

FROM THE CLERGY

Fr Rob Wickham



In July 1995 the Soufriere Hills Volcano erupted on the Island of Montserrat. This devastating volcano spouted ash and lava, eventually causing the city of Plymouth to be buried under some 12 metres of ash and

mud, with an extraordinary loss of life and livelihood.

As many in our community, who remember these events personally, will know, such devastation does not discriminate, and the repercussions are felt for years to come. Everyone is affected in some way or another.

In a similar way, our community has been deeply affected by the death of Mason Springer. It has felt as if a volcano of grief has erupted in the heart of who we are, affecting each of us in different ways. Like ash from a volcano, grief also does not discriminate, and the repercussions are felt for a very long time.

In February, Lent began at Ash Wednesday. Ash was placed upon the foreheads of those in Church and at Homerton Hospital with the words: *Remember you are but dust, and to dust you shall return, turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.*

May this Lent be a time when we turn again to Christ, and as the dust begins to settle in the heart of our grief, may we see Jesus' hand of healing at work; at the altar, in the confessional, during Bible Study, in each other and in the silence.



**WE ARE A
FAIRTRADE
CHURCH**

The Knots Prayer

Dear God:
Please untie the knots
that are in my mind,
my heart and my life.
Remove the have nots,
the can nots and the do nots
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots,
may nots,
might nots that may find
a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots,
would nots and
should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all,
Dear God,
I ask that you remove from my mind,
my heart and my life all of the 'am nots'
that I have allowed to hold me back,
especially the thought
that I am not good enough.
Amen

Author Known To God

We've missed FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT but read on anyway

Jane Hutchinson



The Big Swap

As a church with Fairtrade status, one of the things we are required to do to maintain this status is to promote Fairtrade Fortnight. This year, the Fairtrade

Foundation is asking the nation to join them in the **Big Swap**. This does not mean giving anything up, or doing anything extra, but doing something different.

Fairtrade, as a way of doing business, supports the poorest of the world. There are 2 billion people in the world (1/3 of the population) who live on an

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sunday 28 March Palm Sunday

9.30am Choral Eucharist
11am Informal Eucharist
with Donkey
5.30pm Holy Hour
6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Monday 29 March

7.30am Eucharist
7.30pm Compline

Tuesday 30 March

7.30am Eucharist
7.30pm Compline

Wednesday 31 March

10am Eucharist
7.30pm Compline

Maundy Thursday 1 April

7.30pm Eucharist with
foot washing
Watch until Midnight

Good Friday 2 April

12noon Stations of the Cross
1.30pm Silent Prayer
2pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday 3 April Easter Eve

10am Church cleaning and
decorating
8pm Easter Vigil with fireworks

Sunday 4 April Easter Day

9.30am Formal Eucharist
11am Informal Eucharist

average of \$2 per day which to us is an unimaginably low sum of money to live on. By promoting Fairtrade it will be possible to lift some of these people out of poverty.

The challenge for us is to swap one or more of the things that we normally buy to equivalent products which are fairly traded. You can recognise such products because they carry the Fairtrade logo (shown on the left). If a product has this logo, it means that its producers have been certified as meeting certain minimum social, economic and environmental standards and for this they receive a minimum price from their buyers. This price guarantees the producer will be able

to cover the cost of sustainable production.

Example of the benefits from selling Fairtrade tea & cotton

In India, tea estates are legally obliged to provide primary education for the children of their workers. By using the money made from fairly trading 5% of its tea to pay teachers' salaries, the Chamraj Tea Estate in South India is able to support secondary school education as well. Although the workers still have to pay a school fee this is small compared to that which is normally charged. In addition they are able to provide pensions for retired workers.

Some of the farmers who work for an Indian Fairtrade cooperative called Agrocel get 37% more money for selling Fairtrade cotton than they would in the conventional market. They also use this extra money to invest in education for their children. In addition, they have been able to invest in developing their communities and business by, for example, funding training in farming techniques which enables them to improve the yields from their cotton crops.

What can you do?

Obviously the more things you swap for Fairtrade products, the bigger the impact and benefit for poorer producers in developing countries. There are many food products (eg fruit especially bananas, honey, rice, tea, coffee, sugar) and non-food products (eg cotton, cut flowers, footballs) which have been certified as Fairtrade and which are available in shops in the UK. Some are also for sale at our church stall on Sundays.

Sometimes these Fairtrade items are more expensive than the cheapest available to buy, so my challenge to you is to swap at least one item and stick with buying that from now on. Maybe you could change from your usual brand of tea to Fairtrade tea or you could buy Fairtrade bananas instead of those you normally buy. Most supermarkets sell things like Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar alongside their normal products. Many even have own-brand products which carry the Fairtrade logo.

So please think carefully about which things you could afford to swap. You can go to the Big Swap website (<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/thebigswap>) and register any swaps you make, or you can let me know about any swaps you have done so I can register it for you.

REMEMBERING MASON

The following article, written by Mason Springer, arrived via the Rector, at Reflections office too late for the last issue. Sadly, as we know, Mason has since died.



My Meeting with Mayor Boris Johnson

By Mason Springer. In year 5.
Last Thursday I met the mayor at City Hall. When we got there I was shy because there were lots of beautiful girls. Mum, Jess and I needed to talk about how we helped the people of Hackney to know about CitySafe havens. We told them that over the summer we walked along the Narrow Way and signed up 10 shops to be a City Safe Haven, and mum told them that I was in the Hackney Gazette. Then we went outside and the camera men from Sky News, BBC News and LBC took pictures of us and recorded me and Tylisha talking to Mayor Boris Johnson. I asked Boris Johnson how he was and I shook his hand. On that day Boris Johnson declared City Hall a Safe Haven. I felt very proud to be a part of this, knowing that if a young boy or girl was being chased the shopkeepers and staff will automatically lock the door and phone the police.

MEETINGS

Working Parties

Children and Young People

12.15pm – 7 March

People and Prayer

11am – 14 March

Standing Committee

4pm – 7 March at Rectory

PCC

7.30pm – 17 March at Rectory

Annual Parochial Church Mtg

The Annual Meetings for the Church will be held **after the 11am service on 18 April**. If you would like to stand for election (3 year appointment) for the Parochial Church Council or as Church Warden (1 year appointment) please speak to Fr Rob.

POEM by NATASHA

Mason was like a breath of fresh air
Swaying in and swaying out
Swaying everywhere,
Everywhere he went
People would talk and stare
Because they knew that Mason was there,

His charm and looks
Caught all the girls eyes
He took them all by surprise,
Everybody loved Mason
he was a solider in their eyes
His funny sense of humour,
And his sparkling brown eyes,

He loved to suck his fingers
They were his sentimental pride
Even when his mum put bitter on them
He didn't care, He still tried.

Mason was not always an angel
But he could be when he tried
We will all miss him deeply,
But he would not want us to cry.

Mason was the light in everybody's eyes,
He would light up the room with a single smile,
He was brave and bold and better than the rest,
May his soul forever be flourished.

God put him on this earth for a purpose,
And that purpose is still very much alive
Years may come and years may go,
But forever we will praise the wonderful life that was taken away,

Just because we can't see him or speak to him anymore
Doesn't mean that he is not there,
He is here. He is there. He is everywhere.

Mason exists now, all around, in our minds, hearts and souls
And for Mason we should always try to keep his spirit aflow.

Thank you for reading my poem made from love,
Mason we love you and I know that you are listening from up above.

R.I.P Mason: 'Lil Cuz' I love you now and forever. Amen.
25 March 2000 - 28 January 2010
May heaven be Mason's final resting place.
May God have put his mind and soul to rest!

HERE COME THE GIRL GUIDES !

Phyllis Manning



This title of a book, written sometime ago, is still relevant this year – the 100th Anniversary of Guiding. Set up by Lord Baden-Powell and nurtured for so long by his wife, the first Chief Guide, Lady Olave

Baden Powell *, the Guides have often proved their worth.

At St John's the Guide company, the 1st Hackney Guides, and their younger sisters the Brownies and Rainbows, recently went to the Guide Training Centre at

Chigwell for more Celebrations. This was Thinking Day 22 February (BP's birthday) which

Guides all over the world celebrate each

year. This year it was a magnificent day.

The outdoor activities of skill and fun were enjoyed by everyone and the event finished, as many Guide occasions do, with the singing of Taps

Day is done,

gone the sun

from the sea from the hills

from the sky

All is well, safely rest.

God is nigh.

So, onward into the next Guide Century.

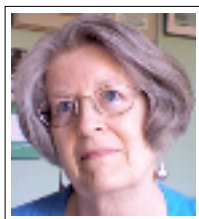
* When I was in my 'gap' year (1947--8!) I worked in the General Office at Guide HQ and met Lady BP several times – a remarkable Lady. Even more exciting were the letters received at HQ when she was abroad. They were seized on when they arrived and all other work stopped. As she had suggested, they were read out and displayed – written in various sorts of script, different coloured inks and with thumbnail sketches in the margins. Plenty of humour and much information about the world she was travelling in and the Guides and others she was meeting. An education in itself and a wonderful experience for me. (e mails would not have been the same !!!!) Wasn't I lucky?

CHEERS! Also from Phyllis

I have several demijohns. Are you a winemaker? Let me know soon if you'd like these containers. I must remove them from my house very soon.

STEWARDSHIP

Audrey Seabrook



If you were a member of the Stewardship Scheme in 2009, you will have found in your box of envelopes for this year a slip of paper with a question about your tax. It is

important to return this to me, after ticking the yes or no box and signing your name. So far, out of 50 people only 18 have done so. Also many of you have not collected the small brown envelope with your name on it. May I remind members that the envelopes issued to you are for you ONLY and not other members of your family. Do not write anything on the envelope and use only those for the current year. Surely you will have thrown those old ones away by now!

ANNUAL REVISION OF THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Please note that the Electoral Roll will be revised on the 14, 21 and 28 March. If you have been worshipping regularly at St John's for the past six months and are aged 16 or over, please join the electoral roll. Application forms are available from Judy Bourne, the Electoral Roll Officer.

FAREWELL TO TOYIN



15 April will be Toyin Adjidele's last day at St John-at-Hackney, as our youth & children's co-ordinator. On Sunday 11 April we will be celebrating her pioneering work at St John's. Please take full part in the preparations for that occasion.

Deadline for contributions
for next issue is
Sunday 28th March to
seabrook@mac.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To comment on anything in *Reflections*, please email as shown above

PRAYING FOR MUMS

On **14 March** we celebrate **Mothering Sunday**. At both morning services we think of the role of mothers and the church. In the afternoon at 5pm there will be a special tea to say thank you for our mothers.

PRAYING FOR DADS

On **Friday 19 March** we celebrate **St Joseph of Nazareth**. At a special service at 7.30pm we will be praying for dads. This will be followed by a trip to one of the local pubs.

490 NOT OUT!

This year our Church Schools in Hackney celebrate their 490th birthday. We have two special events planned this month:

Thursday 18 March at 5.30pm

Bishop Richard, Lord Bishop of London, will be opening a new exhibition at Hackney Library celebrating our Church schools.

Sunday 21 March at 11am

We welcome members of Hackney Free & Parochial School to our service as we celebrate the life of The Rev'd Christopher Urswick, 10th Rector of Hackney, who died in 1522.

Wednesday 24 March at 10am

The Rev'd Janina Ainsworth, Chief Education Officer for the Church of England will be preaching at the Urswick Founder's Day Service.

ELECTIONS COMING UP

Please make sure you highlight 7pm on Monday 22 March in your diary. St John's will be hosting a political assembly to quiz the candidates for Mayor of Hackney, on issues such as:

- ∞ care for asylum seekers and refugees;
- ∞ making sure local people receive a living wage; and
- ∞ safer streets for our young people.

Please come.

CHURCH PEWS

Why we've agreed to change

Our existing pews are comfortable and elegant, and they have served the church well since 1958, when the church was re-consecrated following a fire. They were intended for a church in which formal worship is offered to the glory of God, and they serve that purpose very well.

St John's will of course continue to offer formal worship, and that will always be a priority for us. But formal worship doesn't suit everyone, and we recognise that in order to continue to grow in numbers we also need to be able to offer other, more informal forms of

worship. This is what already happens on Sunday mornings. And we could do it even better with a more flexible seating arrangement.

A more flexible seating arrangement will enable us to create a more intimate space for worship, when required. It will enable us to cater to the needs of the many children and young people who form part of our congregation, and it will help us to be more hospitable to our two church schools.

New seating will be very expensive. But we believe that in the long run, it will bring financial benefits to the church. We have a huge asset that is currently only used regularly on Sunday mornings. A more flexible seating arrangement will enable us to host all sorts of other events that will generate money to maintain our building. We want to find a way of equipping the building to pay for itself so that money generously given by the congregation will be able to pay for our ministry to the people of Hackney.

We have inherited an amazing building. New seating will enable us to use it to the full.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Audrey Seabrook

If you appreciate food – its appearance and the design of the venue, as important in their own right – I recommend a superb restaurant beside the River Lea, in an area of Hackney Wick known as Fish Island, overlooking the site for the Olympic Games. Coral Brady (a member of our congregation) took me there for lunch a few months ago. It was far beyond my expectations – service, food, environment, all get a top score. It is so sophisticated . . . but you would never know that from the outside. Take a look at their website <http://www.formans.co.uk/restaurant/>

READER'S COMMENT

I'm enormously grateful for the continuing stream of 'Reflections', which I read with great interest, admiring both the publication itself and the buzzing hive of activity it reports!

Warmest good wishes to you and to all dear friends

From John Pridmore in Hove-Actually

PHOTOGRAPHS for REFLECTIONS

Please remember if taking photographs to send by email for use in Reflections you should select a small file size.

SOME AMUSING CHURCH BULLETINS

Sent in by David Horder

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

This morning's sermon: *Jesus Walks on the Water.*

Tonight's sermon: *Searching for Jesus.*
Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Potluck supper on Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and be prepared to sin

STAFF and VOLUNTEERS at ST JOHN-at-HACKNEY

Rector	Fr Rob Wickham T: 020 8985 5374 Ext. 221	E: rectorofhackney@aol.com:
Curate	Fr David Evans T: 020 8985 5374 Ext. 223 T: 020 8986 4456	E: davidjjevans@mac.com
Curate	Fr Lincoln Harvey T: 020 7254 2343 T: (m) 07855 866823	E: lincoln.harvey@gmail.com
Curate	Fr Sebastian Ejiaku T: 020 8519 2555	
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	E: stjohnsstlukesyouthworker@hotmail.co.uk
Director of Music		Mr Jack Bicker
Cleaner		Ms Hazel Panton
First Aider & Caretaker	T: 020 8533 1745	Mr John Tribe E: johnjanettribe@yahoo.co.uk
Tower Captain		Mr Stephen Jakeman
Artist in Residence		Mr Andrew Coombes
Mothers' Union Leader		Mrs Mercy Moss

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

The next issue of Reflections will be published on 4th April