

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr Rob Wickham



I am writing this letter straight after the Stepney Area ordinations to the Priesthood, and standing beside Fr Lincoln as he offered his first Eucharists at St John's the following morning.

I was deeply moved on both occasions for three reasons.

Firstly, it is always wonderful to see fellow Christians taking steps in mission and for the Gospel. This is of course true for all Christians and not just clergy. Indeed, all of us have an obligation to ask God about our developing vocations and ministries. We should be rejoicing every time someone takes such a risk for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Secondly, I was deeply moved by St John at Hackney. The way we hosted these events made me ever more proud of the church where I am privileged to be the Parish Priest. The dedication, generosity and love which were demonstrated by our fellow saints at St John's were exceptional.

Thirdly, I was reminded of my own ordination to the priesthood 11 years ago. Over this time I have witnessed God changing and transforming people and communities, and it reminds me of the need to proclaim afresh the Gospel to every generation. I remember fondly being covered in flour as Sunday's liturgy was offered.

Life never stands still, and we are to search out what God's spirit says to us on a daily basis. Then, we join in with God's mission for St John's, and if the past is anything to go by, the future will continue to be that incredible discovery. Have a blessed month.

Fr. Rob

WORKING PARTIES

The working parties this month will be setting their priorities for the next 12 months. In addition, they will be looking at what extra support they might need to realise these priorities.

For meetings, see the panel on page 2 **Dates for your diary in June.**

Following on from other discussions at both *People & Prayer* and *Operation & Finance*, a series of options concerning the renewal of our seating will be presented at the Patronal Festival on the 24 June from 7.30pm. This will see the launch of the Seating Appeal. More details will follow at the Patronal Festival.

CHURCH PEWS:

Why we've agreed to change

Fr David Evans



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 already happening on Sunday mornings. And we could do it even better with a more flexible seating arrangement which could 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 the Rector and assistant clergy.

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

FINANCE & OPERATIONS

Laura Tomlinson (Chair)



Last month the Finance and Operations group were involved in some of the process of deciding what kind of seating might give St John's greater flexibility than our current pews. We

have been gathering lots of views and comments from different members of the congregation and trying our best to feed all of these into the decision-making process. Remember, if you want to have your say, speak to a member of the group (core members are Fr Rob, Fr David, churchwardens, Jayne Bailey, John Tribe, myself and Steve Jakeman) or better still come along to a meeting.



WE ARE A
FAIRTRADE
CHURCH

CONGRATULATIONS

Fr David has recently been appointed Vicar of St Christopher's Walworth, and Warden of the Pembroke College Mission. We wish Fr David well as he plans for his move, following almost 2 years ministry at St John's. His last services here will be on Sunday 25 July.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY

As well as Ely in the beginning of July, we are also now able to run the *Hackney goes mad in Dorset* holiday between the 26 and 30 July, staying at Bryanston School in Dorset.

We shall be staying at the Beechwood Boarding House. There will be swimming, games, art and craft, worship and even a trip to the seaside. There are 20 places available, along with 5 adult places. Places are for children aged 8 or over, and they will be offered on a first come first served basis. The cost is £50 for the week (including transport), although further subsidies are available. Please speak to Fr Rob for more details if you are interested in joining us.

ST JOHN-at-HACKNEY PROJECT

Please note that the Standing Committee has been renamed *St John-at-Hackney Project Board*. This will provide ever greater focus for the work of our 5 year strategic plan (2008-2013). Please speak to Fr Rob or Tracy Browne (PCC Lay Vice Chair) for more details.

SUNDAY MORNING ROTA

Many have noticed and commented upon the lack of a rota for readers, chalice bearers and intercessors in recent months at St John's. Please note that from the beginning of July, Emily the Parish Administrator, will be devising the rota. If you would like to help read, pray or serve at either the 9.30am or 11am services, please let one of the clergy, or Churchwardens know. Thank you also for your concerns, comments and patience.

WELL DONE ST JOHN'S

The Stepney Area Ordination to the priesthood service was a deeply memorable occasion. Well done St John's for making this happen so smoothly. Particular thanks to Jack for leading the music, Laura for organising the refreshments, John and Janet for making sure the building looked lovely and Victoria for the beautiful flowers.

THANKYOU!!

Phyllis J Manning



I am so grateful for all the Birthday Wishes I received at St John's in April and that wonderful cake!! I have only just come to my senses enough to write this and to say how surprised, delighted and overwhelmed I was. I thought my age was my little secret!!!!!! Of course when I reach maturity I suppose I will be more alert to what goes on! I Wonder when that will be? In the meanwhile I really am happy and Thank You all so much!

NEWS from a not-so-OLD FRIEND

Those who remember Gill Clutterbuck (now Ayres) who was the first manager of our parish project for homeless people back in the nineties, will know that she eventually left here to resume an art education. You will be pleased to know that she has finally finished that adventure and is having her Degree Show at the University of Bedfordshire in Luton on 17 June. **Well done Gill!**

STEWARDSHIP, TAX and GIFT-AID

Audrey Seabrook



I recently made the Parish gift-aid claim to Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) for the year 2009. During that year you donated a magnificent total of £25,728.52. As a result we have received from HMRC £7,269.01 including repaid tax, interest and Gift-Aid Transitional Relief.

However, the not so good news is that these donations were much lower than those in year 2008, which amounted to £27,019.57. So, considering that our congregations are growing, we are either giving less or some of us are not giving at all. On the other hand it could be that some of you are no longer paying tax and so your donations don't qualify for Gift-Aid. Whatever the reason, let us try to do better this year.

Remember that I am here in church most Sundays during the Community Chat period between our morning services, if you wish to speak to me about joining our Stewardship scheme. There are two ways of donating – one is by using the Stewardship envelopes and the other is by Direct Debit from your bank. Either way you need to fill out a form which I will give you. Many thanks for what you are already doing to support the church.

FROM OUR ELY CORRESPONDENT

David Catling

Thankyou very much for the St John's impressive Annual Report that we are copying to discuss at our next Cathedral Links Group meeting, and for the monthly *Reflections* that we circulate to Links members. At Canon Hargrave's suggestion we also make copies to leave on the Cathedral reception desks with other information material for the congregation to take if they wish.

I attach a scan from an old booklet in excellent condition I've just bought from Amazon. (75p plus postage) that may be of interest, but you probably already have lots of old pictures of St John's, (Ed: No we don't!)

The book is called "A Hackney Camera 1883-1918" ISBN 0 903738 147 published by Hackney WEA in co-operation with Hackney Libraries and Amenities Department.

DATES for YOUR DIARY in JUNE and into JULY

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| Sunday 13 June | People and Prayer working party at 11am |
| Tuesday 15 June | Operation and Finance working party 7.30pm at Laura's house |
| Thursday 24 June | Patronal Festival at 7.30pm |
| | At this service we welcome Br Austin SSF as our preacher, and the music will be led by the Choir of Ely Cathedral. A coach is also coming from Martock in Somerset (Where H Town Saints went on Holiday in October last year). |
| | All in all, this will be a bumper celebration |
| Tuesday 6 July | Farewell service for Bp Stephen of Stepney and Archdeacon Lyle. Do come along, and please keep them and the Bishop of London in your prayers. |
| Saturday 10 July | Our parish Summer Fete 10am - 4pm |

St John-at-Hackney Parish Church.
The cedar of Lebanon was replaced by a war memorial.



David also sends us this personal story, which he calls:

A LONG TREK FOR MY HACKNEY TO ELY LINK

My Mother grew up in Leman Street Police Station Whitechapel, where my Grandfather was the Inspector. She went to Cable Street School, and her first married home was in Cricketfield Road.

I was born in the former Salvation Army Mothers' Hospital, where the Mothers' Square housing development now stands on Lower Clapton Road, preserving the original frontage of the hospital. I couldn't have been much

closer to St John's, but not sure if that makes me an honorary Parishioner?

(Editor's tip: type Mothers' Hospital, Hackney into Google for lots of interesting links.)

During the First World War my Grandfather worked in the Aliens' office, taught himself Hebrew and Yiddish, and helped many Jewish refugees. When he retired he was allowed unusually to receive a testimonial from the Jewish people and when he died had a full obituary in the Jewish Chronicle. We moved to share a house with him in Stoke Newington and for a while only came near St John's on the 53 tram, (later the 653 trolleybus and now the 253 bus route) to pay the Hackney Electricity bill opposite the Mother's Hospital.

I started school in Tottenham and then went to the original Hackney Downs School, getting near to St John's again. Then the 2nd World War came and we were evacuated to King's Lynn, beginning my first more complete Ely link, now only 30 miles away. Later, we sometimes cycled to London in the holidays. This completed my Hackney to Ely link, right past the Cathedral, and close to our new home to which we moved 12 years ago.

We joined Ely Cathedral congregation and Canon Inge, now Bishop of Worcester, set up a new Links Group to help establish three new links with: St John-at-Hackney; the Anglican Cathedral in Zanzibar; and the Lutheran Cathedral in Schleswig, North Germany. He invited us to join the Group and I'm still a member.

Canon Hargrave is now Chairman and with Father Rob's joint active initiatives it's very rewarding to see the Hackney-Ely Link developing in new ways.

I value this Link, memories and visits, but now make the link journey by train not bike!

(Ed: next time perhaps David will tell us about falling into Clapton Pond or much later helping to plan the new Docklands Light Railway?????)

Anyone and everyone is invited to write something for Reflections.

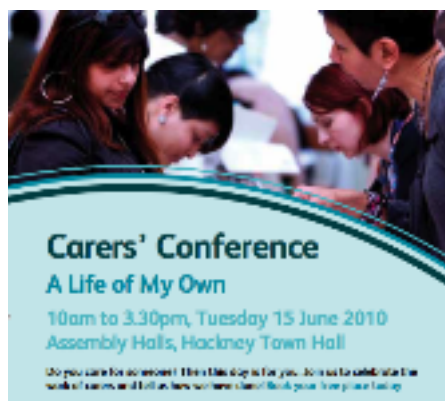
Deadline for contributions for the next issue is Sunday 27th June to seabrook@mac.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

PHOTOGRAPHS for REFLECTIONS

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



AGE CONCERN LONDON GROUPS APPEAL

Do you remember Saturday, 7th September 1940?

Were you in London?

If so I would love to hear from you!

Testimony Films are making a commemorative television documentary about the first day and night of the Blitz during WW2 and are looking to hear from anyone who remembers this date.

By Sunday morning around 450 Londoners had been killed and 1,600 seriously injured. The main target was the London docks and the worst hit area was the old East End. Some bombs however were dropped on other parts of the capital including the West End. We want to build up a detailed picture of what happened in the first 24 hours of the Blitz which left so many dead, injured or homeless.

If you have any memories of this day, perhaps you or your family were injured or survived a near miss; perhaps you lost a loved one or your home; or perhaps you were involved in the emergency services or maybe you were a child. If you have a vivid memory and stories to tell, I would love to hear from you.

Please contact Amy Dunn in confidence on 0117 925 8589

Email: amy.dunn@testimonyfilms.com

or write to:

Blitz Appeal,

Testimony Films,

12 Great George Street Bristol,

BS1 5RH

W: <http://www.testimonyfilms.com/>

POETRY CORNER

Audrey Seabrook

Visitors will find this poem on a card with a Mabel Lucie Attwell cartoon, in my bathroom.

*Please remember - don't forget -
Never leave the bathroom wet -
Nor leave the soap still in the water
That's a thing we never ought'er.
Nor leave the towels about the floor,
Nor keep the bath an hour or more
When other folks are wanting one -
Please don't forget - it isn't done!
And if you'd really do the thing
There's not the slightest need to sing.*

Possibly about 12 years ago, I ran a limerick competition in, what was then called *Team Talk*. People whose limerick was printed received a prize St John's mug. Here's a few of those entries. Sadly I no longer know who the poets were.

*I know a young chap called Ottino
Who doesn't sit reading the Beano.
His time with accounts
Remorselessly mounts -
None left for the pub or casino.*

*The elderly Bishop of Hull
Preaches sermons exceedingly dull.
They sell them by bottle
Hoping they're what'll
Help the insomniac people of Hull.*

*There was an old man with a clock
Who got both his feet in one sock.
When he started to wiggle
We only could giggle,
But all he could say was 'Tick Tock'.*

*Edwina a buxom bell-ringer
So wished for a ring on her finger,
She tried to lose weight,
But could not get a date,
So remained the wedding-bell ringer.*

*"The Brook" by that great painter
Seabrook,
Shows a trickling burn, just a wee brook,
A delicate stream
With a sparkle and gleam,
Not a filthy great dark sort of Lea brook.*

*An artist who liked painting trees,
Found his brushes infested with fleas.
When the first one jumped out,
He gave a great shout,
Spilling indigo paint on his knees.*

*May I beg of those kind-hearted dames
I'm so happy to know at St James,
That they don't take offence,
Or think I've no sense,
When I call them by all the wrong names.*

*A church choir member called Joyce,
Would sing at the top of her voice.
So sweet was the sound
That re-echoed around:
A reason for all to rejoice.*

*A cat in a hat in our flat
Liked playing croquet with a bat.
It may seem absurd,
But that's what we heard,
And I'm telling you so, and that's that.*

*There is a churchwarden named Audrey,
Whose work is simply not tawdry -
Whether Team Talk or prayer,
There is quality and flair -
Well done and thanks to our Audrey!*

This last is recorded as being by Bill, but I don't know which Bill. Can he own up?

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
Director of Music		Mr Jack Bicker
Cleaner		Ms Hazel Panton
First Aider & Caretaker		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

Mondays 7.30pm Bellringers practice
Wednesdays 5pm Children's choir practice 6pm Adults
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

Readers who would like to make a donation to the St John-at-Hackney Project on the occasion of our Patronal Festival, 24 June 2010, when we celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, please complete the form below. If you are not a UK taxpayer please delete the sentence shown in green below.

Make your cheque payable to the Parish of St John-at-Hackney and send to: St John-at-Hackney donations scheme c/o Mrs Audrey Seabrook 27 Sutton Square London E9 6EQ

Gift Aid Donations at St John-at-Hackney Church

Members of the parish Stewardship Scheme, please complete these four boxes only:

Gift Aid number	<input type="text"/>	How much?	<input type="text"/>	Today's date	<input type="text"/>	What for?	<input type="text"/>
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Other donors, who are UK taxpayers, please complete the box below so that the Parish can reclaim your tax from the Inland Revenue to add to your gift.

I pay UK tax and wish the Parish of St John-at-Hackney to reclaim tax on all my donations.

Full name

Address

Postcode Donation What for Date

Please put this into the envelope with your donation.
Cheques should be made payable to the *Parish of St John-at-Hackney*