



ST GEORGE THE
MARTYR CHARITY



Southwark
Council
southwark.gov.uk



Connected at Christmas

Opening Carol

Welcome

Dean of Southwark
The Very Revd Andrew Nunn

Introduction

The Worshipful the Mayor of Southwark
Councillor Barrie Hargrove



Visit 1

St George the Martyr

St George the Martyr are providing 500 Christmas dinners delivered direct to the homes of elderly and vulnerable residents around the borough. They also organise the Borough Food Co-operative, which enables those struggling to get what they need, including home cooked ready meals, fresh fruit and veg, fresh meat, dairy products, and packaged food. They have also cooked 250 Christmas cakes, which they are gifting to their customers in the lead up to Christmas.

On 23 December, they are hosting a Holiday Hunger Lunch Club. Due to COVID restrictions, people are able to pick up a takeaway three course hot meal for free and a free bag of Christmas activities containing craft material and outdoor Christmas themed trails.

Reading

Erina Rayner
St George the Martyr

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God.

Carol



Visit 2

Coplestone Centre

The Coplestone Centre is a multi-purpose community centre linked to a church between Peckham and East Dulwich. A largely BAME clientele funded by UStSC to assist with shopping, meals on wheels and personal contact to older and vulnerable users. They are providing Christmas goody bags for 75 older people both through outreach and visits to the centre. Clients are 62 to 94 years of age and mainly based in East Dulwich, Camberwell, Peckham & Nunhead. The Centre works closely with many other groups including Albrighton Community Fridge, Elim House and Walworth Golden Oldies.



Reading

Tim McNally

Chair, St George the Martyr Charity

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke 2.8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

Thanks be to God.

Carol

Brandon 3 Tenants & Residents Association

The Brandon 3 T&RA provides support for the whole community on the estate and is normally a very active social space for older and vulnerable residents. UStSC has been working with this T&RA for about 18 months. They are providing Christmas goody bags to 60 vulnerable residents (isolated and shielding). They also commissioned a carol singing band to entertain the estate, which processed, socially distanced, around the estate, singing carols in December.

Reading

Martyn Craddock
Chief Executive

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke 2.15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thanks be to God.





Carol

Visit 4

People Care Association

People Care Association is a grass roots organisation started by local residents, who, 45 years ago began supplying Christmas Day lunch to local, isolated and vulnerable seniors in the borough. A need was highlighted and the original charity was established. This will be the first year since its inception that People Care Association will not be able to provide their annual Christmas lunch due to the COVID pandemic.

Reading

Danny Walters,
Secretary, People Care Association

CHRISTMASTIDE

by Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.



Carol

Visit 5

Southwark Pensioner's Centre

Based in Camberwell, Southwark Pensioners Centre supports older people across the borough. The Centre assists them to enjoy healthier, independent and more active lives through activities, services and a drop-in centre. The Centre is delivering hampers to 50 older people in collaboration with Central Southwark Community Hub, along with a newsletter to 700 people.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens

Running to the window, Scrooge opened it, and put out his head. No fog, no mist; clear, bright, jovial, stirring, cold; cold, piping for the blood to dance to; Golden sunlight; Heavenly sky; sweet fresh air; merry bells. Oh, glorious! Glorious!

“What’s to-day!” cried Scrooge, calling downward to a boy in Sunday clothes, who perhaps had loitered in to look about him.

“Eh?” returned the boy, with all his might of wonder.

“What’s to-day, my fine fellow?” said Scrooge.

“To-day!” replied the boy. “Why, Christmas Day.”

“It’s Christmas Day!” said Scrooge to himself. “Hallo, my fine fellow!”

“Hallo!” returned the boy.

“Do you know the Poulterer’s, in the next street but one, at the corner?” Scrooge inquired.

“I should hope I did,” replied the lad.

“Do you know whether they’ve sold the prize Turkey that was hanging up there? – Not the little prize Turkey: the big one?” said Scrooge.

“Do you know whether they’ve sold the prize Turkey that was hanging up there? – Not the little prize Turkey: the big one?” said Scrooge.

“What, the one as big as me?” returned the boy. “It’s hanging there now,”

“Is it?” said Scrooge. “Go and buy it. I am in earnest. Go and buy it, and tell ’em to bring it here, that I may give them the direction where to take it.”

The boy was off like a shot.

“I’ll send it to Bob Cratchit’s!” whispered Scrooge, rubbing his hands, and splitting with a laugh. “He sha’n’t know who sends it. It’s twice the size of Tiny Tim.”

The hand in which he wrote the address was not a steady one, but write it he did, somehow, and went down-stairs to open the street door, ready for the coming of the poulterer’s man. “Here’s the Turkey! Hallo! Whoop! How are you! Merry Christmas!”

And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!

Prayers

Cathy Deplessis,
Director, Southwark Pensioners Centre

Message

Leader Southwark Council,
Councillor Kieron Williams

Blessing

Dean of Southwark

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and those you love,
this Christmas and always.

Amen.

Carol



