

FROM THE RECTOR

Fr Rob Wickham



Quite often at bath time, Tom and I play *Pirates*. He gets out of the bath and lies down on the bathroom floor, with a towel over him. Then I come along pretending to be a pirate, looking for my

long lost treasure. I come across this bundle on the floor, where an X marks the spot. I pretend to dig out this bundle of treasure, and lift the treasure from the floor to a bed in the next room. Once on the bed, I pretend to open the treasure box with an imaginary key, at which point Tom jumps up, and here is my treasure! It's amazing that X can mark the spot, and here lies treasure - as something hidden, something special and something exciting which is revealed.

Most of us, this month, will be making an important X on a piece of paper when we come to vote. Here we shall be electing an MP, a Mayor and new Councillors. These decisions are critically important, and we must respond to them with thought, research and prayer. In an election, an X relates to our power, and to our freedom as members of a democracy, and an X is a reminder of our civil duty to act for the common good. Let's also not forget, that when an X is rotated, it becomes a † and let us pray that Jesus may be glorified through this democratic process, and that the results may bring a greater sense of love and excitement in the heart of our national and local political life.



WE ARE A
FAIRTRADE
CHURCH

CHILDREN'S WORK AT ST JOHN'S

We are currently recruiting new Sunday School leaders to help run our 4 Sunday morning age-groups:

Little Sparks (Preschool and crèche)
Sparklers (Years: Nursery & Reception)

Stars (Years: 1 & 2)

Blessings (Years: 3 - 6)

If you would like to help with these groups, please let Fr Rob or Vastiana know.

CHRISTIAN AID

Mahandra Roopchan

St John's is still accepting donations towards the **Haiti/DEC relief effort** until the end of July 2010

Christian Aid Week this year runs from **9-16 May**.

The street collection is on **Saturday 15 May**. If you can help, please meet any time after 9.15am in The Narroway by the old rectory driveway.

The sponsored walk in the City, is on **Sunday 16 May**. For more information email me as shown below, or see me in church. I will be doing both activities and would welcome sponsorship for the walk.

mahandraroopchan@hotmail.co.uk

APOLOGY

Audrey Seabrook (Editor)

If you saw last month's **Reflections** on a copy printed in church, I apologise for the quality of the picture shown on the front page. The subtle differences of tone and colour were completely lost in the printing process. You must have wondered why on earth I had chosen the picture. All the more reason why, if you have access to the internet and an email address, you should sign up to receive **Reflections** by that method. Simply email your name to me at the address shown at the bottom of this page. You will also be helping the planet by saving paper.

RESULTS of the AGM (Held on Sunday 18 April 2010) Elected as Church Wardens

Hugo Deadman
Peter Ottino

Elected to PCC

Patricia Amponsah
Jayne Bailey
Vastiana Belfon
Jack Bicker
Tracey Browne
Michelle Dos-Santos
Coral Lambert
Mercy Moss

Election of Officers

Lay Vice Chair – Tracey Browne
PCC Secretary – Vastiana Belfon
PCC Treasurer – Jayne Bailey
Electoral Roll Officer
– Hugo Deadman
Gift Aid & Stewardship Officer
– Audrey Seabrook
Chair of Operations & Finance Group
– Laura Tomlinson
Chair of People & Prayer Group
– Fr David Evans
Chair of Children & Young People Grp
– Vastiana Belfon

Elected as Sidespeople

Janet Tribe	John Tribe
Martin Alleyne	Tracey Browne
Alfred Zeta	Jennifer Pymont
Beryl Ottino	Mercy Moss
Stephanie Dervish	Marian Brame

CUB SCOUTS

Patsy Musgrave, Akela

One of our cubs has been working on his community challenge award, part of which was to organise a fundraising event. He decided to do a bring-and-buy cake sale; made posters and asked all the cubs and leaders to bring cakes and buy one back. He raised £46.45p and sent the money to Great Ormond Street children's hospital in memory of his friend Mason Springer.

Well done!

FROM LITTLE ACORNS GREAT OAKS GROW

(The above title is a statement often used by the Scouts' Founder, Baden Powell.)

Phyllis Manning



- ∞ He was a St John's choirboy.
- ∞ He went to our Church schools.
- ∞ He has always been a Churchman.
- ∞ He has been a member of St John's

Scout Group since he was 8.

∞ And now he is also a Church of England Reader attached to his current Church – St Michael and All Angels, London Fields.

So it was David Carr, now our Group Chaplain, who led our St George's Day service in St John's on April 23rd. A jolly hymn, thanks to Jack Bicker who played for us, led us into some serious thoughts and a talk about St George. We had all been given St George Flags and were told to wave them whenever he was mentioned . . . (nobody got injured!) then there followed our prayers and the National Anthem. At the end of the Service, after the Colours were returned, a new member of the Scouting Leadership Team was invested. So welcome to Caroline King, Assistant Cub Scout Leader. Next day we all went to our campsite for more Celebrations, as mentioned in last month's **Reflections**.

MESSAGE from ELY

Alan Hargrave

Canon Missioner, Ely Cathedral

We were extremely grateful to Fr Rob Wickham for being our **Holy Week Preacher** at Ely Cathedral. What was particularly special for us was the passion with which Rob spoke about his experience in Hackney and how that related to the events of Holy Week. Not only did it inform us about life in Hackney, it also inspired and challenged us to think more seriously about the way we interact with our own community, especially with groups of people who are not what you might call 'Cathedral types'. If you want to see what Rob said you can find his talks on the Cathedral website.

I hope to do a return visit next year and preach Holy Week in Hackney. So, a big 'thank you' to Rob and warm greetings from Ely Cathedral to all our friends in Hackney.

SUMMER FETE

Hugo Deadman



Surely it can't be that time again? Just because the sun is shining doesn't mean we need to think about the fete does it? Of course it does! Strange though it may seem our mega super St John's fete isn't that

far off. It will be held on 10 July and we are already planning all kinds of fun and games – some of which may involve our clergy getting wet.

Our fete is a great chance for us to come together and show our thousands of visitors what a vibrant, supportive and loving community St John's is. Let's make this year a really special event! We will probably put the money we raise towards our new church seating, so there's a real chance to make your mark. Last year we raised around £3000 - so it would be brilliant if we could better that this time round.

Do you have any books or bric a brac you could let us sell? I'm having a right old clear out at the moment.

- ∞ What about helping out on the day?
- ∞ Or baking a cake?
- ∞ Everyone can help in whatever way they fancy.

Or most immediately:

Take some books of raffle tickets to sell to your friends, family or colleagues at work. This is an especially great way of raising money for St John's. There are some great prizes too - foremost a season ticket for a family at Chessington World of Adventures. What could be better than that!

If you'd like some tickets see me on Sunday morning or give me a ring on 0208 533 1066 - and get your thinking caps on for ways in which you can help.



OPERATIONS & FINANCE

Laura Tomlinson, group chair

This group has been overseeing the works to the church tower which are now complete. We also hope to patch up some areas of the roof in the next few weeks which will help to prevent further staining to the ceiling of the church. Together with the People & Prayer group we are collating various options for renewing the seating in St John's. One option is to remodel our existing pews making them shorter; a number of carpenters have been asked to quote for this work.

Efforts continue to seek further funding in order to restore the monuments in the Urswick Chapel and to renovate the Chapel itself. We hope to begin the work by the end of the year. Thanks to Jayne Bailey, Parish Treasurer, who completed the accounts for last year and who stands down as chair of this group.

DATES for YOUR DIARY in MAY

Sunday 2nd	Children & youth working party at 12.15pm
Sunday 9th	Operation & Finance working party at 11am
Sunday 9th	People & Prayer working Party at 11am
Monday 10th	Interviews for the Pastoral Development Manager post
Thursday 13th	Ascension Day, Eucharist at 7.30pm
Sunday 16th	Mothers' Union meeting at 12.15pm
Sunday 16th	Focus on Sex-Trafficking Evening Service at 6.30pm
Monday 17th	Interviews for Head of School: St John & St James primary school
Sunday 23rd	Pentecost
Saturday 29th	Stepney Area Ordinations at 4pm, during which Fr Lincoln will be ordained priest
Monday 31st	Chickenshed Community Sessions begin: "Crime of the Century"

NEW TO ST JOHN'S HACKNEY VOICES

Cleo and Jo teach songs from the rich and varied local traditions of Africa, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece and Spain as well as British/Celtic folk songs. They also teach their own arrangements of classic soul and pop songs.

The sessions are friendly and informal and everything is taught by ear so don't worry if you can't read music. They welcome everyone from *only-in-the-bath* singers to *would-be* performers.

If you've ever wanted to sing a cappella this is it!

**Every Wednesday 7.30 - 9pm
£6/£8**

More about Jo.....

Joanna Foster is an actress, singer and composer who has worked extensively in television and theatre, including seasons at the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal National Theatre.

Her singing work includes:

- collaborations with singer/composer Helen Chadwick, with whom she formed the a cappella group Kite;
- vocal soloist with the Balkan band, Beskydy, and her own group Anima for whom she wrote her new song cycle Visions of 7.

Anyone and everyone is invited to write something for Reflections.

Deadline for contributions for the next issue is Sunday 30th May 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.

ELY CATHEDRAL

Audrey Seabrook



I first visited Ely on one of my husband John's painting courses, seven months before we married in 1985. That was when I did this sketch of the St Etheldreda statue,

which at that time was virtually hidden behind the altar in the cathedral. We stayed at The Lamb Hotel on that occasion. I later learned that Audrey is a derivation of Etheldreda.



I was quite new to painting and drawing at that time, but now I belong to the Islington Art Society which will be having its 70th Spring Exhibition this year in Hackney at the Gallery, Stoke Newington Library, in Edwards Lane off Stoke Newington Church Street.

St Etheldreda will not be on show, but there'll be plenty of other interesting art, ceramics, sculpture and affordable prints. Do come along to the private view if you wish, 6pm - 8.30pm 20 May, or at other times during 21-29 May. See the IAS website for which I am also responsible. www.islingtonartsociety.org.uk

HACKNEY SOCIETY EVENTS THIS MONTH

The Castle Climbing Centre TOUR on Saturday 8 May 2010

Not for the faint hearted! A tour with a twist (and a rope, harness, carabiner and belay device). Come and explore the former water pumping station with two local climbers – one with an interest in the cultural significance of extreme practice in late-modern societies and the other with a passion for industrial archaeology.

Time: 11am

Venue: The Castle Climbing Centre, Green Lanes, N16

Cost: £5 non-members

Planning and the Historic Environment

WORKSHOP on Saturday 15 May 2010, 10.30am-5pm

For list of speakers see Hackney Society website

Time: 10.30am-5pm

Meet: Hackney Archives, 43 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ

Cost: £12.50

De Beauvoir Conservation Area WALK on Saturday 15 May, 4pm

This local area walk will look at the historical development of De Beauvoir, new and historic buildings, and how special conservation planning controls have shaped development.

Time: 5pm

Meet: Hackney Archives, 43 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SQ

Cost: £5.00 to non-members

Sustainability versus Conservation

DEBATE on Thursday 20 May 2010, 7pm

How are we going to make our historic buildings more environmentally friendly? Is a carbon neutral Victorian house possible? What should government be doing to help us improve our homes? Come and join the debate.

Time: 7pm

Venue: Hothouse, 274 Richmond Road, London E8 3QW

Cost: FREE to all

For more detailed information go to:

<http://www.hackneysociety.org/>

"CELEBRATING 490 YEARS"

While stocks last, pick up a copy of this brochure, from the table in the church entrance lobby. It's an excellent read commemorating the 490th anniversary of our church schools – even older than the present church.

On page 2 there's a mention of **Little Acorns** well

just such a Little Acorn, by the name of Phyllis Perkins was born in Hackney on 18 April 1930. Her parents brought her to be baptised at St John's and she has lived in Hackney ever since, worshipping here at St John's and always being the first to volunteer for whatever is required. In 1946 she started helping with the 14th St John-at-Hackney scout group and later became a Primary School teacher at St Thomas's school, Clapton.

At some point along the way she married Harry Manning, sadly now deceased, and he was one of the men who discovered the fire in the church in 1955 and raised the alarm.

Yes! That **little acorn** grew up to be Phyllis Manning, whom we all cherish and who is the fount of all knowledge about the church's history and indeed Hackney in general.

She was awarded an MBE in 1998 for her services to scouting. Brilliant!

A surprise awaited Phyllis on her arrival at church on Sunday 18 April 2010. Word had got out that it was her 80th birthday. Happy Birthday was sung to her at both services that morning and as if that wasn't enough, it being our AGM also, we sang it lustily for a 3rd time. A member of the Mothers' Union had made a cake with candles for Phyllis to blow out.

Is Phyllis ever going to retire from her many activities? I very much doubt it. For many years she has been, and continues to be, a Shool Governor. I'm not at all surprised! Are you? Well done, Phyllis, and best wishes for the future,

Audrey Seabrook

POETRY CORNER

Last month we published the poem **Hackney Bus Depot** by Janet Colson, but we had no photograph of her to remind you who she was.

Since then Janet has sent two photographs to *Reflections*. So here they are. Thankyou Janet.



Greg, Benjamin and Janet

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
	T: 020 8533 1745	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 9am Choir 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

The next issue of Reflections will be published on 6th June