

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS?

St John-at-Hackney Church Magazine

January 2009

FROM THE RECTOR

Revd Rob Wickham



Dear Friends,
There seems to be something rather beautiful taking place at St John-at-Hackney at the moment. The month of prayer that we have both endured and enjoyed at St

John's seems to be manifesting itself in the most incredible ways.

During Advent :

- ∞ we have pulled together the responses to the full congregational consultation relating to music;
- ∞ we have now received a number of different sketches from the Architects showing how a reordered space might look and serve the people of Hackney;
- ∞ we have welcomed some 1500 people to the various Christmas services at St John's;
- ∞ we have played host to three Christmas events in the churchyard alongside the Council, and
- ∞ we have been able to put the finishing touches to two new projects beginning this month: The St John-at-Hackney Night Shelter on Wednesday nights, and the Family Cookers' Club on Saturday mornings.

There will be plenty of opportunity to discuss these various developments over the coming months, but let's be certain, Jesus is very much alive and well at St John-at-Hackney. At the heart of all these developments however is worship, and our worship holds the key to our wider life in the community. Thank you for your prayers. Now we watch for the answers.



Christingle photo by Joanne Mortimer

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Just before Christmas we, along with 7 people from Accenture, delivered almost 200 Christmas present boxes to nursing homes, local homeless agencies and some individuals. These boxes were carefully and lovingly created by Children from Arnold House School in St John's Wood.

Hats off to all who enabled this extra spread of Christmas Cheer in 2008.

Well done and thank you.

St JOHN-at-HACKNEY PROJECT

Feasibility plans have now been written for discussion later this month. These are very exciting plans, and we hope that they will be endorsed as part of the Council's Hackney Central master plan in February. Please see the weekly newsheet for times and dates.

- **The Working Parties** begin again this month. Please come along at the following times:
 - 11 Jan People and Prayer
 - 18 Jan Operation and Finance
 - 25 Jan Development and Communication
- **Karen Campbell** who is currently training to be a Community Development worker in the United Reform Church is joining us this month for six months placement. She will work at St John's on the revision of the Community Audit carried out some years ago.
- Let's give Karen a great St John's welcome.

The Family Cookers' Club

This month sees the beginning of this new venture between the Mothers' Union and the Children and Youth ministry of St John-at-Hackney. This project aims to provide a healthy living programme, whilst using the great resources that exist at St John's. Many of us provide healthy food and a real budget, and during such times of economic difficulty, we all have something to learn from each other, as well as provide our young people with the skills they need for everyday living. The launch date will be 24 January. Please see the news sheet for times.

Children's Ministry

Training led by Sam Donoghue from the Diocese of London will be offered at St

Luke's on 17 January at 11.30am. Please come along if you would like to be involved.

NEWS FROM THE WEST END (of the St John's Churchyard!)

Phyllis Manning



The Brownie Guides and Cub Scouts had a great party together; and all survived. The Scout Troop, more sedately, sat around watching films though they will certainly be more active at their Christmas Camp in the

New Year. The Explorer Scouts took themselves to the Comedy evening at the Hackney Empire - they said it was hilarious. They are planning to go hiking in the Lake District in 2009. The Brownies' carol singing at the Homerton Hospital went well.



Brownies at the Homerton

A very good time was had by Fr Rob and the Cub Scouts at a Winter Festival evening held by and in St Augustine's Tower. Colourful lanterns were made, hula hoops tried out (more practice needed Reo!) then there was some magic and an excerpt from 'Oliver'. The carol singing by members of the Hackney Singers was truly lovely beautifully filling the evening air with Christmas music.

We all wish you A Happy and Blessed New Year!



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

Editor: 020 8533 1720; seabrook@mac.com

A FEW THINGS

from Fr David



Night Shelter

Members of all parts of the St John's community have been very generous in coming forward to offer their time and talents to staff our night shelter. We'll be offering hospitality to ten homeless guests on Wednesday nights and

Thursday mornings in January, February and March. Please continue to pray for our guests, for the Thames Reach workers who are trying to find them suitable accommodation, for all 18 churches participating in Hackney Winter Night Shelter 2009, and for all our volunteers. If you would like to refer someone to Hackney Winter Night Shelter, please ask them to phone 07549 043 728 free of charge between 10 am and 8.30 pm.

A Break in Brussels

With Christian D'Cunha now settled in Brussels, it's time for a group from St John's to visit him and his country of residence. We'll be departing by Eurostar on Friday 6th February and returning on Sunday 8th, with an opportunity to visit Bruges on the Saturday. If you're interested in coming, please speak to Laura Tomlinson or Fr David. We'll each be making our own bookings, so everyone who comes will be at liberty to opt in or out of any part of the weekend.

Lent Lunches

On five Tuesdays in March St John's will be serving a Lent Lunch to anyone who would like to come. It'll be a good opportunity to meet each other over a bowl of nourishing soup, bread and cheese. There will be no charge for lunch, but donations can be made to the Diocese of London's Lent Appeal. If you're interested in helping to buy or prepare food, or in being part of the team that advertises the lunches and makes them happen, please see Fr David.

AND ALSO

from Laura Tomlinson

Places of Worship Survey Volunteers needed

From February 2009, the Building Exploratory will be working on a project in partnership with English Heritage and the Churches Conservation Trust. The project's aim is to undertake a survey of the condition, use and significance of listed places of worship across Hackney and Tower Hamlets. In order to carry out the project we are seeking volunteers to join a team of people who will be responsible for visiting and carrying out these surveys. Training and ongoing support will be provided. If you would like to hear more about the project please get in touch with Emma Tutton

emma@buildingexploratory.org.uk

ART NEWS

Victoria Burgher is exhibiting in
Diverse Practices

A group show at
Barrett Marsden Gallery
17-18 Great Sutton Street,
London EC1V 0DN
16 January – 14 February
Tuesday – Friday, 11-6pm
Saturday 11-4pm

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**Victoria will be at the
gallery on
Sat 17 Jan 12-2pm**

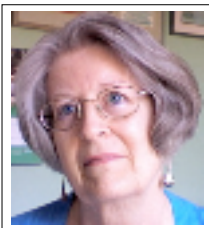
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Barrett Marsden Gallery
is located close to
Barbican and Farringdon
Underground Stations
Buses: 55, 234, 153, 4
stop nearby

<http://www.bmgallery.co.uk>
mail@victoriaburgher.com
www.victoriaburgher.com

MY SPACE

Audrey Seabrook



Postage Stamps

We hope you have been saving all those stamps from the Christmas cards you received. They are a valuable resource for fundraising by Oxfam. Phyllis Manning is our liaison. So bring the

stamps to church and drop them into the box located near to reception.

Secondhand Books

We have a wide selection of books on our shelves just round the corner from the coffee area. Why not treat yourself? Many have prices written inside the front cover - if not, ask Audrey to suggest one. When you have read the book, write about it for *Reflections* and then perhaps donate the book back to the shelves for someone else to buy and enjoy.

Anyone for Scrabble?

Have you come across the word - *dontopedalogy* - ?

It's a noun, meaning the science of opening your mouth and putting your foot in it. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, is credited with coining the word for his tendency to make faux pas.

I found it in a wonderful book I bought called Foyle's Philavery - a treasury of *unusual* words collected by Christopher Foyle.

But seriously, if you fancy an evening of Scrabble let me know. I have a lovely old scrabble set with little wooden tiles - not these plastic things they use now. I promise only to use as reference a Concise Oxford Dictionary and not a Philavery!

A Quotation to Live by

God loves you so much that He will accept you just as you are but He loves you too much to leave you that way.

Recipe from

The Christian Aid Book of Bread Scottish Barley Bannocks

(unleavened loaves cooked on a griddle or a large heavy frying pan)

115g/4oz barley flour
55g/2oz plain white flour
half teasp salt
half teasp cream of tartar
1oz butter or margarine
6oz buttermilk or half yogurt, half water
half teasp bicarbonate of soda

Method

Sift together flours, salt and cream of tartar. Rub in the butter. Mix together milk or yogurt/water and soda. When it bubbles, add to flour mixture. Mix to a soft dough (no kneading). Tip onto floured surface. Pat out to a round, about half inch thick. Cut into four. Grease the pan and heat - moderate only. Cook for 6-7 minutes each side until brown and cooked through. Wrap in a cloth to keep soft. Serve with butter and honey while warm.

Changing Modes of Address

When I was a child, we always addressed our neighbours by their titles. ie. We (the Tyrers (before I became a Seabrook) at number 10 (no, not Downing Street!) referred to those at no. 8 as Mr and Mrs Bowen, and those at no. 12 as Mr and Mrs Taylor. They all spoke to each other the same way. First names, if they were known, were not used. It was the same with our teachers and our colleagues at work.

Clergymen too were called Mr, either when we spoke about them or to them. The young vicar who came to my church when he was 27 and I was 13, was Mr Connor.

I still keep in touch with him by the way - he was 92 on Christmas Day - and have only in the last few years felt able to call him Ellis, when writing to him, although if I speak of him to my sister, we call him Mr Connor.

Everyone knew that Roman Catholic clergy were called Father, although as they weren't allowed to marry, they never could be a father (not officially anyway!)

Things have changed. Children call their teachers by their first names, or so I'm told, and of course we are not so stuffy as to stick to last names only with our friends and neighbours. I'm glad though that my bank and most other businesses address me as Mrs Seabrook. Mind you, one bank wrote addressing their letter "Dear Mr Audrey Seabrook" when replying to my letter complaining that they had my address wrong!

Email is something else though - everyone, even people who have never met me, call me Audrey. That's OK except that often I don't know their names to return the compliment.

So, back to the clergy - for years now we have become accustomed to calling our Anglican clergy by their first names. I like that, especially now I'm an adult. But suddenly they are all Fathers, even when they introduce themselves. I don't understand it. In monasteries and convents they are all Brothers and Sisters and those in charge are Fathers and Mothers. So maybe the Anglican Bishop should be called Father and the lower orders Brother.

Anyway, where does all this leave women priests?????

Letters to the Editor

If you wish to comment on anything in *Reflections*, please do write to me at the address or email shown elsewhere in this edition. If you don't respond I will be left feeling that I am talking to the wall (always a danger when you live alone . . . aaah!). I would like to hear from you and will assume your permission to print your letter in the next issue.

Van Gogh poster to Give Away

I'm afraid this is not a very good photograph of the poster, as it is not only a bit crooked but also shows reflections in the glass, but hopefully you will get the idea.



I am giving away a poster of Van Gogh's painting *Church at Auvers-sur-Oise* (painted in 1890). It is in a clip frame, size 60cm x 80cm. Would anyone like to have it?

I bought the poster some years ago in Paris. The same poster can be seen on the internet at http://www.allposters.co.uk/-st/The-Church-at-Auvers-van-Gogh-Posters_c94725_.htm where you will see that this size costs £11.99 (unframed). Please pass the word around. I need the wall space.

Stewardship

There are still a few boxes of envelopes for 2009 awaiting your collection. If you have not found a box with your name on it, or wish to join the Stewardship Scheme please speak to me.

You should all now stop using the blue envelopes from 2008. This years envelopes are cream colour.

**This space
is
for you.**

Elizabeth Fry

From the Hackney Society Publication "Famous Women of Hackney"



Photograph from Wikipedia

195 Mare Street, the present Lansdowne Club, was the site of the Elizabeth Fry Refuge for discharged women prisoners. It opened in 1860, 15 years after her death in 1845, and was dedicated to her. Elizabeth Fry was a Quaker, who was recognised as a Minister, and spent much of her life travelling Britain, and later in Europe, as a speaker. She possessed incredible power as a speaker, believing that it was given to her by God.

She became involved in visiting the prison at Newgate with other Women Friends, to minister to the women there who lived in utmost squalor. Her work in the prison and the publicity she gave it in her speaking led to a complete reform of prison life.

Elizabeth Fry became a public figure, and as a woman, bearing child after child, she was often reprimanded for abandoning her children. She frequently stunned the society of the day by speaking as a woman in public, but none could deny the effect of her words.

She is also featured on the back of an English £5 note.

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Community Development Worker	Mr David Hazeldine
Chair: People and Prayer	The Rev'd David Evans
Chair: Operation and Finance	Ms Jayne Bailey
Chair: Develop't & Communication	Mrs Laura Tomlinson
Cleaner	Ms Hazel Panton
Tower Captain	Mr Stephen Jakeman
Artist in Residence	Mr Andrew Coombes
Mothers' Union Leader (Designate)	Mrs Mercy Moss
Placement Student	Miss Karen Campbell

Please keep them in your prayers

Deadline for contributions to
February issue is
Sunday 25 January 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.

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

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