**St Alfege Church Newsletter 21 November 2020

Message from Revd Caroline Risdon**

Today I enjoyed a walk around Greenwich Park. The amazing bursts of colour we see in autumn are fading; the crisp leaves are mulching into the earth; the trees are but bare branches. There is such a stark and raw quality to the beauty of winter. It reminded me of those much loved words from Ecclesiastes 3

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
2 a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8 a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

Winter has a beauty of its own; not despite it being winter but because it is winter. This season offers us the time for deep nourishment ahead of the season of growth and new life. Each is vitally important to the other. Next week, we begin our Advent seasons, our winter season. It offers us the opportunity to dwell on the word of the Lord in preparation afresh for the miracle of God's Son being born.  God bless, Caroline

**Sunday 22 November Christ the King/Tallis Sunday**

You can access the [readings, prayers and music f](https://www.st-alfege.org.uk/Articles/517136/Readings_and_Prayers_this.aspx)or this Sunday here along with the regular service booklet. The sermon will be uploaded shortly after the service. . If you would like someone's name to be included in the online prayer list please email David McEvoy

**Church open for private prayer**

During lockdown the church will be open for private prayer three days a week, from 12noon to 2pm, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

**Heart of Greenwich Place and People supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund

Landscaping update**

Earlier in the year St Alfege Church was delighted to receive a grant of just over £39,000 from The Veolia Environmental Trust for soft landscaping and the creation of a community memorial garden as part of its Heart of Greenwich Place and People project.The project includes new planting in both the north and south courtyards, the planting of replacement trees, the creation of a community memorial  garden and returfing of the green in the West courtyard.

**Community Memorial Garden project**

As part of the Heart of Greenwich project we will be developing a memorial garden space for the community to engage with in 2021. The area for the garden is on the south side of the churchyard where we have the tree with a circular bench wrapped around and it will go up to the edge of the main paths and around the cream gravel pathway - see [draft design](https://www.st-alfege.org.uk/Publisher/Image.aspx?ID=1065739). We have recruited a professional gardener, Graeme Maynard, who is in the process of drawing together initial plans. In 2021 Graeme and Rebecca Parrant, our Heritage Engagement and Interpretation Manager, will be developing and delivering workshops for local children and their parents/carers. As part of the workshop programme, groups involved will have the opportunity to feed in ideas and help to build and plant the community garden. Longer term the space will eventually be maintained by a group of garden volunteers.

Whilst the project is predominantly aimed at children and families, we would like to offer the congregation and volunteers an opportunity to give their ideas to help shape the garden space.  We would be very pleased if you would like to take part in a short[survey.](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/56FK932) Your responses will be forwarded to Rebecca.

Please complete the survey by Friday 11 December if you wish to do so. .

**Replacement trees**

Nine replacement trees are being planted in the west and south courtyards next week (week beginning 23 November). It will take three or four days to dig and plant the trees and access to the courtyard will be limited on Wednesday 25 November when the trees are delivered by a very big lorry. It is hoped the trees will be delivered between 8am and 9am (depending on traffic conditions) and it will take about an hour to unload them.  We will be asking residents to park their cars elsewhere if they need to use them that morning.  There is more information about the trees and their planting plan[here](https://www.st-alfege.org.uk/Articles/590626/_Landscaping_replacement_trees.aspx).

The Heart of Greenwich project has always been about access and about legacy. It is wonderful to be able to welcome people into our beautiful church courtyard with these new trees and to gift them to our community to enjoy for the next hundred years or so.

**Spring bulbs**

We have now completed the planting of spring bulbs - daffodil, hyacinth and crocus, in the flower bed in the north courtyard. Many thanks to Bill Essex for preparing the flowerbed and to children's church for planting the 440 bulbs. .

**John Betjeman Award 2020**

As we announced in April St Alfege Church was shortlisted for the John Betjeman Award 2020 (Society of Ancient Buildings) along with three others. The award is quite a technical award and our entry was focused on the stonemasonry repairs and restoration. The judges visited the church in October and the winner was announced very recently.  We were delighted to be shortlisted and send our congratulations to Tenterden Wesleyan Methodist Church, Kent for the repair of the war memorial pipe organ.  Please more information [here](https://www.spab.org.uk/about-us/awards/john-betjeman-award).

For further information or any questions about the Heart of Greenwich project please contact Wendy Foreman.

**The Bridge - newspaper of Anglican Diocese of Southwark**

We usually receive hard copies of The Bridge in church but during lockdown you might like to read the latest edition of [The Bridge](https://southwark.anglican.org/downloads/The%20Bridge/2020/bridgenovember20.pdf).  Also please see page 4 for an article about St Alfege Church Heart of Greenwich Place and people written before the current lockdown.