

FROM THE RECTOR

Revd Rob Wickham



Dear Friends,
I know that the entire community has been deeply shocked by the recent fatal stabbing of Jahmal Mason Blair. Jahmal was a very popular boy, with a passion for football. He also attended St

John and St James Primary School and subsequently Hackney Free and Parochial Secondary School, where he studied until the end of Year 11, whilst living for much of this time on the Jack Dunning Estate. Our prayers are very much with Jahmal's family and all his friends at this most painful of times.

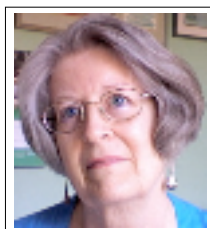
When faced with such a tragedy, all of us feel all sorts of emotions and have many questions. Our response as a Christian Community in the middle of such pain, needs to be one of giving opportunities to express that pain, questions and emotions. In addition, we need to be resolute in our endeavour to play our part in stopping this unnecessary loss of God given life.

As a Church, we have invested heavily in our children and youth provision, and rightly so. We all need to see ourselves as role models for our young people. How each of us act - our behaviour and what we say makes a huge difference. People look to Christians to give a moral lead in the community. Such a moral lead has been lost with those in positions of public administration such as the Government.

I urge you all, as a response, to join me in pledging to live our lives of integrity and faith. Hackney needs Christians to be faithful, and to pray. God needs us to be His people, and for Him to be our God.

FROM THE EDITOR

Audrey Seabrook



On 21 May, I wrote to 16 church members, saying -- *Following the lead of the BBC, let's have a Poetry Please Season.*

The deadline for June Reflections is Sunday

31 May, so please let me have your favourite poem. Or of course you could make your other news item a poetic one.

Now there's a challenge!!!

Your Parish needs YOU! (and so do I)

Guess how many replied???

ONLY TWO!

Shame on the rest of you.

So if I had been offering a prize, it would go to --



The H.E.L.P. project

David Hazeldine

for his poetic news item --

The H.E.L.P. project now runs during the week

So why not turn up for a peek?!

It's on Wednesdays at eleven

A little taste of heaven

You might find the knowledge you seek!

Mob: 07767 033451

davidinhackney@googlemail.com



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FAIRTRADE
CHURCH

The other poetic offering came from
Phyllis Manning



She says: here's a little rhyme YOU printed a long time ago and I saved (on that occasion you had printed a number of rhymes of various sorts) But this one has no author mentioned ...

The Bible in 5 lines

God utters the words of creation;
Abraham Fathers a nation;
Old Testament gloom;
Jesus raised from a tomb;
Acts, Letters and then Revelation.

[Audrey thought this might have been sent in when she ran a Limerick competition some years ago, but she has saved all those and this is not among them. So if you were the poet, please own up!]

CHRISTIAN AID

Mahandra Roopchan

The Gaza Relief Appeal, initiated by the Disaster Emergencies Committee (of which CA is a part) will continue at our church up to the end of July. To support the appeal, please use the Christian Aid envelopes, marking them **Gaza Relief** and adding your details if appropriate. Put the envelopes in the Sunday collection bag, or hand them to a churchwarden, or to me. Thankyou.

SEASIDE TRIP

This year's trip to the seaside is likely to be 11 July to Margate. Please watch this space for ticket availability.

TESCO VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOLS

Please remember to say yes to the vouchers at the Tesco checkout. We have a collecting box for them in church.



THE DEN FETE

A Big Thankyou for your support. Every penny we earned counts and is used to support the activities, equipment, camps, outings etc for the 100+ children (of all ages) who are members of the Scouts and Guides of St John's, and meet at the Den every week. We're always keen to have new members - so come along and see what we're up to.

CAMPING & TRAMPING

Phyllis Manning

Some Cub Scouts arriving at the East London District Camp site** deep in Epping Forest, saw that only Leaders' tents were erected. So thought that THEY would be sleeping indoors.

How mistaken they were. Their first 'challenge' was to erect their own tents. Not too difficult once you get the hang of it - but there's the rub. They DID get the tents up and so slept dry for the weekend. There were plenty of other challenges to be overcome - no food Saturday lunchtime until they had lit fires, after gathering the right sort of wood and then cooking their hot dogs. A night hike. Making bivouacs in the forest, always popular and also making ballistas to shoot at targets in the field. After Scouts' Own (the name for a Scout religious Service) on Sunday morning, a grand hike through the forest finished off the weekend; though they still had to take their tents down and fold them away.

Five Cub Scouts from the St John's Pack completed all this and now proudly wear their Campers badges.

The Explorer Scouts (ancients of 15+) did a hike on the South Coast recently. From Seaford they took in the Birling Gap, four of the Seven Sisters (not the Holloway ones) and, I am told, lots of fields and woods!! A good start to the season. Hope you enjoyed their Hot Dogs at the Den Fete.

The Scouts in the Troop will be at a training camp during June - a bit more rigorous than the Cub Camp. They are also preparing for their annual London Thames Bridges walk. This year they will be passing the houseboat where our Chief Scout designate lives in London. Watch him on TV - he is (Edward) Bear Grylls. Aren't we lucky!

** Pictures of our Camp Site are on the web. Go to 'Fairmead Camp Site.'

St John-at-Hackney Project

Priorities for 2009/2010

Operation and Finance

- Robust financial planning and processes
- Creating Terms of Reference for the Working Parties
- Reorder the seating in church
- Refurbish the Urswick Chapel
- Communication of work

People and Prayer

- The nurture of the congregation - Spiritually & Socially
- Occasional Offices and Christian community development
- The ordering of Sunday Mornings, including adequate training
- Communication of work

Development

- The St John-at-Hackney Project Management
- St John-at-Hackney Project - Community Renewal Worker
- Relationship with the PCT and Mental Health Trust
- Communication of work

Children and Youth

- Sunday provision
- Toyin and handover
- Identifying the Christian ethos of our work
- Communication of work

These priorities have been set by the Standing Committee. If you wish to participate in any of the discussions relating to these issues, please come along to the working party, or speak to a Chairperson:

Sunday of the Month

- First
- Second
- Third
- Fourth

Working Party

- Children & young people
- People and Prayer
- Operation and Finance
- Development

Chairperson

- Vastiana Belfon
- Fr David Evans
- Benjamin Burgher
- Laura Tomlinson

PATRONAL FESTIVAL EVENTS 2009

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Wed. 24 June | <i>Birth of John the Baptist.</i> 7.30pm Parish Eucharist and formal launch of new website. |
| Thur. 25 June | 12.30pm The Sedgwick Service and prizegiving at Hackney Free. |
| Fri. 26 June | Children leave for Ely Sat. 27 June Children spend day at Ely. Fr Lincoln ordained at St Paul's Cathedral |
| Sun. 28 June | We welcome Fr Lincoln as our New Deacon. |
| Mon. 29 June | <i>Feast of St Peter & St Paul</i> 7.30pm special service. |
| Tue. 30 June | 7.30pm PCC meeting at the Rectory |
| Fri. 3 July | Fr Rob's 10th anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood. 7.30pm special service. |
| Sat. 4 July | The Fete |

Please put these dates in your diary now!

THE FETE IS IN YOUR HANDS!

Hugo Deadman



You've heard the announcements on Sunday mornings! You've had the leaflet! Things are really hotting up now for the fete on the 4th July. Anything you can do to make this an extra

special day would be very welcome. All you need is good will. So can you:

- * Bake a cake?
- * Run a stall?
- * Get something for the tombola - maybe buy something extra for it when you go to the supermarket?
- * Give some books, bric a brac or clothing?
- * Sell raffle tickets?
- * Come early to help set up?

We've got a great line up of things to do and enjoy - and we really want to take this chance to raise funds for St John's while welcoming the hundreds of visitors we get each year. So all your help is very welcome and valuable - whatever you can do. I'm happy to have a chat - so speak to me or Father Rob.

Above all - be there on the day.

BELLS and BELLRINGING

Hugo Deadman

Some of you may have noticed a strange silence as you made your way to church on a recent Sunday morning. That's because St John's team of bellringers had gone away for a couple of days, with our friends from towers at Aldgate and elsewhere across East London, to ring at churches across Norfolk. This was a cracking three days, when we rang at 18 churches in all. Norfolk is an extraordinary county, with very flat

countryside, tiny villages, but each with a huge church, usually with a fine set of bells. Some of the churches are absolutely marvellous. My highlights were ringing at Paston, which I'd read about at university and which has a lovely ancient feel to it. I also greatly enjoyed Kings Lynn - a huge church, bigger even than St John's, with a wonderful set of ten bells. I stood outside listening to the sound echoing around the town.

Another noteworthy thing about Kings Lynn is that Bill Hurdman, the Rector of Hackney prior to John Pridmore, went there from here. Bill sadly died in 2002 and there is a lovely memorial chapel to him at the west end, with a plaque describing him as *a priest for all the people*, which is, I think, one of the greatest compliments that could be paid.

So we had a lot of fun looking at the churches and ringing different methods in different places. As is often the way, we also drank a lot of tea, ate gigantic amounts of cake and had a few pints as well. It was a great weekend, sharing our hobby with our friends and exploring new places. Our thanks to Tracey and Stephen Coley for sorting out all the considerable logistics - organising over 20 people to go to 18 churches in two and a half days is no mean feat.

More recently, we engaged in mortal bellringing combat with other towers in East London at our district competition - ringing at St Dunstan's Stepney. For the second year in a row we came second, being pipped at the post by St Giles in the Fields, but we still go through to the London-wide final in October, to be held at St Augustine's Kilburn. Wish us luck!

If you enjoy hearing the bells, do ask to come and see us ring any Sunday morning. We will also open the tower at the church fete when we'll talk a bit about ringing and its history. We also hope to rig up cameras, so you can actually see the bells too!

COME AND MAKE A BIG NOISE WITH US!

Joanne Mortimer
(Author and photographer)



Do you want to try something new? Do you enjoy African, Indian, Arabic and South American rhythms? Are you curious about hand drums? If so, join us after the service on Sunday 7th June for the brand new Hackney Drum Circle!

What's a drum circle? It's a group of people who come together to create in-the-moment music using hand drums and percussion. It's a form of recreational music making, focussing on fun. There's nothing quite like the sound of 30 drummers and percussionists playing together, rediscovering their natural rhythm.

What if you've never drummed before? A drum circle is not a percussion ensemble performing a prepared piece of music, nor a drumming technique class led by a teacher. You don't need to be an expert. In fact it doesn't matter if you haven't ever used drums before!

Just come as you are and be prepared to enjoy yourself. Nihat Tsolak, who has lead a drum circle in Angel for 8 years, will lead the Hackney Drum Circle. You can bring your own drum or other instrument, though we have plenty to share. Nihat has supplied all the drums and we'll repay him over time from the drum circle fees. For members of the congregation, there's a special rate of £4 (£2 concessions); for everyone else it's £5 (£3). Please bring exact money (we won't have change!).

Because drum circles are very popular, we expect people will travel across London to join us. Let's give them a big St John-at-Hackney welcome to our wonderful church!

We'll be here every month, on the first Sunday, from 12-2pm. Also on 4 July we're running a fun outdoor drum circle throughout the afternoon at the summer fete, and there will be a performance by professional drummers.

Any questions? [see overleaf]

Speak to Joanne Mortimer or music director Jack Bicker, email HeartOfHackney@googlemail.com or visit www.HeartOfHackney.com, where there are links to You Tube videos of drum circles in action. Happy drumming!

STOP PRESS! ANOTHER POEM There's a Place for You...

Karen Campbell

Can you say 'Hello!' & offer a smile;
Drink some coffee, & linger a while:
Share a few words, listen to more,
And welcome whoever may walk
through the door?

Can you treat the stranger as
friend-to-be,
Ask for a name, and pour some tea,
Open some biscuits, slice a few cakes?...
Good news! Good news!
That's all that it takes.

Whoever you are, whatever you do,
Whatever you bring, there's a
place for you:
So don't sit on the fence,
with a far-off gaze –
Volunteer, get involved, in your
Church Open Days!

(Every Wednesday 11-2pm & 1st
Saturday of each month 11-1pm.
Simply drop in, or contact David
Hazeldine or John Tribe to volunteer:
No gift of time too small!)

[Bravo! Karen is our work-placement
student from URC]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you wish to comment on anything in
Reflections, please do write to the
address or email shown elsewhere in
this edition.

Deadline for contributions
for July issue is
Sunday 28 June to
seabrook@mac.com

PHOTOGRAPHS for REFLECTIONS or WEBSITE

Please remember if taking photographs
to send by email for use in *Reflections*
or on our website,
you should select a small file size.

A COUNTRY DAY OUT!

Judy Bourne

I'm very busy getting plants ready for the church Fete on 4 July. If anyone would like a relaxing day amidst flowers, fruit and vegetables, plus peace and birdsong on my allotment, call me: 020 8985 3532.

We will arrange transport and I will provide a picnic in exchange for helping to pot-on plants. No expertise required; I'll show you how to do it.

If you have any large flower pots or polystyrene seed trays from garden centres, I would be very glad of them. It's great to recycle!

FOR SALE

Audrey Seabrook

Sturdy toolbox with a collection of DIY tools, including an electric drill. Also a handy metal cabinet containing a multitude of assorted nails, screws and other useful bits and bobs. Let's face it - I'm not capable of much DIY myself and if I ask someone for help they usually bring their own tools.

So, make me an offer.
I desperately need the space!
T. 020 8533 1720
E. seabrook@mac.com

STAFF and VOLUNTEERS at ST JOHN-at-HACKNEY

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Rector | The Rev'd Rob Wickham T: 020 8985 5374 Ext. 221 | E: rectorofhackney@aol.com |
| Curate | The Rev'd David Evans T: 020 8985 5374 Ext. 223 T: 020 8986 4456 | E: davidjjevans@mac.com |
| Reader Emeritus | Mrs Barbara Scott Wollaston | E: babscotwoll@ntlworld.com |
| Parish Admin. | Miss Emily Ovenden T: 020 8985 5374 Ext. 222 | E: admin@stjohnathackney.org.uk |
| Children and Youth Co-ordinator | Miss Toyin Ajidele T: 020 8985 5374 Ext. 226 T: (m) 07960 493768 E: stjohnsstlukesyouthworker@hotmail.co.uk | |
| Director of Music | Community Development Worker | Mr Jack Bicker |
| Cleaner | First Aider | Mr David Hazeldine |
| Tower Captain | Artist in Residence | Ms Hazel Panton |
| Mothers' Union Leader | Placement Student | Mr John Tribe |
| | | Mr Stephen Jakeman |
| | | Mr Andrew Coombes |
| | | Mrs Mercy Moss |
| | | Miss Karen Campbell |

PARISH DIARY

For Services see the weekly Sunday notice sheet

Sundays 9am Choir practice
Mondays 7.30pm Bellringers practice
SCOUTS and GUIDES meet regularly at their headquarters
The Den, in the Old Rectory Drive
activities for boys and girls from age 6 years
Contact Jim or Judy Phillips
Tel: 020 8985 9397;
Email: phillips_james1@sky.com