

Church Magazine May 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

Rev'd Rob Wickham



Dear Friends,
I remember the month of May very well when I was growing up. The days would be full of the excitement of the summer, yet tinged with the extra stresses of examinations,

rowing regattas and the inevitable onslaught of hay fever just when you were least expecting it.

Of course, as we know, the extra strains on our children to achieve are now immense. Many of them will now be revising for SATS tests, as well as GCSEs, AS levels, A levels and diplomas. They will be aiming to achieve the best that they can, with teachers urging them on no doubt, as impressive results look good for them too.

Please remember our schools and our children in your prayers this month. Please pray that they will be aiming to achieve the best that they can - their full potential.

This can be a reminder to all of us to ask whether we are aiming to strive to be the best for Jesus, or to see whether we are just lukewarm Christians. May each of us be inspired by the dedication of our young people, and may we all follow the ways of Jesus ever more closely this month and into the excitement of summer.

NEW CURATE

Dr Lincoln Harvey (who currently runs our Pembury group, and is the Doctrine lecturer of the Seite Ordination Course) will be ordained deacon at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 27 June. The Bishop of London has offered Lincoln to St John-at-Hackney to be trained as a priest in the Church of England for the next four years. Fr Lincoln (as he will be) will begin at the parish eucharist on Sunday 28 June. **Do not miss it!**

CHRISTIAN AID

Mahandra Roopchan

Christian Aid week 10-16 May is a major fundraising event of the year, with a number of activities being organised. Our church does an envelope collection, plus a street collection on the morning of Saturday 16 May. If you can spare an hour or so, please let me know, or just turn up in the Narroway outside the Old Rectory between 9am and midday.

I will be doing the CA sponsored walk on Sunday 17 May. I am hoping for your sponsorship. So if you are interested in doing the bucket collection and/or sponsored walk, please see me.

Funds raised support projects around the world in partnership with those who accept the aid.

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.

ASCENSION DAY

There will be a special Ascension Day service at 7.30pm on Thursday 21 May. This is a formal *Day of Obligation*, and it would be great to see as many people as possible celebrating this great festival of Jesus' return to heaven.

STEPNEY AREA ORDINATIONS

The Bishop of Stepney wishes to hold his area ordinations to the priesthood at St John's again this year.

Please keep 4pm on 6 June free, and come along to help if you can.

FIRST AID

If you would like to help with First Aid in church, or would like to know more about going on a First Aid course, please speak to John Tribe in church, or call him on 020 8533 1745.

The H.E.L.P. project

David Hazeldine



The Project is developing nicely. We've had two open church Saturdays: 16 visitors on the first Saturday; 12 on the second. The tower will also be opening soon on some of these days

with something extra to offer.

It has been very encouraging to see some members of the public come in to pray. Chatting to others has also been interesting. Many are curious to see inside the building which they pass by so often! They also appreciate the warm welcome they receive and the light refreshments available, at a small charge.

During the summer we are planning to open for some weekday lunchtimes too, in which you are encouraged to get involved.

Hospitality Engagement Listening Prayer - that is what's on offer, and if you feel you would like to be involved please contact me as shown below.

Mob: 07767 033451

davidinhackney@googlemail.com

HACKNEY CENTRAL MASTER PLAN

The deadlines for this piece of consultation, which will affect the life of St John's in a considerable way, ends in the middle of this month. Please fill in a response form as soon as possible to make your views known. The forms are available in church.



® WE ARE A
FAIRTRADE
CHURCH

IMPAIRED VISION?

We have LARGE PRINT versions of Hymn Books, Psalms and Service Sheets

Website: www.stjohn-at-hackneychurch.co.uk

Editor: 020 8533 1720; seabrook@mac.com

NOTES FROM BRUSSELS

Christian D'Cunha



April was the finest month in Belgium, warmer and brighter than when I arrived at the height of last year's drab summer. The days are long again, there are leaves on the trees and you

are woken up by the lusty strains of the dawn chorus. It was special to be back in England for Easter. The reminder of forgiveness and the promise of renewal are no more poignant than when shared with friends and family. I was able to spend a bit of time at St John's in between visits to the Homerton where my sister was recovering from a nasty but thankfully short-lived kidney infection.

My big news is that there will be a new member of the family in June. I'm about to become a father. It's an unexpected gift for me and the mother Louise. This new person will be blessed by the support of uncles and aunts living in close proximity, and also no doubt by the prayerful offices of the saints of Hackney.

Love, Christian

RESULTS of ANNUAL CHURCH ELECTIONS

Please keep them in your prayers.

Churchwardens

Hugo Deadman and Peter Ottino

Deanery Synod Representatives

John Geach and Mary Ofori

Parochial Church Council

Patricia Amponsah	Jayne Bailey
Judy Bourne	Benjamin Burgher
Michelle Dos-Santos	Peter Cofie
Coral Lambert	Phyllis Manning
Mercy Moss	Laura Tomlinson

Other Officers

PCC Lay Vice Chair Benjamin Burgher
PCC Secretary vacant position
PCC Treasurer Jayne Bailey
Electoral Roll Judy Bourne
Gift Aid & Stewardship Audrey Seabrook

Chairs of Development Groups

Operations & Finance

Benjamin Burgher

People & Prayer

Fr David Evans

Development & Communications

Laura Tomlinson

Children & Young People

Vastiana Belfon

DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Please remember that the Development Groups begin again this month. As the dates and times had not been agreed before going to press, please watch the weekly newsheet for more details.

AN INTERESTING EMAIL FROM TEXAS

Hello,

I found your website and felt I had to write. I went to Rams Episcopal infant school in about 1952 and then on to St. John's junior mixed school in Isabella Road. Miss Atkinson was the Rams' headmistress and Mr. Whittlestone the headmaster of St. John's. Rev. H.A.S. Pink was the Vicar of St. John's Church where I attended. We had some really good children's parties in the Curate's house in Sutton Place.

I lived in Hockley House in Morning Lane but moved from the area in 1967. I have some wonderful memories of Rams and St. John's, and Hackney in general, and wonder if you have any information of both of the schools at that time. One memory I have is having lessons in the barn which was located at the side of the junior school and wonder if it is still there. I did write to the school some years ago but unfortunately never received a reply.

I currently live in Texas in the USA so cannot visit the school, which I would love to do.

Look forward to hearing from you.
Best regards,
Ros

Audrey sent this reply

Hello Ros,

Thanks for your interesting email, which I am copying into our May Magazine **Reflections**. I only came to live in this parish in 1985, but we do have at least one member of our church who was born here. I know the house in Sutton Place which you mention but it no longer belongs to the church. The last church people who lived there were Stan and Violet Peese, whom you just might remember. Stan was a great Scout and churchwarden who died in the early nineties. His wife had also been the church organist at one time, but I never knew her.

I think the barn you refer to might be the extension built in about 1901 onto the Tudor brick house at the corner of Sutton Place, and which at one time belonged to the church, and known as St John's Institute. That part of the building

has always been known as a barn, because of its open ceiling/roof space design, and is in fact today called the Wenlock Barn. The whole building is now called Sutton House and belongs to the National Trust. There is also a Sutton House Society. see <http://www.suttonhousesociety.org.uk/>

Here is the secondary school's website <http://www.hackneyfree.hackney.sc.h.uk/> I'm not sure if the Primary School has one.

I'm working on our **Reflections** at present, but later I will forward your email to the schools, in the hope that you might get a response.

For now - all the best,

Audrey Seabrook

NB. I feel sure that Ros would love to hear from others. Her email address is ros@bhsglobal.org

PEMBURY THEOLOGY GROUP

Laura Tomlinson

This is an informal group which meets in the Pembury Tavern (on Amherst Road) every fortnight to discuss a short text (chosen by someone different in the group each time) exploring ideas of God and faith. We'd love you to join us, so please look out for the dates in the meetings column of the weekly news sheet and we'll also make copies of the text for the fortnight available at the back of church.

Any queries please contact:

Laura on 07966 599247

Lincoln at lincoln.harvey@gmail.com

RACE FOR LIFE: 19 JULY 2009



Remember this lady? Judith Jeeves used to be a very active member of our congregation. Now married she lives in S. Wales.

Judith wrote:

I'm taking part in

Race for Life to raise money for *Cancer Research UK* and would really welcome your support. Please take a moment to sponsor me. It's really easy - you can donate online at the following address:

<http://www.raceforlifesporsorme.org/judithjeeves>

All donations are secure and sent electronically to *Cancer Research UK*. If you are a UK taxpayer, *Cancer Research's* partner *Justgiving* will automatically reclaim at least 25% in Gift Aid on your donation at no cost to you - making it worth even more. Please join me in supporting *Race for Life* and a fabulous cause!

Thanks and best wishes, Judith

DID YOU KNOW?

It is nearly twenty five years since the terrible famine in Ethiopia which, following harrowing television pictures, gave rise to Band Aid and Live Aid. St Matthew's Children's Fund Ethiopia (SMCF) was formed in the aftermath of the famine to look after abandoned children, and its work to support children continues today. Ethiopia is still a very poor, although very beautiful, country and without assistance, many children will miss out on education or end up on the streets. SMCF, through its local partner JeCCDO, helps families and communities to look after their children by providing direct support, such as school uniforms and materials, and by teaching their carers income generating skills. JeCCDO also provides tutorial centres to help children who have missed school, and gives seeds and training to help their communities to grow vegetables. It also helps communities to manage their environment, so that water can be channelled and harvested to help prevent flooding and drought. Nearly 25 years after the famine, it's reassuring to know that things are improving for many Ethiopian children.

For further information and ways to help see www.smcfethiopia.org It's definitely worth a look!



Wagaye is happy to have a uniform so he can go to school.

STEWARDSHIP

Audrey Seabrook

There are still some unclaimed boxes of envelopes for 2009, which I have taken home for safety, so please ask me if you've not received yours.

Some of you have not yet returned to me the slip of paper with a tax question, which was inside the front of your new box. To keep our records up to date, you must return this to me ASAP.

If you have not yet joined the Stewardship Scheme and wish to do so, please contact me.



Watch out for the
Scouts and Guides Summer Fete
on Saturday 6 June.
They need our support to pay
for the upkeep of the DEN
and to fund all their
numerous activities.

Be Prepared

NEWS FROM NEVILLE JARRETT

Neville was churchwarden for years at St John's before Audrey took over from him in the 90s when he retired to Spain.

Even though it is 2 months since he sent this snippet of news to Audrey, it is still relevant and amusing and you will see that he is even more involved in church affairs than he was in Hackney.

He writes:

I have just come from the Archdeaconry Synod which was held in El Escorial, to the north of Madrid. It was freezing cold, snow on the ground, but indoors it was beautifully warm and cosy with en suite facilities. I don't know if it is run by the Roman Church or the University. For me, the highlight of a boring agenda was an address from Bishop Bill Godfrey who is a Bishop in Peru. Why is it that the Anglican Church sends its Godly men to the outer fringes rather than keep them in Britain where missionary fervour is needed? He donated to the Archdeaconry an altar frontal made by Peruvian women which was really beautiful. So some churches are now commissioning frontals for their own churches.

On our one afternoon off I and two others went to visit the Escorial Palace itself. What a wonder! This was built from 1532 and I tried to imagine what buildings exist in Britain from this time Hampton Court I suppose.

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.

(Has he forgotten that Sutton House, just across the road from where he lived in Hackney, was built in 1535? AS)

This was massive in conception all made of granite and was to be palace, monastery, school and library with a burial place for all the Spanish kings. I could only see the Hapsburg part and the tombs, the latter being stupendous right up to this century.

I can recommend a visit to anyone, apparently its easy to get there from Madrid by train from the Chamartin station.

I had a very alarming beginning to my 70th birthday cruise. I arrived in Miami from Madrid to find that my luggage had not been put on the plane. When I tried to get money from an ATM machine I put my card in the wrong hole and lost it. Panics, I am in USA no luggage and no money. To my rescue came an Angel who produced tweezers from her bag and managed to pull my card out!! My luggage didn't arrive until two hours before I was due to sail on the cruise.

Ah well that's enough finger work on the computer for now!!

Love to all,
Neville

Neville's email address, if you would like to get in touch, is tynefl@gmail.com

FESTIVAL 2009

There will be some amazing activities in this year's festival. At 7.30pm on Wednesday 24 June we shall be enjoying our Patronal Festival Service. Then our Children will be travelling to Ely for an activity weekend from 26-28 June. On the same weekend, we shall be welcoming our new curate, fresh from his ordination at St Paul's Cathedral. There are plans for an art exhibition in church, and then the great fete on Saturday 4 July. Watch this space for more details!

Children and adults worship
together on the first Sunday
of the month

oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo oo

On other Sundays
JUNIOR CHURCH
is held in the Hurdman Hall

SOME RARE NEWS

Phyllis Manning

Group President

14th Hackney (St John-at-Hackney) Scouts



The Den Dwellers have been very busy now the days are longer and warmer.

The Scouts got soaked running a water station for the London Marathon: water

everywhere; it's vital for the runners. The day before, they had enjoyed St George's day celebrations in Essex and most importantly at the St George's Service in St John's, the Scout Window was re-dedicated. Have a look - it's in the north corner by the font. Scout windows are rather **rare** and unusual.

The Guides have been celebrating their Centenary. They have collected socks for the homeless; had parties; and recently had an evening on manicure and pedicure! They also had a boxing training session. Rather **a rarity** I'd say.

While at our Essex campsite some of the **Cub Scouts** went into the forest to do their Naturalist Badge. Instructed by the Forest Rangers, they searched for minibeasts and did some pond dipping. There was great excitement when a **bee fly** was found. It seems the Rangers had been searching for this insect for a long while, so it was greeted with much interest. Another **rare** thing!

HAVE YOUR SAY
in Reflections.
Come on
GET INVOLVED

Deadline for contributions
for June issue is
Sunday 31 May 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.

Now for those bits of USELESS INFORMATION you know you were waiting for (something's got to fill this gap)

Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

Lollipop is the longest word typed with your right hand.

Dreamt is the only English word that ends in the letters 'mt'.

No word in the English language rhymes with **month, orange, silver, or purple.**

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: davidjevans@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: stjohsstlukesyouthworker@hotmail.co.uk	
Director of Music	Community Development Worker	Mr Jack Bicker
Chair: People and Prayer	Chair: Operation and Finance	Mr David Hazeldine
Chair: Develop't & Communication	Chair: Children & Young People	The Rev'd David Evans
Cleaner	First Aider	Mr Benjamin Burgher
Tower Captain	Artist in Residence	Mrs Laura Tomlinson
Mothers' Union Leader	Placement Student	Ms Vastiana Belfon
		Ms Hazel Panton
		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

Reflections is published on the first Sunday of the month
Editor: 020 8533 1720; seabrook@mac.com