

FROM THE CLERGY

Fr Rob Wickham



Last night, like countless thousands, I sat down to watch Question Time on the BBC, both ashamed and shocked to see the BNP operating in a public political arena. Sadly, we witnessed a poor standard of

debate, but I was deeply disturbed as to how people (The BNP in this case) can in effect rewrite our shared collective history for their own political ends. This reminded me of our need to be rooted in a story - rooted in a narrative that we can share and celebrate. When we are rooted, we find our identity and our sense of belonging, and an honest and repentant shared story can help humanity to thrive and learn from our mistakes.

The Theologian Stanley Hauerwas speaks profoundly on our need for a narrative, which, for him, is the place of the church. The church alone can identify place, memory and discipline - which teach us the central aspects to our understanding of whom we are and where we have come from.

November is a month for narrative, and a rooting in our story. On 1 November we celebrate All Saints Day, remembering the everyday saints who have shaped us. Then traditionally, on 2 November, we celebrate All Souls Day, remembering the faithful departed. Then on 11 November we celebrate Remembrance Day - a reminder of the depths of horror and evil to which humanity can stoop lest we forget.

At the heart of our narrative is the gift of the Eucharist, for we *do this in remembrance of me* of Him who died upon the cross - our ultimate narrative of good news, the narrative of Jesus Christ. May we be properly rooted in Jesus, and see any *wolf in sheep's clothing* for what they really are.

SPECIAL DATES in NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCE DAY Sunday 8 November

9.30am Parish Eucharist

10.45am Civic act of Remembrance with the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph.

Monday 9 November at the Bishop's private chapel

Fr Sebastian Ejiaku will be Licensed as Assistant Priest for St John-at-Hackney.

Wednesday 11 November at 1pm in The Sanctuary of Homerton Hospital

Marion Brame will be licensed as a Eucharistic Minister.

Please come along to support your PCC Secretary as she begins a new ministry.

Sunday 15 November, 10am in St John's

Fr Sebastian Ejiaku's first service. Please come to welcome him, bringing some food to share.

Saturday 21 November, 1.30pm at Ely Cathedral

900 YEARS OF THE DIOCESE OF ELY

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu will lead a special day of prayer. If you would like to go, please let Fr Rob know.

Starting 29 November (Advent Sunday)

there will be two services each Sunday morning.

9.30am Parish Choral Eucharist,

11am Parish Informal Eucharist.

In between the services, coffee will be served.

If you have any questions, please speak to Fr Rob.

Also on ADVENT SUNDAY 29 November

6.30pm Advent Carol service- a service of light.

Monday 30 November, CONFIRMATION SERVICE at St John's

Bp Stephen will be coming to St John's for our parish Confirmation service.

Along with candidates from St Luke's Homerton and St James' Clapton, some 8 members of St John's will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please support them, and please bring some food to share after the service.



WE ARE A
FAIRTRADE
CHURCH

Deadline for contributions
for December issue is
Sunday 29th November to
seabrook@mac.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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



NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

Now is a good time for anyone who is passionate about churches, chapels and meeting houses to join as a Friend or to donate to the National Churches Trust. The Trust is the leading national independent body concerned with the protection and welfare of Christian places of worship throughout the UK. In 2007 the Historic Churches Preservation Trust (founded 1953) and the Incorporated Church Building Society (founded 1818) became the National Churches Trust. This new charity will help faith communities maintain and enhance the buildings in their care in practical and innovative ways.

It will try to ensure that churches, chapels and meeting houses survive and flourish at the heart of their communities. Rising costs and the practicalities of fundraising are only some of the challenges faced by the volunteers managing these unique and special places. The Trust will strive to raise public awareness about the challenges that local communities like your own are facing. In 2009 grants are available for structural repairs and a limited number are available for projects to install new facilities and improve access. For more details please visit our website www.nationalchurchestrust.org, contact our office on 020 7600 6090, or email: info@nationalchurchestrust.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- The Trust receives no financial aid from government or church authorities. You can help by joining as a Friend from as little as £20 per year. The Friends' Scheme is in development. The more people that join, the stronger our voice will be. Information is available on our website or by telephone.

- We are developing our Volunteers' Programme. If you are interested in giving some time to help us please contact us.
- Make a donation online at our website via your credit card using the
 - 'Give now' secure facilities provided by the Charities Aid Foundation, which enables you to increase the value of your gift, at no extra cost to yourself, if you are a UK taxpayer.
 - If you would like to consider remembering us in your will, please contact the office to ask about legacies, or visit our website.

**National Churches Trust,
31 Newbury Street,
London EC1A 7HU
Tel: 020 7600 6090
Fax: 020 7796 2442**



COME SING AT 'AN AUDIENCE WITH HACKNEY SINGERS!'

Hackney Singers is presenting a unique autumn concert with audience participation **at 6:30pm on Sunday 8 November at St. John-at-Hackney church.**

The 150-strong choir is opening the stage to its audience to sing, at an evening of fun for the many loyal fans of the choir. *I want this concert to be a tribute to the friends and families of Hackney Singers, their loyal audience who have supported them through the years,* said Music Director, Mark Shanahan, a renowned international conductor. *I'd like the audience to experience a little of what happens at a Hackney Singers rehearsal so they can see what the choir goes through every week. It will be an audience with Hackney Singers.*

The programme will include:

- Mozart – Kyrie in D Minor;
- Dvorak – Te Deum;
- Sibelius – Be Still, My Soul;
- Rachmaninov – Blagoslovi, Dushe Moya, Gospoda;
- Debussy – Yver, vous n'êtes qu'un villain;
- Vivaldi – Magnificat.

It promises to be a wonderful and uplifting evening full of the beauty and vibrancy that Hackney Singers' performances have become known for. *It will also be informal and will have a communal feel to it, where the choir will engage with the audience,* added Shanahan.

Tickets cost £10 (£7 concessions) in advance or £12 (£8 concessions) on the door and are available from choir members, by phoning 0208 922 1691 or by emailing tickets@hackneysingers.org.uk

ALL CHANGE FOR HACKNEY DRUM CIRCLE

Joanne Mortimer

There have been many changes at St John-at-Hackney since I became a regular. For instance, Fr David and Fr Lincoln have joined the clergy team, the building project has picked up pace and the congregation has grown.

In October it was announced that two Sunday services would be taking place, in order to accommodate congregation growth: good news! However, this meant there was no longer space for the Hackney Drum Circle on Sundays: not so good for us.

When the drum circle was first contemplated, the aims were: to open up the church building at a time when it would otherwise be closed; to draw in a wide variety of people who otherwise might not cross the threshold of a church; to provide an enjoyable activity for St John's adults and children to enjoy together; to enrich the musical offering at the church; to provide access to a stock of drums for church activities; and to offer fundraising opportunities for the church's work.

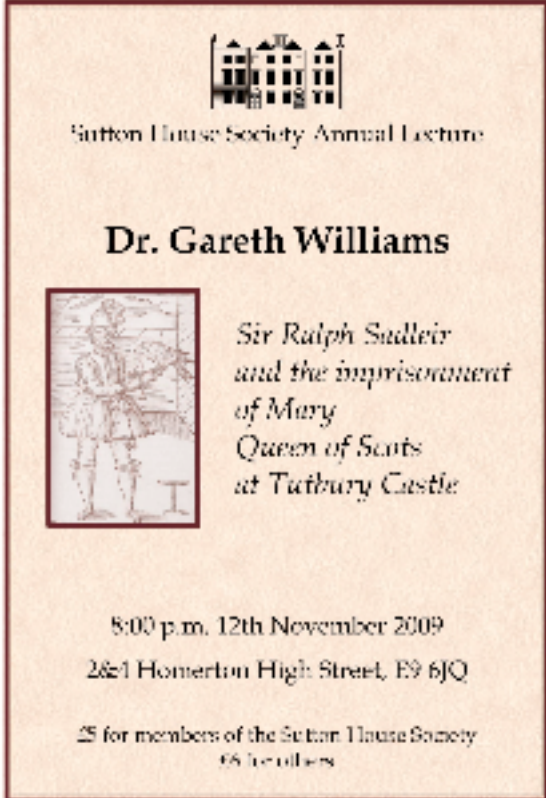
With these aims in mind, after a lot of preparatory work the Hackney Drum Circle burst onto the scene with a big noise in June. There was an impressive turn out of new faces from across the borough, many of whom had never set foot in the church before, together with a strong contingent from St John's. This was exactly the audience we had hoped would mix it up at the drum circle.

We spent a glorious 2 hours rediscovering our natural rhythm, with even the rector shaking some maracas! Everyone left inspired and invigorated, after a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

From that wonderful start the drum circle ran at midday every first Sunday of the month. High points along the way included the drums surviving the arson attack on the church, Ruby's and Condoleza's star turns, and the uplifting outdoor drum circles at the summer fete.

Like St John's, the drum circle has changed over time. However, all those involved with the drum circle want to continue with this community initiative, so we are looking for a new home. Any suggestions?? Let us know by email (HeartOfHackney@googlemail.com) or visit our website to find out where we end up (www.HeartOfHackney.com)!

Tickets for the Sutton House Society's Annual Lecture (£5 to SHS members, £6 to others) are available in advance from Sutton House or, on the night, at the door. Sir Ralph Sadleir built Sutton House. The lecturer, Dr Gareth Williams, is from the British Museum.



The poster features a logo at the top depicting a building with three towers. Below the logo, the text reads 'Sutton House Society Annual Lecture'. The main title is 'Dr. Gareth Williams'. To the left of the title is a small illustration of a man in historical attire, identified as Sir Ralph Sadleir. To the right of the illustration is the text 'Sir Ralph Sadleir and the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots at Tutbury Castle'. At the bottom, the event details are listed: '8:00 p.m. 12th November 2009', '2&1 Homerton High Street, E9 6JQ', and '£5 for members of the Sutton House Society £6 for others'.

Drum Circle at the Summer Fete

Photographs by Joanne Mortimer



REMINDER ABOUT STAMPS

They are still needed! This is a simple way you can help with all those world problems which feature on our TV screens. All the used stamps which we collect in church, go to Oxfam which markets them with great success. **The Box**, a lovely wooden one, by the door, is clearly labelled.

Why not also encourage your children to pop the stamps from their birthday cards into the box!

100 YEARS YOUNG

Judy Phillips

On Saturday 4th September 1909, five young ladies 'gategashed' the first Boy Scout Rally at Crystal Palace in London asking for *something for the girls*. Not long after that, the Girl Guide movement was formed.

On Saturday 5th September 2009, two hundred plus: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Young Leaders and of course the not-so-young leaders from East London got together in Victoria Park to start celebrating 100 years of Guiding.

Most of the St John-at-Hackney Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from The Den were there, having a great time,

Editor: Unfortunately the photograph to accompany this item did not arrive in time..



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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.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Audrey Seabrook



Just to remind you – if you are reading this on a paper copy from church, you can instead receive it electronically, with much better colour photographs, at the

same time saving paper, by sending your email address to seabrook@mac.com. Many people already receive it this way. There is no charge.

POETRY CORNER . . .

. . . has been suspended for this month

STAFF and VOLUNTEERS at ST JOHN-at-HACKNEY

Rector	The Rev'd Rob Wickham T: 020 8985 5374 Ext. 221	E: rectorofhackney@aol.com:
Curate	The Rev'd 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
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
Children and Youth Co-ordinator	Miss Toyin Ajidele T: 020 8985 5374 Ext. 226 T: (m) 07960 493768 E: stjohsstlukesyouthworker@hotmail.co.uk	
Director of Music	Mr Jack Bicker	
Community Development Worker	Mr David Hazeldine	
Cleaner	Ms Hazel Panton	
First Aider	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

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