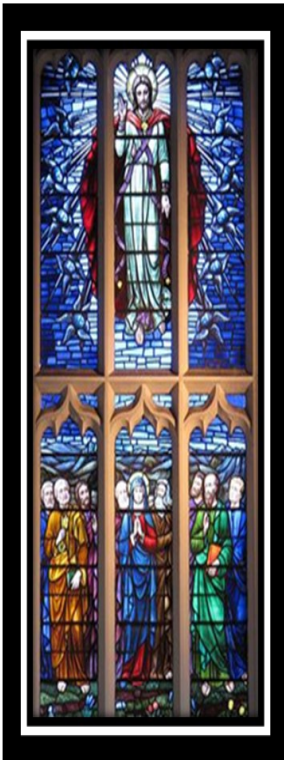


# THE RISE

December 2011

www.stsavioursbrockleyrise.org Volume 15, Issue 4

The Rise is produced by St. Saviours Church, Brockley Rise. If you have received this copy it means that you live in the Parish of St. Saviours.  
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## Local South London Heroes



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Gail and Nick Cotton run the Mental Health Service users Drop-in that meets at St Saviour's Church Hall every Wednesday evening. We want to congratulate them on being chosen as South London Heroes in an event organised by South London Press and sponsored by Shell.

The Drop-In centre opened for the first time on May 19<sup>th</sup> 1987, almost 25 years ago in Forest Hill. The aim was to provide support for people with mental health problems and for their carers as well as helping to raise aware-

ness of mental health issues in our local area.

Since that first session it has opened every week, except for one year when the regular day fell on Christmas day. So there has been over 1,300 sessions! The number of user's has built up steadily and there are now about twenty each week. Of the current regulars one has been coming almost every week for fifteen years while two others, who have moved away, still come from time to time from Kilburn and

Cambridge.

The Drop-in, which is affiliated to APCMH (Association for Pastoral care in Mental Health) has moved premises three times and is now open every Wednesday at St Saviour's Church Hall, Brockley Rise between 6.30 and 8.30pm. Any one is welcome - no referral is necessary.

Apart from the Drop-In there are outings in the summer. Most years there is a day in central London or a river trip to Greenwich or Kew.

*Contd. on page 2*

## LETTER FROM THE VICAR

*Dear Friends,*

*A couple of months ago St Saviour's was asked to host 'the Christmas Experience' which is a number of displays telling part of the Christmas story and inviting us to stop, reflect and connect with something going on in our own lives here and now. The idea is that in the midst of all the outward getting ready for Christmas (through cards, presents, food, parties) we also need time and space to open ourselves to the mystery of the birth of God in our midst in the form of a small child in an out house.*

*So on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December the Church will be open all day for anyone and everyone to walk around, stop at each display and ponder for a few moments this strange and beautiful story.*

*In such harsh economic times it's important to remember that Jesus was born in a very difficult time and place as a sign that no place or time is beyond the reach and reality of divine life. Yes, times are hard. But it was precisely into a time and place of such hardship that Jesus was born.*

*What would Jesus do asked a placard outside of St Paul's Cathedral. Would he be inside the locked building or outside asking disturbing questions? Both his birth in a stable and his death outside the city walls speak of a God who doesn't need to be at the centre of our worldly understanding of power, success and wealth. Instead this God waits to be recognised and welcomed so this Christmas lets turn aside and notice the God who is to be found in even the smallest and most despised detail of our lives.*

*May the light of this love shine with a new brilliance for you this Christmas and bring you many blessings.*

*Yours,  
Alyson*

## Local South London Heroes

In the early years there was a weekend visit to Hengrave Hall in Suffolk and for three years to Whitstable - a trip which included a service in Canterbury Cathedral with a special prayer for APCMH.

The Drop in has deliberately remained small and informal. Friendship is key and the emphasis is on concern for users as individuals, the whole person, rather than focusing on any illness - that is the role of medical professionals. New volunteers do not need to have specific knowledge of Mental Health issues guidance and training is provided. What volunteers do need is a concern for their fellow human beings and a willingness to listen.

Nick and Gail say ' we have always

survived on a modest budget of about £3,000 per year. This has come from local supporters including Churches and Rotary Clubs. Other groups of supporters and individuals have had fund raising lunches and theatre performances for us and one of our volunteers has run the London marathon five times'.

***If you would like to find out more come to the Drop-In at Brockley Rise any Wednesday or call Gail or Nick Cotton on 020 8670 5822.***

## Tomorrow's People



Tomorrow's People Trust is a national charity to help long-term unemployed people break the cycle of unemployment and welfare dependency. Since we were founded in 1982 we have helped over 440,000 people on their journey in to or back to employment.

With youth unemployment reaching record levels at Tomorrow's People we recognise that we need to step up our efforts to help more young people. We run a number of specific programmes that engage marginalised young people and help them gain the skills, behaviours and qualifications that employers need so that they can get a job, and keep it in the long-term. In South London we run two programmes:

- ◆ Working It Out for young people aged 16+ who are categorized as NEET – those not in Education, Employment or Training.

- ◆ In2Work for young people involved in the gang culture and looking to change their lives

Additionally in London part of our portfolio of activities includes a social enterprise – "Flowers @ Tomorrow's People, a flower stall which not only sells high quality flowers and plants, but also provides much needed work placements, and training for young people attending our youth programmes.

We have for the last three years sold Christmas trees to the general public and provided businesses and community groups with trees including a full "dressing" service, our customers include Lambeth Palace and the BBC. This year we want to scale up our operations to raise additional funds to help support our work and to give more young people an opportunity to turn their lives around.

You can support our work by buying your Christmas tree from us. These can be pre-ordered through our website

[www.tomorrows-people.co.uk](http://www.tomorrows-people.co.uk)  
or email  
[flowers@tomorrows-people.co.uk](mailto:flowers@tomorrows-people.co.uk).

The trees will be available for collection on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December from Holy Trinity Church, 4 Trinity Path, Sydenham Park or we offer a delivery service.

Further information about the work of Tomorrow's People Trust can be found on our website  
[www.tomorrows-people.co.uk](http://www.tomorrows-people.co.uk)

*Jan Tomlinson*

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## West Lewisham Deanery Youth Weekend

A wonderful time was had by all on the Deanery Youth Weekend. 18 young people and 7 leaders planned and looked forward to a fun and spiritual weekend away. The weekend topic was the Trinity, looking and learning about God the Father, God the Son and God's Holy Spirit.

For many of the young people it was their first time away from home but this did not stop them all from being an excited bubbly group who gelled well and formed friendships outside of the churches they all came from.

Throughout the weekend there were many activities to be enjoyed; archery, climbing, swimming, low ropes assault course, high ropes assault course, football and other outdoor games, quizzes and raft building. These were all brilliant at encouraging teamwork, confidence and helping everyone to get to know each other better.

Each evening we had a Youth Service and Dorm Time which gave us a chance to relax and explore our knowledge of the Trinity. Each Service began with a clip from Doctor Who which introduced the part of the topic we were looking at for that evening. Friday's Service was about God the Father – what a Father means to us and what a perfect Father is. Saturday's Service was about God the Son – we looked at who Jesus is through paintings and pictures of moments in his

life.



*Excitement on the High Ropes*

Sunday's Service was about the Holy Spirit – learning that we must trust that the Holy Spirit is with us wherever we go and whatever we are facing. Dorm Time for each of these evenings gave the young people in their smaller dorm-room groups to pray and discuss any ideas which had come from the Service.

The young people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped us with our fundraising, donated cakes and prayed for us on this weekend. I think and I know the young people would agree, that without your support the trip would not have been the blessing to the young people that it was.

*Shay Walters*

## Safer Neighbours

### Changes to Local Policing

Mark Deacon, who was our sergeant, has moved to near-by Brockley Ward and Dave Hawtin, the Ward Sergeant in neighbouring Ladywell Ward, has taken responsibility for Crofton Park Ward as well as Ladywell. Dave has been in post since the summer and there has been a seamless handover. There have been no changes to the Ward Team, so we have exactly the same officers. The two teams are run separately but are able to support each other on larger operations or when serving warrants, rather than call in other police officers who might not know the area.

### Burglary Warning

The Crofton Park Ward Panel, which is made up of local residents and sets the policing priorities for Crofton Park, will work independently from Ladywell. The Panel met in November and chose Burglary Prevention as one of its three priorities. The time between when it starts to get dark and when people come home from work is the most likely time you will be burgled, so the police are advising residents to fit timers or dawn to dusk sensors to their lights and leave a light on when they go out. Burglars have started targeting gardens and sheds for cycles so you are advised to secure them and not hide Christ-

mas presents in your shed.

### Pavement Cyclist arrested

Crofton Park PCSO Rob McCabe saw a pavement cyclist knock over a member of the public. Without hesitation he chased him on his pedal cycle for around two miles, managing to stay with him despite getting a puncture, and was able to guide police officers to the location. He then assisted in detaining the young man, who was later charged with public order offences, as well as dangerous cycling, after he became violent upon arrest.

### Community Safety Team Surgery

Lewisham Council's Neighbourhood Community Safety Team, who work to improve neighbourhoods, support victims and reduce Anti Social Behaviour and reoffending, hold a monthly surgery between 4pm and 5.30pm in Crofton Park Library every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday,

*Cllr Jackie Addison  
(Ward Panel Secretary)*

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## Voluntary Care Centre's Christmas Project

Every year the Voluntary Care Centre (VCC) based at 300 Stanstead Road operates a Christmas Project. The aim is to make Christmas that little bit easier for people most in need by providing hampers for the elderly and toys, gifts and supermarket vouchers for disadvantaged children and families in our community ( SE23, SE26, SE6 and BR1 borders)

### Who the Project helps?

Last year, with your help the VCC Christmas Project supported 1450 people, both regular VCC Service Users and referrals from social services and other statutory and voluntary agencies. This year the Charity has had, unsurprisingly in the current economic climate, more requests than in previous years and so desperately needs the help of everyone.

### How you can help

- ◆ Buy and drop off food items, toys or vouchers to the value of £10 into the VCC office on Stanstead Road.
- ◆ text VCCF01 £10 to 70070. The money raised through this will allow VCC to buy the additional toys and food items needed.
- ◆ purchase then drop an additional hamper item or toy in the boxes/bins located at Forest Hill Sainsbury.
- ◆ Offer to assist with the Christmas Day lunch for those who will be alone at Christmas. It will be held at St George's Church,

Vancouver Rd. Contact St Georges  
phone 8613 0297

email [sgccsp@btconnect.com](mailto:sgccsp@btconnect.com) or  
Michael & Jill Bray 8699 7161  
email [michael.bray@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:michael.bray@tiscali.co.uk)

### A message delivered by Albert Blackmore at Remembrance Day Service

"I am here today to remember those classmates and people I know who did not return from their various fields of battle. Since I am from New Zealand, most of the men and women I remember lost their lives in the pacific islands, Libya and Italy, or flying over Europe.

I have been asked to tell you the significance of the decorations I am wearing. My own experience was somewhat different from many of the others. After being trained as a soldier I was taken to the NZAF, on my request, to become involved in the radio section.

Some of us were picked to work on the new and secret system of tracking aircraft and ships. This is nowadays called Radar. Radio Aid to Detection and Ranging.

In 1944, just after the invasion of France by British and American forces, twenty of us were brought to England by ship. We had no idea what our future was to be.

Soon, thirteen of us Kiwis, as we called ourselves, were sent to France. A Frenchman, General De Gaulle, had come to England to form a collection of French volunteers from France or from her colonies, groups to fight for the freedom of France, their homeland. Three air force units were formed. There was Groupe Alsace which flew heavy bombers from England. Formed up in Russia, Groupe Normandie's pilots flew MIG fighters against the German invaders. As well, in North Africa, Groupe Lorraine was assembled, after some training in England, it went to France to where we Kiwis joined them to arrange and keep their electronic apparatus in good working order. The pilots and crews of Groupe Lorraine had to act as heavy artillery. Their duty was to bomb the enemy just ahead of our advancing troops. We remained with the Groupe in France and Holland until the war ended and we were sent back to our own countries.

My own contribution was not as dangerous as that of my classmates but I wish to remember them today."

**FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS****Baptisms**

Felix Joseph Rufus Ganser  
Alexander Ruben Ganser  
Emmie Ju Bomer

**Contacts****Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals**

Rev. Alyson 020 8690 2499 alysonpeberdy@aol.com

**Scouts and Cubs**

Ruth Jenkins 020 8291 0924 daviesjenkins@aol.com

**Brownies and Guides**

Jane Ferneyhough at the hall on Tuesdays' evening

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**Monday**

7:30 p.m. Aerobics *vacancies*

7:30 p.m. Pilates *vacancies*

**Tuesday**

10:00 a.m. Toddler (with Carer/Parent) Drop in

6:00 p.m. Rainbows and Brownies *vacancies*

7.30 p.m. Guides *vacancies*

**Wednesday**

2:00 p.m. Montage Theatre Arts

5:30 p.m. Association for Pastoral Care in Mental Health

7:30 p.m. Fitness for Mummies *vacancies*

**Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Weight Watchers *vacancies*

8:30 p.m. Zumba *vacancies*

**Saturday**

9:15 a.m. Scott Wise School of Dance

**Sunday**

6:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous

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## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR AT ST. SAVIOUR'S

### Sun 18th December

6:30 p.m. Carol Service by Candlelight

*Free mulled wine and mince pies after. Collection for the homeless*

### Sat 24th December — Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Children's Crib Service and Christingle

*Young children are welcome to dress up*

11:30 p.m. midnight Mass by Candlelight

### Sun 25th December — Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Communion

*Children are welcome to bring one of their presents to show us*

### Sun 1st January 2012 — New Years Day

10:30 a.m. Service to welcome the New Year

### Sat 17th January 2012

10:00 a.m.—4 p.m. Christmas Experience

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