and other provision, designs were approved which mix some 'new build' with refurbishment and upgrading of existing facilities.

As well as providing new meeting and counselling rooms the work will improve access for disabled people to parts of the site, upgrade the heating, insulation and



windows and provide a foyer where people can drop in for a coffee or find out about the services available at Christ Church or elsewhere in Purley and how to access them.

Building work on the first phase is expected to start towards the end of March, with

£1m already raised within the congregation.

With Bishop Nick as patron of the Appeal, Christ Church is now seeking funds from trusts and businesses with the aim of completing all the planned work by the end of 2012.



The Diocese of **Southwark**

Prayer during the Vacancy-in-See

Eternal God, in every generation you raise up leaders for your people and give them wisdom, insight and courage. Give to your church in this Diocese a Bishop to lead us into the future to care for and inspire us to teach and to nurture us. Bless those to whom has been entrusted the task of nomination that with wisdom and discernment they may do their work that in this as in all things your will may be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

**Pentecost Sunday
23 May at 6.30pm**

Fruits of the Spirit

The Diocese will gather in the Cathedral to celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit and the way in which each of our lives bears the fruit of the Spirit.

The service will contain elements of dance performed by the Springs Dance Company from their current production 'Five a Day'. This will be an exhilarating service for people of all ages from all our churches.

No ticket required – just turn up.

