

Project Newsletter

Welcome to our 4th St John at Hackney Project Newsletter.

In November we helped to raise over £120,000 for MENCAP and welcomed over 7000 people.

MUSIC AT ST JOHN'S

St John at Hackney welcomed *The Little Noise Sessions* to take residence for 6 days to present a series of performances by artists curated by Jo Whiley in aid of Mencap.

Elbow headlined our opening sell-out night, and throughout the week we welcomed acts such as Coldplay, Ed Sheeran, Example, Marina and the Diamonds and Goldfrapp.

Before Goldfrapp's stunning performance Father Rob made a brief appearance to bless the stage with incense.

A 5* review from John Aizlewood followed Sinead O'Connor's performance providing us with a truly epic end to an epic week.

The LNS Team and Jo Whiley would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at St John at Hackney. LNS session will be returning to St John's in Nov. 2012



Sinead O'Connor



Coldplay



Marina & The Diamonds



SONGS OF PRAISE

St John at Hackney is delighted to be welcoming the BBC's Songs Of Praise on April 28th & 29th 2012 for a very special programme dedicated to Gospel music. Producer Garry Boom expressed his interest in filming at St John's after national press reports from The Little Noise Session.

After over fifty years, Songs of Praise continues to be enormously popular and this special programme for Pentecost is another opportunity to be part of an inspirational event at St John's.

We would like to give everyone who loves singing the opportunity to take part. The conductor will be Ken Burton, a past winner of the BBC's Choir of the Year with the London Adventist Chorale, who has a long association with the programme. The programme will be broadcast on BBC One on Pentecost Sunday, 27th May



HACKNEY CHILDREN'S THEATRE

St John at Hackney's Hackney Children's Theatre is in association with Adrenaline-dance and is the brainchild of Artist In Residence Andrew Coombs and we aim to host a monthly performance made for children, providing Hackney's families with educational, fun entertainment at an affordable cost. Hackney Children's theatre opened in September 2011 with an audience of 170 people. The first show, Church Mice, was a promenade by Adrenalindance which consisted of professional performers and artists who all donated months of their time to make the show.

We welcomed over 450 people to our 3rd show, Variety Spectacular where children and parents enjoyed a mixture of dance, music, circus skills and comedy. Andrew says, 'The new flexible seating arrangement has made Hackney Children's Theatre possible. We now have loads of possibilities and can create a different performance space for each show.'



HCT charges an low entry fee with a special family price.



HEALTHY COOKING CLUB

Last year, we changed the time of the Healthy Cooking Club at St John's to the first Saturday of the month, 2.00pm-4.00pm. The Cooking Club is now in its third year and many of the children and young people (as well as the parents) who attend are becoming more and more expert. Even the youngest are becoming proficient in food hygiene, cooking techniques, following recipes, tasting and adjusting them. So, we've now got to the stage where the children choose what we cook. The dishes we cook are becoming more and more adventurous and challenging (for me). We're now very experienced at making bread and pastry, so we've progressed to Sachertorte, Vietnamese spring rolls, Mexican chilli, as well as nutritious and delicious fruit and vegetable smoothies.

Together, we've peeled, chopped, kneaded, sauteed, pureed, grated, shaken and stirred. We've talked, laughed, shouted a bit (mainly me), concentrated and worked hard. We've shared good food and have been inspired by children, parents and carers alike. We're all looking forward to learning and sharing more together.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our children's work has been growing steadily at St John's, both in terms of the number of children we welcome week by week, and the number of adults getting involved in this important aspect of our mission. For a couple of years we had been talking about what fun a children's Christmas party would be, but introduction of flexible seating to the main church space made this possibility a reality this year. So, on Saturday 17th December, the chairs were arranged into a vast circle whilst the Hurdman Hall was decorated and set up with long tables as we got ready to welcome about forty children into St John's. The huge church space was used for fun and games before everyone headed to the hall to catch a breath and enjoy the party food and drink. After a final game of musical statues, we all gathered in a quiet circle to wait for a very special visit from Father Christmas who handed out party bags bulging with treats. The whole event was great fun for children and adults alike, and really demonstrated the warmth of relationships within our church family. It was a revelation to see how our newly flexible building could accommodate such a joyful and energetic event and a real privilege to extend God's hospitality to the youngest members of the church. The adults involved thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work together as a team and unanimously agreed that the Christmas party would henceforth become an annual St John's tradition!



CHRISTMAS MARKET & EVENTS

Big, BIG thanks to everyone who enjoyed at our Christmas Markets & Churchyard Events and to all those wonderful traders who made Christmas that bit more enjoyable for us all at St John at Hackney and Hackney Homemade Market. Also thanks to those at Hackney Council who are committed to making Hackney Central a more lovely place.

The highlights were:

- Handmade presents, decorations and Christmas trees.
- Hot cider, mulled wine, mince pies and festive food.
- Skating for free in the pop-up skating rink.
- Santa's grotto
- St John at Hackney 'Stars' children's group pantomime.
- The characters of Hackney Empire's pantomime took to the streets.
- Carol singing, jazz, soul, gospel and traditional choral music.



JOB FAIRS

CITIZENS UK

After last summer's riots, 100s of people took part in a wide Listening Exercise to understand why such disturbances hit our communities. Although 1000s of jobs were made available during the Olympic Games, very few people in Hackney thought they could apply for them. LOCOG, the organisation responsible for delivering the Games, agreed to work with TELCO to make sure local people got involved and could secure employment for next summer. LOCOG agreed to work with us to get Olympic contractors to hold recruitment fairs in our churches, schools, etc. Several events took place at St John at Hackney, seeing well over 1000 people attend employment as well as actual recruitment fairs. This has led over 300 people securing employment. People from all backgrounds and of all ages. It has led to a greater emphasis being put on the church's sense of community ministry.

St John at Hackney is leading the way in terms of engaging with issues beyond the walls of the church.



SCOUTS CENTENARY

Last year saw the great celebration of 100 years of Hackney Scouts. St John at Hackney were able to support them by hosting a number of the events. We will never look at a camp fire in the same way again.

The Church was transformed by a multitude of children celebrating around a campfire set in the centre of the church. Hats off to Jim and his colleagues for making these celebrations happen.



A CENTRE OF WELLBEING

Here at St John's we recognise that in order to thoroughly support our diverse and thriving community we must nurture many aspects of day to day living. It is our aim to create a centre of wellbeing which includes, not only spiritual wellbeing but also:

Physical Wellbeing - Through health testing clinics, low cost holistic therapies, healthy cooking club, dance and fitness classes.

Financial Wellbeing - Through job fairs, training sessions and markets

Creative Wellbeing - Through music, theatre and exhibitions

Social Wellbeing - Through Sunday lunches, friendships and social activities

Mental Wellbeing - Through support groups

ST JOHN AT HACKNEY TIMETABLE

Day	Prayer	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
SUNDAY Church	Prayer	Church Services	Anxiety Support	Church Services/ AA Meeting
Hurdman Hall		Children's Groups		
MONDAY Church	Prayer	Church Team Meeting		Zumba/Bell Ringers/ Rector's Hour
Hurdman Hall		Romp N Roll		Yoga
TUESDAY Church	Prayer			Tai Chi
Hurdman Hall			Children's Dance	Adult Dance
WEDNESDAY Church	Prayer	Church Services		Choir Practice/ HackneyVoices
Hurdman Hall				Night Shelter
THURSDAY Church	Prayer			Cadets
Hurdman Hall			Boys Dance	Cadets
FRIDAY Church	Prayer			Zumba / Night Vigil
Hurdman Hall		Romp N Roll		
SATURDAY Church	Prayer	Reserved For Church/Community Functions		
Hurdman Hall			Health Testing Clinic	

Additional Regular Activities

Igbo Congregation Worship - Once a month on Sundays.

Hackney Homemade Market - Every Saturday in Churchyard Gardens.

Hackney Children's Theatre - Last Saturday of every other the month.

Healthy Cooking Club - 1st Saturday every month.

Sunday Lunch - Once a month.

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IMPACT
OF OUR REORDERING
 Increased Numbers
 Increased Bookings
 Increased Income
 Greater Flexibility For
 Events, Performances &
 Services
The Building Now
Pays For Itself