

**Diversity Support Group Brief Update July 2024-June 2025**  
**Produced for Our Lady's Parish Review, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**  
By Sylvia Wachuku-King

First let me thank and congratulate the PPC for trying out this new approach to bringing us together to deliver the Parish Review and pray you achieve the desired outcome.

The year which seems to have flown by so quickly, has been fruitful for us. We started the period under review with an online survey to understand the needs and desires of parishioners so we can tailor our activities accordingly. Initially it was administered via WhatsApp then we attempted face to face during the Autumn Fayre and later via our parish website. Though the uptake did not meet our expectations, yet the issues raised from responses received are of significance and will help us chart our way in future. Survey report will be shared soon.

A few members contributed foods towards the International Food stall at the Autumn Fayre on 29th September and so quite pleased about the overall impressive taking that would go towards maintenance and repairs of Our Lady's.

On 12th October we went on an interesting day trip to Arundel and appreciated the beautiful cathedral plus wonderful sights around.

We ended 2024 with an exhilarating Christmas Bash on 14th December, singing carols, sharing foods and exchanging gifts.

Our first activity in 2025 was supporting the World Day of Prayer on 7th March when we learnt more about the women in Cooks Island.

Our relationship with the Eden Project also progressed. Through them two of our members got tickets to the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE Day at the Horse Guards Parade on 8th May. While another member with their dog joined other dog owners, dog charities and celebrities on May 29th for the launching of this year's Big Lunch at the Battersea Power Station on theme 'Be More Dog' that was televised on BBC Breakfast Show.

Our Big Lunch on 1st June done in collaboration with a local charity Wellbeing You was a tremendous success attracting over 132 from 27 different countries Monsignor Joseph O'Connor, one of founding fathers graced the occasion with his presence, welcoming all and doing the opening prayers. The event embraced different cultures through food, traditional dress, spoken words and dancing. We had great fun, fed community spirit and achieved our objective to get people from different backgrounds and countries to mix.

On Saturday 7th June a few members joined parishioners from other parishes on the Southwark Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebrations in Aylesford, an inspiring pilgrimage that ushered in the Feast of Pentecost.

Our final activity for the period was attendance at a special Mass followed by the presentation of a card signed by many members to Monsignor Joseph O'Connor at the impressive celebration of 50 years of Priesthood.

Throughout the period, we have tried to uphold our values in all what we did. Our WhatsApp group, periodic meetings, alerts in the newsletter and friendly telephone conversations have made communication with others effective.

We thank all our members for their different contributions that have enabled us to continue to stay strong and make progress together. We also thank our Parishioners, other parish groups particularly the Social Club and the PPC for their support. Above all we thank Fathers Keith and Tomasz, Rachel and Stephanie for everything particularly creating the enabling environment for us to flourish.  
Much love and blessings galore to all of you.  
Warmest Sylvia