

## Project Newsletter

Welcome to our 3rd  
St John at Hackney  
Project Newsletter.

This June, the St John at Hackney project is hitting its third anniversary, having been inaugurated by the Bishop of Stepney at the Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist in 2008.

### Seating at St John's

Since the beginning of the project, we have held three consultations which relate to the inside of the building. These consultations have involved both individuals and groups discussions, and have involved the various Working Parties.

In January 2011 the PCC agreed unanimously to petition the Archdeacon for a Temporary Reordering License to enable the church to buy 180 Canterbury Chairs, (Using the £36,000 raised from the Seating Appeal) and to move within the building the 24 lengthy pews from the nave

Permission from the Archdeacon was received for this, and on the 25th March 2011, aided by some friends from the Royal London Asset Management Company in the City, the Church was reordered.



**The Rt Hon John Pritchard, Chair of the National Society at the Urswick Chapel rededication.**



On the following Sunday, we began an experimental process where we had the opportunity to change the layout depending upon the occasion. For example, we were able to reorder the church extensively during Holy Week, to enable The Rev'd Canon Dr Alan Hargrave to preach the Holy Week services with an added dimension of appropriate seating (For the Maundy Thursday celebration and the washing of feet etc).

This has also enabled us to loan a number of the smaller pews to Hackney Free and Parochial School, and these will form the seating of the St Augustine's Chapel when the Urswick School opens in September 2011. These pews have now been fully restored, and look fantastic.

The next stage of the process will be in January 2012, when we will assess the impact of a year with moveable chairs; spiritually, numerically and financially, with the PCC making final decisions to petition for Faculty in early 2012, to make the reordering permanent.



# The Old Rectory Site

As many will know, the Old Rectory Site, along with the Old Nursery site to the West of the Churchyard, have been identified in Hackney's Masterplan as a site of specific interest for development. With this in mind, the Head of Property of the Diocese of London has been researching the possibility of developing the site for housing and wider community use. Over the past few months, alongside Fr Rob, a Developer (Thornsett) has been identified, as has an Architect (DLA).

Over the next few months, there will be a further conversation with Hackney Planners concerning this new housing development. The earliest designs, along with the parameters laid down by Hackney Council, have identified the possible building of a new Georgian style terrace, new mews houses, a new community facility, a new Rectory and new housing for future Church Workers. The aim also of this project is to release some capital, to then be used as match funding, to fully repair our roof, develop new lighting, paint the interior, and to increase the toilet capacity in the building. Please keep this development in your prayers, and watch this space for more details.

## The Use of the Churchyard

Over the past few months, we have been discussing the creation of a café in the churchyard (to open in 2012) as well as the developing of a new Market. A market provider has been identified, and now we have a weekly market called "Hackney Homemade". As a result of this, the church will remain open (As in the last few years) on Saturday to develop our work of welcome and hospitality.



In addition, in June 2011 we will see Hackney's first knife bin being installed. This has been a joint project between ourselves, Hackney Parks, the Police and Word 4

Weapons. We hope that this will play a further part in the complex battle against the wrongful use of knives by a small proportion of our community.

## Staffing Changes at St John at Hackney

Jack Bicker, the Director of Music left St John at Hackney Church in May 2011. This, for us, has been a sad loss, as with Jack we have seen the numbers in the choir grow and develop in so many ways. We wish him well in every endeavour.

This does mean that we currently have a vacancy at St John's for a organist and a choir master / mistress. Please do keep this in your prayers, as we really do need to find the person that God is calling to lead our music in our wonderful and diverse community. We are hugely grateful to Richard Aubrey, an RE teacher at Hackney Free and Parochial school for stepping into the breach for us, and to Noel Tredinnick (Conductor and leader of the All Soul's Orchestra) for also helping our music to flourish in the meantime.

Furthermore, we also look forward to the beginnings of new ministries at St John's in September, with the arrival of The Rev'd Chris Ferris, currently Team Vicar in the parish of South Gillingham in Rochester Diocese as our School and Community Chaplain, and our very own Marion Brame, to be commissioned as our Pastoral Assistant. Furthermore, we celebrate with The Rev'd Dr Lincoln Harvey, our Curate, as he marries Tereza on the 1st July, and we celebrate with Emily Ovenden as she goes on maternity leave in July. Catherine Bell will be acting as our Parish Administer in the meantime.

## The Diocese of London's Children's Charter

**We are thrilled to announce that, following the hard work of our Children and Youth working party, we have been awarded the Diocese of London's Children's Charter. This is recognition of the developing work in this field, and our dedication to our children's ministry. Well done to the many people of St John's who volunteer for our youth activities, and to Helen and Vastiana for overseeing the work.**

# Dance classes at St John's

As we all know, Adrenalin Dance, with Andrew has been developing the use of the building. We are now offering 6 dance classes a week, for a variety of ages, from Romp and Roll to the over 55's dance class. In September we are also beginning a new Children's Theatre. Please keep this amazing project work in your prayers.

## Christopher Urswick and Joshua Watson

As many will know, our schools play a huge part in the life of St John's. We are therefore thrilled to announce that from September Hackney Free and Parochial School will be transformed, with the opening of the final new building into The Urswick School, a Church of England Secondary School. This name now reflects the name of the founder, the Rev'd Christopher Urswick, sometime Lord Almoner of all England, Dean of Windsor and York and Rector of Hackney. We are thrilled, especially given our own full restoration of the Urswick Chapel to be part of this development.

We were also thrilled to welcome The Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon John Pritchard, Lord Bishop of Oxford to Hackney on the 24th March, the School Founder's Day, to formally bless and rededicate the Urswick Chapel. The service was attended by many, especially the senior leadership and prefect team of Hackney Free School.

In addition, given that 2011 is the 200th Anniversary of Joshua Watson founding the National Society, and something like 17,000 schools across the country, we have busy celebrating Church of England Schools generally. Fr Rob has now appeared on Songs of Praise, on stage at the Royal Albert hall and on a Church of England Podcast. The Diocese of London's Carrying the Light of Christ project began at St John's, where a special candle is now making its way to every Church of England school in the Diocese. Later in the year, we will be represented at a special service in Westminster Abbey, and there will be a Church School Symposium taking place in St John's in November.



**John Tribe stars as Joshua Watson**

**BBC Songs Of Praise  
Aired May 2011**

## Monuments

After many years of dreaming and planning St John's has been able to raise the funds to restore two of its most significant monuments, relocated from the old church of St Augustine's, and the chapel within which they reside. Christopher Urswick's tomb (died 1522), and the memorial to Henry Banister (died 1628) and his wife have been wonderfully stripped down, cleaned and rebuilt taking off years of unsatisfactory paint and blemishes. Our conservators, Theo and Emma from Skillington's Workshop in Grantham, did sterling work throughout some of the coldest winter months we have seen in a long time, and the chapel was then refloored and decorated with new light fittings and seating.

Our thanks go to a number of funders in particular the Church Building Council and the Leche Trust, advisors from the London DAC, and Hackney Free and Parochial School (founded by Christopher Urswick).



## Thank you

Without your support, passion, help, prayers, time and money, none of this would be possible. The last few months have been very busy, with the aim of supporting our community and getting our building to pay for itself.

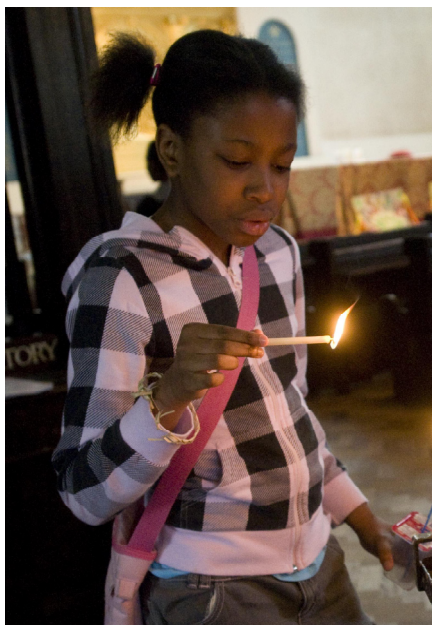
**Thank you for all your hard work.**

# Information

St John at Hackney is an icon set in the heart of Hackney. We have served the people of Hackney for over 700 years, and today we continue the work of glorifying God through worshipping joyfully, building community and celebrating diversity.

We seek to build bridges between people new to faith and those born into it, between people on the margins of society and those at its centre, between people of different ages and different backgrounds. We seek to look outward to the world that challenges us and energises us, and to look inward with honesty and integrity.

## The Seating Appeal Continues!



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## Donation Information

I would like to buy ..... chair(s) for St John at Hackney @ £180 each  
My dedication will read (up to 10 words)

.....  
.....

I would like to make a contribution towards the chair appeal.

I enclose my cheque for £.....

Please make cheques payable to St John at Hackney Church and send to St John at Hackney Church, Lower Clapton Road, London E5 0PD

### GIFT AID IT

I wish St John at Hackney Church to reclaim tax on my donation and all donations I have made since 6th April 2010 and any subsequent donations I make. I note that I should advise St John at Hackney if my tax payments are less than that to be reclaimed on my donation.

Signature ..... Date .....

Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Email .....

Data Protection Act 1998. The information you provide will be used only by the St John at Hackney and will not be passed on to any other organisation.

Donations can also be made via our website at:  
[www.stjohnathackney.org.uk/makeadonation.html](http://www.stjohnathackney.org.uk/makeadonation.html)