A New Chapter for the Church in Estonia

On 2 February 1920, the Tartu Peace Treaty was signed between Estonia and Soviet Russia ending the Estonian War of Independence. The Treaty stated that 'Russia unreservedly recognises' the independence of the Republic of Estonia and renounced all rights to the territory of Estonia. The Tartu Peace Treaty is regarded as the birth certificate of the Republic of Estonia and it is commemorated every year on 2 February.

On 2 February 2015, when Christians around the world celebrated Candlemas and citizens of Estonia also celebrated the ninety-fifth anniversary of the Tartu Peace Treaty, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Estonia celebrated the consecration of Urmas Viilma as Bishop and installed him as the seventh, and at 41 years of age, the youngest Archbishop of Estonia. In his sermon, the new Archbishop wove together the themes of Candlemas and the Tartu Peace Treaty, speaking deeply into the hearts of Estonians who were very aware of the battles taking place in neighbouring Ukraine and were also aware that, like their Ukrainian neighbours, they, too, share a border with Russia.

The service was attended by government officials, guests and bishops from within Estonia and around the world. Munib Younan, Bishop of Palestine and Jordan and President of the Lutheran World Federation, was one of the consecrating bishops and, being a Palestinian would understand concerns about the intentions of powerful neighbours.

I was there to bring greetings from the Diocese of Rochester, praying that our link with Estonia would go from strength to strength, and also from the Church of England on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The service, very similar to Anglican consecrations, was a wonderful mixture of old and new and was a musical feast. The Gloria was an adaptation of an Estonian folk song accompanied by a zither. A brass band played Mendelssohn and beautifully led music from Taizé. A violin provided a haunting accompaniment to a children’s choir singing, ‘We need to hold one another’ specially written for the occasion. And then there were the hymns accompanied by the magnificent cathedral organ.

Lutherans sit to sing and stand to pray, except for the singing of Martin Luther’s great hymn (like a national anthem for Lutherans, originally written in the sixteenth century as an appeal for religious freedom against the power of Rome) ‘A safe stronghold our God is still, a trusty shield and weapon’ for which everybody stands.

English hymns were also sung (in Estonian) including, ‘The Church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord,’ which was a favourite at the time of the first Lambeth Conference in 1867 when the Church of England faced division – little changes!

Estonia has a young church in a young nation: it was a symbolic moment to see the 41 year old Archbishop speaking with the 38 year old Prime Minister. Both face leadership dilemmas of drawing possibilities out of challenges. Archbishop Urmas takes up his responsibilities at a time of declining church attendance combined with the need for the Church to speak to a young nation. While the political contexts of the Dioceses of Estonia and Rochester are different, we can learn a great deal from each other through our prayer and fellowship and in the focusing of our mission and the organising of our ministry.
What's on

March 2015

Sunday

1
BROMLEY Free concert by members of the Bromley Symphony Orchestra in St Mary's Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3OG at 7.30 p.m. They will play Beethoven's Septet and Brahms Horn Trio. The free concert is followed by tea and cakes. Free on-road parking outside the church, or busses 126, 261, 314, 336 pass the church (Morgan Road stop) and link with Bromley South Station. Contact Peter Fall on 020 8464 1239 or peter@fallfamily.co.uk for further details.

7
RIVERHEAD 'Towards Holy Week', a concert of choral music from Tenebrae Chorister Choir, at St Mary's, Riverhead, TN13 3OR at 7.30p.m. Programme includes: Tallas Lamentations, Geraldino Responsories for Holy Thursday, and music by Byrd, Monteverdi and James MacMillan. Trumpet solos from BBC Young Musician Finalist, Matilda Lloyd. Tickets £10 (Q5 students) from Sevenoaks Bookshop, or phone 01959 503795, or on the door.

22
TUNBRIDGE WELLS A Musical Meditation for Lent at St Peter's Upper Church, Hastings Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 4PD at 7.30p.m. A Musical Meditation for Lent in aid of Terry Waite's Charity, Y-Care International, with music including from the Iona and Taize communities, readings for Lent and visual presentations of the charity's work. Refreshments, Bring and Buy and Terry Waite's books for sale. Further details: phone 01892 539549.

23
BROMLEY Free concert by Stephen Roe (Baritone) and Rosemary Chater (piano) at 3.00 pm in St Mary's Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3OG. The free concert is followed by tea and cakes. Free on-road parking outside the church, or busses 126, 261, 314, 336 pass the church (Morgan Road stop) and link with Bromley South Station. Contact Peter Fall on 020 8464 1239 or peter@fallfamily.co.uk for further details.

24
TUNBRIDGE WELLS Film Gala Night, 'LES MISERABLES' at Trinity Theatres, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1UP. 7.00pm - Drinks Reception, 7.30pm - Film Screening. An exclusive showing, with drinks reception, tombola, silent auction and Spot the Mayor competition! £20 All tickets. Includes glass of fizz and canapés. Dress code: Black tie or lounge suit. To book call 01892 865985 or email: fundraising@burrswood.org.uk

29
YALDING Come and sing with our church choir at St Peter and St Paul's Church. We have a gifted and enthusiastic choir master. There are opportunities to sing all types of music, especially during major religious festivals. We have modern hymns and worship songs at the family worship services. Room for all ages! Contact Sue Compton on 01622 814003.

Saturday

1
TUNBRIDGE WELLS, at St Paul’s Church Centre, 23 Rusthall Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8RE at 7.30 p.m. A Musical Meditation for Easter in aid of Canon Andrew White's projects with music, including from the Iona and Taize Communities, readings for Easter and visual presentations of Canon White’s work. Refreshments, Bring and Buy and Terry Waite’s books for sale. For more information call 01892 865985 or email kate.allardyce@operationnoah.org

13
BROMLEY Intimate Opera Club, directed by Paul Arden-Giffiths, present 'The Wonderful World of Operetta and Musical' at 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3OG. Admission on the door is £9 (£7), Patrons £5, Interval refreshments and raffle. Contact 01435 882741 or email kives1002@gmail.com for further information and tickets.

19
TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A Festival of Music and Dance at Trinity Church Centre, Brenchley. "The Great Escapade" directed by Richard Tomlinson with music by Bach, Mozart, Sibelius and a Beechwoods Band. Tickets £10 available on the door or phone 01892 665985.

22
BROMLEY Gigantic indoor Jumble Sale in the hall at St Mary’s Church, College Road, Bromley BR1 3OG; doors open at 2.00 p.m. Queue starts forming at 12 noon – come early for the bargain bags. Better bric-a-brac and refreshments available. Free on-road parking after 2pm in side roads near the church, or busses 126, 261, 314, 336 pass the church (Morgan Road stop) and link with Bromley South Station. Contact Carole Beale on 020 8460 9330 or carole.beale@yahoo.com for further details.

April 2015

Saturday

11
TUNBRIDGE WELLS, at St Paul’s Church Centre, 23 Rusthall Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8RE at 7.30 p.m. A Musical Meditation for Easter in aid of Canon Andrew White’s projects with music, including from the Iona and Taize Communities, readings for Easter and visual presentations of Canon White’s work. Refreshments, Bring and Buy and Terry Waite’s books for sale. For more information call 01892 865985 or email kate.allardyce@operationnoah.org

28
YALDING Come and sing with our church choir at St Peter and St Paul’s Church. We have a gifted and enthusiastic choir master. There are opportunities to sing all types of music, especially during major religious festivals. We have modern hymns and worship songs at the family worship services. Room for all ages! Contact Sue Compton on 01622 814003.

LUNCHTIME RECITALS

St Luke’s Church, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks

Lasting 30 minutes

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm

Please join us – admission free

Refreshments available from 12 noon

MARCH

4
Jackie Sanjaya and Friends – Wind Quintet

11
Jean Bentley’s String Quartet

18
Peter Dodsworth – Bassoon and Peter Fall – Piano

25
Fumi Osuku – Violin

Challenging Poverty Conference

Celebrating Humanity – Partnership for Change

Saturday 5 May, 10.00am – 4pm

Speakers: The Archbishop of Tanzania (The Most Rev. Dr. Jacob Chimelumela, Bishop of Mpwapwa), The Rev. Dr Susan Dibur, Theology Co-ordinator for Christian Aid.

What is the conference about?

Christians are already in relationship with the poor because they are in relationship with Jesus Christ who identifies himself with the poor. The conference will hear the devastating effects of poverty on human life and flourishing. At the same time, it will recognise that some are able to choose poverty as part of their spiritual journey [Challenging Poverty]. It will also hear and celebrate the ways in which parishes and schools relate to the poor (in such ways as partnership links, foodbanks, credit unions, etc) and reflect on the blessings and joy brought through these relationships [Celebrating Humanity]. It will then ask how these partnerships with the poor can lead to change for all parties involved [Partnership for Change].

This will be achieved through the two key-note speakers, workshops and worship.

The aim is that people will leave the conference empowered, equipped, challenged and inspired.

Venue: Trinity School, Belvedere.
by Russell Brand, who passionately
twitter and in blogs and elsewhere,
against his comments - arose on
personality Stephen Fry caused
with them for the last three years. A rigged
flee from, or deny one who has shared his life
uncomfortable. Friends and followers betray,
whose words and whose deeds they find too
do away with the person whose presence,
humanity where it falls short of its best
the events of Holy Week, we too often see
of goodness, - innocence, humility, love,
King Herod) we see consistent examples
characters (with the notable exception of
comments address.
both God and humanity than Stephen Fry’s
in Christian understanding - far more of
the annual recalling and marking of the first
otherwise - eg, beautiful, noble, inspiring, life-
of other human experiences which are quite
Fry was a caricature of the God unfolded in
Certainly, the God challenged by Stephen
16 Mar
All Day  Diocesan Synod
10 Mar
9 Mar
7-8 Mar
5 Mar
3 Mar
17 Mar
0900 Bishop’s Staff Meeting
1430 Speak: Homes for Britain 2015 rally
- Westminster
18 Mar
1500 House of Lords
20 Mar
1900 Community House blessing - Chatham
21 Mar
1630 Teach: Mission-shaped Ministry course
22 Mar
1130 Confirmation - Pembury, St Peter & Kent College
23-24 Mar
23-24 Mar
General Synod Business Committee – London
25 Mar
0900 Senior leadership Discernment Panel - London
10 Mar
1700 Prisoners Abroad Trustees - London
11 Mar
1700 Bishop’s Council
0830 New building opening - Christ Church School, Erith
26 Mar
1000 Kent Police Chaplaincy meeting
3 Mar
1000 2016 Budget meeting
1430 Finance Committee
4 Mar
1000 Senior leadership development group - Lambeth
1800 All-party parliamentary penal affairs group
- London
23 May
0800 Churches Together in Kent AGM
7-8 Mar
Licensed Lay Ministers Selection w/e
9 Mar
1000 House of Bishops Standing Committee - London
1730 Theos justice report launch - London
10 Mar
1100 Lord Lieutenant’s County Service - Cathedral
11 Mar
1200 Confirmation - Trinity School, Belvedere
12 Mar
1130 Churches Funerals Group - London
13 Mar
All Day Diocesan Schools Leadership Conference
14 Mar
All Day Diocesan Synod
15 Mar
1000 Institution: The Rev Derek D’Souza - Princes Park, Chatham
30 Mar
1930 St Margaret, Rainham (Deanery Holy Week Visit)
31 Mar
2000 St Mary Magdalen, Gillingham (Deanery Holy Week Visit)
16 Mar
1500 House of Lords

It is no wonder that the cross - a symbol
which our society seems sometimes too quick
to overlook - prompts reverence and hope.
Of course - in Christian insight and
proclamation - the story does not end with
Christ’s crucifixion and death. Easter morning
will herald a new creation. The power of
death is broken forever. The risen Jesus
rises transformed and eternal, and he is
encountered in place after place and by one
followers is transformed into a confident
person after another. A company of fearful
encountered in place after place and by one
followers is transformed into a confident
person after another. A company of fearful
followers is transformed into a confident
crowd, who will expand and expand in number
the message of Christ out across the
world of which it knows and, indeed, to lands
further. People will die proclaiming faith
in the risen Lord, and, in his resurrection, they
find hope for their own destinies.
The atheist has little or nothing to offer, by
way of consolation or hope, to those weighed
down by misfortunes or mistakes or to mortal
men and women and to their grieving loved
ones in the face of human suffering and
death. In contrast - as the Christian creeds
put it - the Christian faith - or, rather, God in
Christ - offers “the forgiveness of sins … the
resurrection of the dead … and the life of the
world to come.”
Holy Week and Easter will bring us so much
to recall, to revere, to celebrate and to share
with a world beloved and redeemed by the
God of all, the God in whose living presence
we continue to rejoice.

Bishop James’ diary
March 2015

3 Mar
1000 2016 Budget meeting
1430 Finance Committee
4 Mar
1000 Senior leadership development group - Lambeth
1800 All-party parliamentary penal affairs group
- London
5 Mar
0800 Churches Together in Kent AGM
7-8 Mar
Licensed Lay Ministers Selection w/e
9 Mar
1000 House of Bishops Standing Committee - London
1730 Theos justice report launch - London
10 Mar
1100 Lord Lieutenant’s County Service - Cathedral
11 Mar
0830 New building opening - Christ Church School, Erith
12 Mar
1130 Confirmation - Trinity School, Belvedere
12 Mar
1130 Churches Funerals Group - London
13 Mar
All Day Diocesan Schools Leadership Conference
14 Mar
All Day Diocesan Synod
15 Mar
1000 Institution: The Rev Derek D’Souza - Princes Park, Chatham
16 Mar
1500 House of Lords

The Ven Clive Mansell
Some weeks ago, the television
personality Stephen Fry caused
a stir during an Irish television
interview, when he described God
as “evil” and “capricious” if he
could create a world containing
something such as bone cancer. An
immediate response - both for and
against his comments - arose on
Twitter and in blogs and elsewhere,
including one YouTube response
by Russell Brand, who passionately
proclaimed belief in God.

One question here is “who is the God who
is denied, or challenged, or believed in?”
Certainly, the God challenged by Stephen
Fry was a caricature of the God unfolded in
Scripture and Christian belief and the issues
of suffering aligned upon by Stephen Fry are
far from the whole story of our experience
of suffering and they forget the vast number
of other human experiences which are quite
otherwise - eg, beautiful, noble, inspiring, life-
transforming.

Once more, we are now moving towards
the annual recalling and marking of the first
Holy Week and Easter. There we see -
in Christian understanding - far more of
both God and humanity than Stephen Fry’s
comments address.

In the Christmas story and all its familiar
characters (with the notable exception of
King Herod) we see consistent examples
of goodness, - innocence, humility, love,
faithfulness and generosity. In contrast, in the
events of Holy Week, we too often see
humanity where it fails short of its best
by any standards, whether human or divine.
A plot is cooked-up by those in power to
do away with the person whose presence,
whose words and whose deeds they find too
uncomfortable. Friends and followers betray,
free from, or deny one who has shared his life
with them for the last three years. A rigged
trial is held in breach of legal process and
with false witnesses. The prisoner is beaten
up and abused. Transferring the prisoner to
Roman jurisdiction proves no better. Again,
the prisoner is abused, attacked, denied
justice and sentenced to death by a judge who
had said “I find nothing wrong in this man”.
A crowd is swayed to call for blood and the
judge declares that this injustice is nothing
to do with him. There is plenty of wrong
and suffering here, but this is not the whole story.

Goodness is still there. Sublime words of
pardon and hope come from the lips of the
one nailed to the cross. “Father, forgive them
for they know not what they do”, says Jesus to
those who are crucifying him, and “Today, you
will be with me in Paradise”, he promises the
penitent thief on the cross beside him. What
goodness, what nobility, what an inspiration
amidst all the suffering and wrong!

In Christian understanding, of course, the
goodness does not stop in the sheer character
of Jesus himself (most obviously revealed in
the Gospel accounts of these events shown by
St Luke and St John). God is in Christ - as the
Christmas message proclaims. In Jesus, God
experiences and shares our human suffering
and is at the receiving end of human wrong.
In Christ, on the cross, the eternal God draws
into himself not only the limitations of being
physical in this world, but - far more still
- the moral consequences and conditions
of an existence where freewill can make
wrong choices, have wrong allegiances and
wrongly do wrong deeds - all which is
at odds with the goodness of a holy God.
Here - Jesus loves self-sacrificially reaches out to the
uttermost in order to redeem, to rescue, to
restore, to reconcile and to renew. “For our
sake, God made him (Jesus) to be sin who
knew no sin, so that in him we might become
the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5: 21).
“For the love of Christ controls us, because
we have concluded this: that one has died for
all, therefore all have died; and he died for all,
that those who live might no longer live with
themselves, but for him, who for their sake died
and was raised” (2 Corinthians 5: 14-15).

Divine love reaches out to its uttermost
into our suffering and into our sin in order to
restore us to our uttermost and to God’s good
intended purpose for us.

The atheist has little or nothing to offer, by
way of consolation or hope, to those weighed
down by misfortunes or mistakes or to mortal
men and women and to their grieving loved
ones in the face of human suffering and
death. In contrast - as the Christian creeds
put it - the Christian faith - or, rather, God in
Christ - offers “the forgiveness of sins … the
resurrection of the dead … and the life of the
world to come.”
Holy Week and Easter will bring us so much
to recall, to revere, to celebrate and to share
with a world beloved and redeemed by the
God of all, the God in whose living presence
we continue to rejoice.

Can you help?

Christian gentleman (73) wishes to visit
the grave of Margaret Ann C (surname
unknown), who died on 2 January 1956
(age 16), and with headstone inscription
PEACE THROUGH FAITH. The churchyard
will be located in a village somewhere mid
east Surrey, mid west Kent, not so far from
Groombridge.

I was 15 and living in South East London
when I finished reading the book of her
incredible faith in Jesus Christ and, having
just reread the book Margaret, prompted to
this heartfelt request.

To contact phone 01932 872405
Where Will You Buy Yours?

New Range for 2015

The Original 150g (RRP £3.99)
The 2015 edition has a new 24 page Easter storybook with a 3ft Happy Easter Banner, a high quality milk chocolate egg (125g) and a pack of milk chocolate Chunky Buttons (25g).

More than a million eggs sold!

Special Peace Edition 280g (RRP £9.99)
Contains an olive wood peace dove keyring from the Holy Land, a simple guide to the Easter story, an orange milk chocolate bar (80g) and a high quality milk chocolate egg (200g).

Dark 180g (RRP £5.50)
Contains an egg made from premium dark Fairtrade chocolate (165g) with 3 dark chocolate mini squares (5g) and a simple guide to the Easter story.

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which is made of Fairtrade chocolate, has an Easter story booklet and makes a donation to charity**

Voted the UK’s favourite Fairtrade Easter Egg and with more than 1 million eggs sold, each year the content of the Real Easter egg changes. See above for details.

Where To Buy

You can buy direct from us online at www.realeasteregg.co.uk, from Traidcraft, EDEN, TLM and some independent shops. Original 150g egg available from selected supermarkets, Special Peace egg only available at Tesco. Dark egg not available in supermarkets.
Medway priest takes faith to the frontline for Lent

Some people give up chocolate for Lent. Or quit Facebook. Or try to stop swearing. But in an unusual step, the Rev Sharon Copestead has decided to spend one day each week checking out a different place of work.

Sharon is curate at St Philip and St James’ Church in Walderslade (known locally as ‘Pip n Jim’s’). During Lent (which started on Wed 18 February), she will take to the ‘frontline’ with different members of the congregation to witness firsthand how they embody their faith in everyday contexts. Her itinerary includes time with the manager of a local children’s centre, staff on an IT helpdesk, a speech therapist, a community midwife and a stay-at-home single parent, to name just a few.

“I want to learn more about the challenges and opportunities that people face in their everyday activities. But I also want to see how an individual’s faith affects how they work at the ‘frontline’ of their lives, whether that’s a workplace, caring responsibilities, community activities or something completely unexpected,” said Sharon. “Each person’s frontline is unique and presents unique challenges and opportunities, but I want to ask how we can see God in each setting and how people are exploring and expressing their faith in that place.”

Sharon will chronicle her journeys on her blog. After Easter she will reflect on what she’s discovered and may decide to continue the practice in some form as a permanent part of her ministry.

St Philip and St James is a Church of England church in Walderslade, a suburb to the south of Chatham in the Medway Towns and organized locally as part of the Diocese of Rochester.

The Inside and the Outside

By Chris Ruddle

As I write, it is early February and it is cold outside. My living room has the great advantage of a real fire. On cold, gloomy days I set it going, chuck on a few logs and watch the heat radiating out of the coals. It’s really comforting to relax in my leather armchair by the fire, like a Victorian pater familias, feeling how fortunate I am to have such blessings. When I must go out, it’s with a deep sigh that I wrap up warm, putting on coat & scarf, hat and gloves. I lower my head, opening the door to the cold blast of an English winter.

Who says God doesn’t speak to ordinary people?

By Pat Hovenden

I am married to the rector of a busy parish on the edge of Tunbridge Wells. I often feel that in parish life we are plodding along with moments of inspiration and encouragement, but generally just plodding.

Plodding is a good word to describe just how I feel, especially as I was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease about 8 yrs ago. Frankly sometimes I just don’t feel up to it - the busy mums and toddlers group which meets every Monday morning, which necessitates the removal or rearrangement of most of the church chairs to accommodate the hearing mass of under fives (yes we still haven’t got our new church annex which has been 16 years in the making but this year, just maybe...). Add to this the very messy Messy Church, Friday parent drop in and lunch for the elderly - not to mention the constant sorting and bagging up of food for our food bank ‘You get the picture’. Sometimes I’m tempted to think where is ‘God in all of this’. So I didn’t take much notice of someone we know: ‘Yes, ok, I will look at it later’ I yelled as I rushed out of the house, slightly late for something or other.

Later that day I finally had a glance and looked in amazement at the picture of a beautiful rain bow filling the sky and encompassing our Rectory and the church next to it. Sun was streaming through the windows filling the whole place with light. AS I looked at the picture I suddenly felt so encouraged. The picture taken and forwarded to us by a stranger was just so clearly God’s message to us and our church family ‘here in Southborough, I felt God was saying to us Don’t give up. I always keep my promises,’ I won’t let you down. ‘I’m with you and I will bless you.

The theme for our messy church this Friday just happens to be Noah - need I say more?"
Millions of Snowflakes

Stop the Traffik was founded by Steve Chalk (originally part of the leadership team for Spring Harvest) and Ruth Dearnley, who worked for Stop the Traffik as a volunteer when the organisation had a website and one paid administrator. Ruth said, “We created resources and made a BIG NOISE back in 2005 and 2006. We really wanted to work with other agencies. People trafficking was going to be debated by the Church, but our awareness campaigns need to keep people trafficking in the headlines. No matter what happened in the past, there is still an issue now.”

“People trafficking happens from a community to a community. Our resources are ground-breaking in their simplicity. It is the awfulness of the reality of people trafficking that disempowers the victims. We ask people to ask themselves three simple questions:

1. What is people trafficking?
2. How does it affect me?
3. What can I do about it?

Here at Stop the Traffik, we are focussed on prevention. You must understand how being trafficked affects a person, or you won’t have the eyes to see it. It doesn’t matter whether you are a CEO, a politician or a child.

Stop the Traffik aims to raise awareness in communities and whilst the subject is a very difficult one, we still have some fun. This is an issue that demands time and resources – who responds to that? Churches and young people. Young people want action. If this issue thrives in the dark, we need to bring it into the light.

‘There are three main elements to trafficking. First, there is the hook. The traffickers’ main route is to deceive their victims. The victim is often very excited about where they think they are going (with promises of a job, paid employment and a better life). The person who is brokering the dream appears to have a level of care and intimacy. This is the deepest kind of deception and plays on the vulnerable.

A classic example would be a family where there are 11 children. There is no education and they live in extreme poverty. But this is not the only way people are exploited. Sometimes students are deceived at the beginning of what looks like a gap year – the offer can appear to be too good to be true, and often it is just that. The visa and funding for travel will be paid for, but the victim is tricked. You can be vulnerable when you look like you are in an unknown space like simply walking to secondary school for the first time, or perhaps told you are going to work in a care home. The victim is dislocated from where they feel safe.

This is modern-day slavery and it has gone global. Traffickers are running businesses and making money.

The tools they use are simple and effective:
- Deception
- Coercion
- Force
- Dislocation and
- Exploitation, often sexual.

Trafficking encompasses many other aspects of crime and can seem innocuous. For example, workers may be forced into work making sandwiches or cleaning in a hotel. They may be forced to go begging on the streets by being manipulated by illegal gang masters. They can be coerced into committing benefit fraud or petty street crimes. The tragedy is that they believe they are coming to a job, but instead they are trapped in a life of domestic servitude. People think that people trafficking happens in countries like India and Thailand – it does, but it is also happening here.

What happens in the UK to try and combat people trafficking?

The nature of trafficking means it happens at street level, so professionals like the police and health workers start there. Awareness of this crime has grown in the UK – the Metropolitan Police have their own unit now and offer a 24/7 help line.

It’s not just the authorities who have a responsibility here. Everyone has a responsibility and a duty of care that needs to be exercised – even if you think you see something on a train, you can still tell your local police. People are the eyes and ears of our society. Human trafficking is about someone’s life.

There is a tension here. Stop the Traffik is not wanting to create vigilantes or frighten people into thinking that the world is a bad place. We are all about creating awareness and asking people to report anything suspicious that they may see. It’s better to report a suspicious activity to the police and be sure you have taken action, than it is to look the other way.

Stop the Traffik also run campaigns. One good example would be the chocolate
campaign launched in 2001. Ruth says, "The industry knew they had an issue with the Ivory Coast. 43% of the world’s cocoa was harvested there."

The industry made a commitment to remove trafficked people from the production of chocolate by 2005 but, by 2006, Stop the Traffik identified that nothing had been done.

Lots of excuses were made – and yes, this is a challenging environment to work in and yes, there are obstacles to good communication – but we are talking about children being trafficked here. We are talking about young lives. For us, the bottom line was to persuade the big chocolate manufacturers to sell chocolate that was not tainted with the blood, sweat and tears of trafficked children. We created some simple tools and by keeping this issue in the public eye, we were able to effect change. Companies are now able to apply for independent certification, so Cadbury Dairy Milk was the first, followed by Mars, then Nestle with KitKat. At the end of the day, all business is global now.

We have a lot of activists in Australia. We know that there are still trafficked children working in plantations around the world and they are super-vulnerable, but by informing consumers, those consumers have incredible power. The need for action is relentless and we know people slow down, but we urge you to keep going and remain vigilant.

We know that girls in Southern India are trafficked into working for cotton manufacturers, working in spinning, weaving and dying cotton. These children are aged 10 to around 16; it’s called the "Sumangali scheme". Money changes hands a bit like a dowry, and these girls then work for 3 years in tragic conditions; their parents are given a lump sum for them, but it’s not much. They live in dreadful hostels away from family and friends. We want to shine a light on the issue. I don’t want to wear blood stained clothes, no matter how cheap they are. There has to be within industry those who want to lead the way. Like Wilberforce, we have to take action. You may be part of the system if you buy clothes made in this way, but what can you do? You can write to manufacturers or the head offices of high street clothing stores and ask them what they are doing to stamp this practice out.

Stop the Traffik is a mainstream campaign organisation, not a Christian one per se, but certainly Christians do support our work. Churches are at the heart of our communities and faith groups can be very powerful, using affirmative action to achieve great things. God is about justice and this is about justice at street level. Change happens at street level.

We exist because people support us with donations and like many charities, we can be very compelling. The most persuasive argument is from someone who we have saved, but we are not really about rescuing individual people. We are all about prevention. Our story isn’t about "let me show you a rescue".

People trafficking is fed by denial. It is the fastest growing global crime this century. STOP will only happen if we share information and connect all the pieces of the puzzle.

This business is all about greed and profit – it is the worst form of dehumanisation – the possession of another. Individuals can be moved from anywhere to anywhere and they are powerless to stop it.

Always ask yourself: What is it? How does it affect me? What can I do to stop it?

Take responsibility yourself. The thing that encourages me is that the world is full of ordinary people doing extraordinary things. We need governments and academics, law enforcement and the judiciary and business leaders to come on-board and stamp out people trafficking but in the end, it will only be resolved in communities, by communities. It takes millions of snowflakes to cause a blanket of snow.

For more information about Stop the Traffik please visit the website www.stopthetraffik.org
MEDIA TRAINING CENTRE
Raising up the next generation of media missionaries

- ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RADIO OR JOURNALISM?
- WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CITY OR NATION?
- PASSIONATE ABOUT GOD?

Cross Rhythms Media Training Centre could be for you!

Work in a live media and broadcasting environment; gain an OCNWMR qualification and receive discipleship training from Cross Rhythms and city leaders with decades of experience of outwarding faith in a media and city context.

SIX COURSES ARE AVAILABLE:

- RADIO PRODUCTION AND BROADCASTING (LEVEL 3)
- DEVELOPING RADIO INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES (LEVEL 3)
- MAKING AND PRODUCING RADIO NEWS BULLETINS (LEVEL 3)
- DEVELOPING RADIO PRODUCTION SKILLS (LEVEL 2)
- DEVELOPING RADIO PRODUCTION SKILLS (LEVEL 3)
- MUSIC JOURNALISM (LEVEL 3)

Course duration varies from 4 months to 1 month with rolling start dates, subject to availability.

Emily says:
"I have so many highlights from the course. One of my favourite units was about how to make a discussion programme. For this I had to research all about the role and then organised and ran a 30 minute live discussion with the Police Commissioner candidates."

For more information or an application form please go to www.crossrhythms.co.uk/media_training

Or contact Angela Selby, Human Resources Manager on 01782 877305 or email angela.selby@crossrhythms.co.uk
Bishop Given’s visit to Rochester Diocese from Kondoa

Our Diocese enjoys friendships with four partner Dioceses - Estonia, Harare, Mpwapwa and Kondoa. Bishop Given Gaula, Bishop of Kondoa, was able to spend a fortnight here in our Diocese in February. He spent his time enjoying the company of many existing friends who enjoy parish, school and community links with Kondoa, and also spent time with those looking to form new friendships. Space doesn’t allow us to mention all that he did, but his visit to Bishop Justus school, Bromley, and Hever Primary school were reflective of the impact his visit has had.

A Bishop at Bishop Justus

A party of Bishop Justus students are visiting Kondoa later this year and the Tanzania Twelve (as they have become known) enjoyed an engaging hour with the Bishop when he visited their school. He spoke about many things, highlighting the promotion of a secular society in Tanzania which enables the church there to share the gospel. He is particularly keen that, in a diocese that has a Muslim majority, the pastors speak only about Jesus and about the difference that Christianity offers. There was much talk of all the things the students might do when they are in Kondoa and it was evident that there is a heart to meet with and work alongside the children and young people in the Diocese.

At an earlier Eucharist, jointly led by the Rev Juliet Donnelly, the school Chaplain, and the Bishop, we read from Luke and heard about Simeon’s life being fulfilled on meeting the infant Jesus.

The Bishop was asked to share something of his amazing testimony, and how he was called to serve his people in the poorest diocese in Tanzania, despite many offers of useful, theological work that, to the listener, would have been easier to accept.

The Headmistress, Mrs Kathy Griffiths, reminded us all that we were on a journey, that God has a purpose and plan for us all and that it will be revealed to us in His time. She also shared with the pupils, when asked, how she became Headmistress of the school 10 years ago.

The trip the Tanzania Twelve will undertake in July is all part of that journey - who knows where it will lead them?

Bishop Given’s visit to the benefice of Hever, Four Elms and Markbeech on 12 February

The Bishop met the children at Hever Primary School during the assembly and, after a brief talk, he took questions such as ‘what do you do?’, ‘how many churches do you visit every week?’ and ‘how big is Kondoa?’ The children then prayed for the Bishop before he moved on to join members of our three churches at the Rectory. We had coffee and cakes and the Bishop addressed us and we discussed the establishment of a link with a parish in Kondoa. He spoke with passion about the people and churches of his Diocese and we felt very inspired to become involved in whatever way would help. A relationship between our prosperous leafy Kentish villages and their villages, where they were proud to have a roof for the school and church, should be enriching for everyone involved.

The Big Diocesan Day Out

On 19 July from 1pm - 7pm at Leybourne Castle. This is a day for all members of the diocesan family of churches and will have something for all ages.

The Dean of Jerusalem, the Rev. Canon Hosam Elias Naoum, will be one of our key note speakers and we are delighted that Dr Rachel Jordan, the National Mission and Evangelism Advisor to the Church of England, will also be with us.

They will be supported by a variety of speakers on issues such as healing, spirituality, discipleship and world affairs.

Various workshops will be held, based around learning new skills, current issues and taster sessions based on ‘try it as see what you can do themes.’

As part of the wide range of activities and sessions taking place during the day, there will be age specific activities for children & young people aged 0-18. These activities include story telling, circus skills workshop, music workshop, holiday club, Godly Play, craft, rock traversing, BMX, survival skills and inflatable fun. These activities will be run and supervised by qualified adults. However, parents will need to remain with and supervise their children.

There will also be a battle of the choirs/bands event, a beer tent for the soon-to-be-famous Rochester Beer and hymns event, a More tea Vicar’ tea session where you can take tea with famous clergy or even treat your own. There will be a BBQ and opportunity to picnic and the event will be summed up in an intergenerational act of worship.

Amidst all the fun there will be space in the church for quiet reflection and prayer. Booking details will follow shortly.

Welcome to BISHOP JUSTUS

Church of England School
LEAGUE FAITH AND LEARNING

Simon Murphy, Head of School, Bishop Given and Mrs Kathy Griffiths, Headmistress at the school

Philippines appeal

Filipino families are still rebuilding their lives following Typhoon Haiyan, in 2013, which claimed 6,000 lives and destroyed $50,000 homes. Donations to Us will provide fishing communities with new homes, boats and equipment.

To donate, text PHIL22 £10 to 70070 or visit www.weareUs.org.uk/donate

More at www.weareUs.org/philippines

Us. The new name for USPG. Founded 1701.
Spotlight on retreats

Puncheon is set in 5 acres of lovely Devon countryside with beautiful views over the Axe Valley to the sea. Ideal for retreats & holidays for individuals, families & groups. Enjoy rest and relaxation, in a quiet, friendly and informal atmosphere.

Tel: 01297 21681
www.hapenplus.com - stay@hapenplus.com
- Penchaven, Hapen Hill, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2TA

5% off new bookings at the MacLeod centre and the Abbey with 2015 programme quote ANG5DIS *terms and conditions apply

www.iona.org.uk

"A beautiful, stunning location with wonderful people"

www.leeabbey.org.uk/devon
01598 752621 relax@leeabbey.org.uk
Lee Abbey Lynton North Devon EX35 6J

ST. MARY’S CONVENT WANTAGE
St Mary’s Convent offers a variety of facilities and flexible accommodation for Group Quiet Days and Group Retreats. Also, Conference facilities and private stays. Theological Library may be available on request.

For further details please contact:
St Mary's Convent, Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 9DJ
Tel: 01235 763141
Email: guestwing@csmv.co.uk
www.csmv.co.uk

Lee Abbey Christian Community
FREE for 4s and under Reduced children’s prices

www.leeabbey.org.uk

ST. MARY’S CONVENT WANTAGE

www.leeabbey.org.uk/devon
01598 752621 relax@leeabbey.org.uk
Lee Abbey Lynton North Devon EX35 6J

For more information and bookings, please see our website: www.retreats.org.uk email info@retreats.org.uk or phone 01494 569056

30 June 2015
The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Guest contributors -
our Patrons:
Dr Rowan Williams
Fr Christopher Jamison OSB
Margaret Rizza
Revd Graham Sparkes

Guest contributors -
Key contributors:
theologian and writer
psychiatrist and writer
artist Sophie Hacker
poet Pádraig Ó Tuama
liturgist Emily Walker

Sponsored by:
Holding a Balance – finding God in a complex world
Cornerstone Ad 100x63.indd 1 04/02/2015 15:22

Church Mice...
Wasps in the West End
Pigeons over the Pulpit
Ants in the Aisle
Squirrels in the Sanctuary
Rats in the Rectory
Cockroaches in the Crypt

Let your pest be our problem
0800 056 5477
info@cleankill.co.uk
cleankill.co.uk

Church Mice...
Wasps in the West End
Pigeons over the Pulpit
Ants in the Aisle
Squirrels in the Sanctuary
Rats in the Rectory
Cockroaches in the Crypt

Let your pest be our problem
0800 056 5477
info@cleankill.co.uk
cleankill.co.uk

BPCA
Investors in People

ST. MARY’S CONVENT WANTAGE

www.leeabbey.org.uk/devon
01598 752621 relax@leeabbey.org.uk
Lee Abbey Lynton North Devon EX35 6J

Deeper into the countryside Deeper into community Deeper into God

CleanKill environmental services

Church Mice...
Wasps in the West End
Pigeons over the Pulpit
Ants in the Aisle
Squirrels in the Sanctuary
Rats in the Rectory
Cockroaches in the Crypt

Let your pest be our problem
0800 056 5477
info@cleankill.co.uk
cleankill.co.uk

BPCA
Investors in People

Praying the way

Bromley & Bexley

Beckenham Deane...
Cathedral Volunteers

Jim Lawrenson

Ex Territorial Army Paratrooper and prison service employee, Liverpudlian Jim Lawrenson (69) volunteered to help at Rochester Cathedral about eight years ago.

Jim said, “I started off as a welcomer, then I worked with the education team and now I help out in the Cathedral shop.” Jim spends parts of Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Cathedral and spends the other days of the week with the Royal Voluntary Service. He said, “I love meeting the people who come here because they are at the Cathedral because they choose to be, not because they have been told to come – which is totally different from the people I worked with in the prison service.”

Rochester is a medieval Cathedral dating back to 604 AD, so there’s a lot to know and a lot to share with visitors. Jim said, “Some of the people I met through welcoming them are now working for the Cathedral as volunteers. I’m not trying to push religion down their throats;

I try to make it fun for visitors of every age and they remember me. I enjoy everything I do and I meet people from all over the world.

I enjoy showing people things that they may not have known about before.”

A Christian by upbringing, Jim obviously feels very at home in the Cathedral. He said,

“The Cathedral always needs volunteers, and interested people can contact Rebecca Bramley to find out more. People who don’t come to us are missing out!”

Alan Skinner

Born in Surrey, Cathedral Volunteer Alan Skinner (70) moved to Petts Wood at just three years old, and he has lived in Kent ever since.

Having retired from his busy role in local government, Alan was heavily involved with his local church as church warden and in the parish office. He saw an advert in Rochester Link seeking Cathedral volunteers and he enquired about working as a volunteer. Alan said, “I started at Rochester Cathedral as a welcomer in 2009, and I was later offered the opportunity to become a Cathedral guide. There’s lots of good training in-house and from external trainers. I learned lots about the Cathedral – information stays with you when you are interested.”

Alan is obviously enthusiastic about the history of the Cathedral. He said, “I am passionate about the Cathedral and love making connections between the Cathedral and the visitors. If they go out knowing more than they did when they came in, then that’s good!”

Alan is at the Cathedral on a Thursday as a peripatetic guide, and then offers support for tours at specific times between 1030 and 1630, with more in the summer. He said, “There is a lot of building work going on at the moment, so I say people should visit now and then come back again after the work is finished – after all, it’s free!”

Sometimes, visitors open the door and hear the Cathedral organist practising. If they misinterpret this as an act of worship, some are inclined to close the door again and leave. Alan said, “Just come in! You will be very welcome. Some visitors just want to take a leaflet and go. Some want to know a lot more about it. Either way, it’s fine. We just want people to visit the Cathedral and enjoy the experience. The Cathedral is also looking looking for volunteers now, so if you are interested, please come and make yourself known to us!”

Sue Micklewright

Ex-professional librarian now Cathedral volunteer Sue Micklewright retired from working in the library at Mid Kent College.

She said, “I originally came in to do a stock check about six years ago because I had the experience and was familiar with the Dewey system. I was also interested in learning about rare books.”

Rochester Cathedral is home to the Textus Roffensis (The Tome of Rochester) which pre-dates the Magna Carta and it houses three facsimile copies which are available for the public to view. Sue said, “The Textus was dropped in the River Medway in 1275 and still bears the marks of the water. The clasps of the book protected it from more water damage.”

As a librarian by training, Sue has maintained her genuine love of books and learned even more about them as a volunteer. She said, “I have enjoyed some conservation training and learned how to clean rare books with pony-hair brushes and special sponges. Some of the books have vellum pages and others are delicate paper.”

Sue explained that lots of people have volunteered to help with the books in the past. She said, “People have come together at Rochester Cathedral and built relationships. I am just doing about three hours each week at the moment because the library is closed. When it was open, I was working about three full days each week. We are hoping that once the library re-opens, it will be open as a reference library seven days a week. We have books here right up until Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali was Bishop of Rochester. People need to come through the library door – it’s like Hogwarts!”

Sue is confident that once the library returns, it will be very exciting for volunteers. She said, “People can actually get their hands on some of these books – there are no white gloves, but we will be using bone page turners to protect the pages. I just want people to come in and enjoy the books; it’s a great opportunity.”

Brian Micklewright

Cathedral volunteer Brian Micklewright described his decision to volunteer very starkly.

He said, “After I stopped full time work, I decided I could either sit at home and disintegrate or I could do something useful. My wife and I both decided to volunteer and, although I am not a librarian, I started work in the library. I then worked as a welcomer and, about three years ago, trained as a guide.”

Brian described his training as “very extensive” and explained that it took almost eight weeks of part-time instruction in the history of the Cathedral. He said, “I wear two hats; I work as a volunteer and I work as a guide. I spend two hours on a Tuesday and two hours on a Friday and the guiding is more ad hoc. I like meeting the people who come through the Cathedral doors. It’s an eclectic group that come for a variety of different reasons. I think Rochester Cathedral is the best kept secret in Kent. We have visitors from all over the world from Europe, Canada, the USA and Estonia. The American visitors think the history is amazing.”

Cathedral volunteers have to read the body language of visitors too. Brian said, “Some people just want to light a candle or say a prayer and that’s fine of course. Some ask for a chaplain and we always help them. Some are keen to know more about the history. Most people who visit say it’s a beautiful Cathedral, that it’s warm and peaceful and that they enjoyed a very warm welcome.”

Brian agreed that the Cathedral is always looking for volunteers. He said, “Why not come in on an ad hoc basis; stick your toe in the water. If it’s not for you, that’s fine. We just want people to enjoy it.”

For more information please contact Rebecca Bramley on 01634 810070 or email volunteermanager@rochestercathedral.org