

# One Roof, Many Stories

## Radical Inclusive Histories

The project explores the heritage and radical traditions of the Church of the Ascension, which played a pivotal part in the South Bank Religion movement of the 1970s that sought to reshape Christianity in the light of modern science and the challenges of an unjust world.

We are exploring personal and biographical stories from the wider community, past and present, and recording ways the contemporary church continues to provide a focus for worship, prayer, inclusion, human rights, debate and rebellion, seeking to answer these questions:

- What are the important milestones in the history of the organisation and local area?
- What elements of history have been deemed worth telling in the past, and which stories haven't been told?
- Which stories are essential to convey going forward?

### Stories and themes – a provisional list

#### **Congregation/ Worship**

- Local community and congregation/ reminiscence
- Choir and Music
- Church History/ Foundation/ Vicars
- Youth Groups Church Lads Brigade + Band/ Clubs/ >>> 1950s Guides/ Brownies/ Cubs and Scouts

#### **Outreach/ Mission: Community and Social Work**

- Wash House Youth Club
- Quaggy Development Trust/ Childrens Centre
- C.1900 Lethbridge “Mission Room” > Holy Trinity Centre
- 1900 Greyladies College District Visitors

#### **People**

- Susannah Grahme- founder (1697)
- Legge family (1700s >)
- Canon Escreet > Mothers & Babies Hospital (1910)
- Henry Billingham > daughters > Rosa May + Alice ran Sunday School

- Martin Preston - assistant curate (1988-95) - Gay Christian Movement
- Elsie Baker (1909-2003) - Movement for the Ordination of Women
- Rev Paul Oestreicher
- Rev Peter Knapper
- Other unsung or hidden members of the Church and community?

### **Wider Themes**

- South Bank Religion
- Connections to Empire and Transatlantic Slavery
- Connections to Suffrage
- Commitment to pacifism, racial-, gender- and social equality and justice
- LGBTQI+ – equality, Prison Liaison, Anti Apartheid, Amnesty International, Refugees

There are three phases to the project:

### **Phase 1: Research and consultation**

Core research team consults archives and secondary sources

### **Phase 2: Engagement**

Engagement with individuals and groups to form a wider research team to engage in further research leading to interpretative output.

### **Phase 3: Training and interpretation**

A range of artists and facilitators with experience of digital arts and community participation will run workshops and webinars to develop themes with participants.

### **Ways to get involved**

Research	Join the core research team to consult archives and on the web
Share	Tell us your memories or stories
Support	Help the project team with website, photo, video, design support
Contact	<b>Rich Sylvester 07833 538143 <a href="mailto:heritagecoa@gmail.com">heritagecoa@gmail.com</a></b>