



ST JOHN
at HACKNEY

Reflections

monthly magazine
October 2009

FROM THE CLERGY

Fr Rob Wickham



For the past few months I have had the privilege of being the Acting Chair of Governors at Hackney Free and Parochial School. In my final week of office, OFSTED decided that it was our turn to be

inspected, and for two days lessons were observed, children, teachers and parents were all questioned, child protection was scrutinised and overall statements and judgements were made. Of course, as I write this I am bound by the confidentiality of the report, but I will let you know the results in due course.

I have been wondering however, what if there was an Inspection made of our churches? What would the criteria be? How dedicated are people in prayer or reading the Bible? Do we carry out the commands of Jesus to love God, and our neighbour? How do we see our vision and mission as a church? Do we reach out to the poor, vulnerable and hurting in our neighbourhood? Do we exercise power in a Gospel manner?

I am glad that the Archdeacon does not send a troop of retired Bishops or Archdeacons for sudden inspections, but it is a good question to ponder.... How well would we do?

Please keep in your prayers the people of St Thomas Stamford Hill, as they welcome Fr William Taylor as their new parish priest. Fr William will be inducted on 20th October at 7.30pm

MONEY, INTEGRITY, WELLBEING:

October debates at ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Fr David Evans



On Tuesday evenings in October our cathedral will host a series of debates intended to address moral questions raised by the financial crisis. They will run from 6.30 - 8.00 pm, will be free of charge,

and will involve lots of specialists noted for their ability to speak in ways that non-specialists can understand. I'm planning to go to as many of them as I can, and would be delighted if anyone wants to join me. Pick up a leaflet in church for more information.

- ∞ Tues 6 October:
Money: a Crisis of Value
- ∞ Tues 13 October:
Work and Human Flourishing
- ∞ Tues 20 October:
Regulation, Freedom and Human Welfare
- ∞ Tues 27 October:
A New Global Order?

PARISH RETREAT 2010

In Lent next year we're planning a Parish Retreat at Bishop Woodford House in Ely, from the evening of Friday 19 February to the afternoon of Sunday 21 February. This will be an opportunity to step back from the hustle and bustle of our lives in order to listen to what the Lord might be saying to us. We'll pray together, we'll share fellowship together, we'll spend some time in silence, and we'll make contact with our friends at Ely Cathedral. The full cost is £121 per person, so do start saving now.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Natasha Campbell, Youth Pastor

Father, we thank you for the opportunity to begin the new school year at Hackney Free, and we ask that you bless the students, teachers, families and local communities.

We pray that you will guide us in all ways, and that we will seek your will in everything that we do from today.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CHANGING SEATS

Jayne Bailey



As part of the development of the church building, the plan is to change the seating in church to something much more mobile which will allow the main church space to be used flexibly for a wider range of services and

activities. The feedback from the recent consultation on the plan was very positive. Following the consultation, the Operations and Finance Working Group is now starting to look at a replacement for our current pews. You may have noticed a different kind of pew in the church.



This is a sample of the type of seating we are looking at. Pews this size are easily moved around, can be stacked for easy storage, come with or without arms and in a

range of wood colour. Why not give it a try and tell us what you think!

We are also starting to think about some of the practicalities involved in replacing the seating, particularly how we can raise the funds needed – approx £75k.

If you want to get more involved with this work why not come to the next Operations & Finance meeting on Sunday, 18 October after the service.

Website: www.stjohnathackney.org.uk

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UPDATE ON CHILDCARE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Little Sparks Crèche (0-2yrs old)

The aim of the *Little Sparks Crèche* is to provide a friendly, safe and enjoyable environment for our youngest children while their parents enjoy morning worship. We are open to any pre-school child from birth up to approximately their 3rd birthday.

Parents normally drop off their children in the Small Hall next to the kitchen, just prior to morning worship. Parents are very welcome to stay with their children if they prefer.

A large selection of toys is available for the children and soon we will be introducing a short story and song time.

Little Sparks is staffed by volunteers, all of whom have been screened in line with the church's child protection policy.

We ask parents to sign their child in on arrival and complete an information form for children being left in the crèche on a regular basis.

Please give the volunteer on duty any personal effects that your child might need during their stay (for example a bottle or favourite comforter).

SAFE AS HOUSES !!!!

Phyllis Manning



The Cub Scouts have been working on their *Home Safety Badge* which includes: causes of accidents in the home; emergency telephone calls; and fire precautions. So off they went to the Fire Station

to learn what the Experts had to say. As soon as they arrived the engines were called out! However they soon returned, so they'd seen the station in action!

The visit included instruction in fire prevention and a chance to see some of the equipment – and even try it out. That hose is really heavy, especially when it's full of water! When they've found out the hazards in their own homes they will have well and truly earned the Badge. Can YOU turn off the water etc. in your home?

St John-at-Hackney Project WORKING PARTY REPORTS

Children & Youth Working Party

Vastiana Belfon



During the summer holidays, Toyin, Andrew, Jack and 15 volunteers treated 42 children to two weeks of exciting activities focusing on the theme of Community. Outings included visits to Somerset House, St Paul's Cathedral, St Martin in the Fields and the National Portrait Gallery. In the second week, the children and youth worked costume-making to produce five pieces of great artwork together, using music, dance, spray painting, percussion and a fashion show demonstrating what can be achieved through recycling. Look out for a video on the St John-at-Hackney website showing some of the incredible work that took place.

At the September meeting of the Children & Youth Working Party, Reece and Kastala (President and Treasurer, respectively, of H Town Saints) made a presentation outlining their proposals for the next four months' activities at the youth club. They also put forward a fully-costed funding bid for board games and a contribution to the cost of future outings. There was much discussion on the future shape of H Town Saints as well as the time at which it will be held.

What's he going to show us next?



It's heavier than you'd think!



THOMAS CROMWELL

Henry VIII's

most trusted minister

oooooooooooooooooooo

hero, villain, thug or martyr?

help us decide

oooooooooooooooooooo

PLAY READING

2pm Sunday 11 October

In the Great Chamber

Sutton House

2 & 4 Homerton High St.,

London E9

FREE

after admission to the house

but numbers are limited

Please email

Lissa.Chapman@btinternet.com

if you would like to attend

VOLUNTEER TO BE A HOST

Are you thinking about who might come for Christmas this year? Perhaps you would like to make it a bit different. Some of the adults from overseas who are currently studying at UK universities would love to spend a couple of days in a real home, rather than on a deserted campus. It is interesting to share Christmas with people for whom it is all quite new (many international students are from China, for example). **HOST** has been linking students with hospitable volunteers for 22 years, at Christmas and also one-off weekends throughout the year. **HOST** is a registered charity backed by the Foreign Office and many universities. It is not necessary for hosts to live near a university, as students are prepared to travel far for this unique experience! See www.hostuk.org or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser for London, Paul Allan,

on 0207 193 6506. Thank you!

HOST UK

Unit 8 Water House, 8 Orsman Road,
London N1 5QJ

Telephone: 020 7739 6292

Fax: 0207 033 6539

Registered Charity No. 327592

Registered Company in England and Wales

No. 2179430

BEEN A HOST? Got a big pot of tea left over?

Here's what you do:

Recipe from Daphne Hutchinson

Pour 3/4 pint of hot tea on to
1 lb dried fruit
and 8oz sugar

Leave overnight

Next day

mix in

1 large egg
2 tablespoons marmalade
1 lb S.R. flour

Bake in 2 x 2lb lined loaf tins
for 1 hour at Gas no 4.

(If you have an electric oven the temperature would be 350°C or 180°F. A fan oven would be 160° and take slightly less time - look in the manufacturer's instruction book.) **ENJOY!**

GROWING ST JOHN-AT-HACKNEY

From the Rector

Over the last few months, a number of people have been listening, thinking and praying about our Sunday morning provision. It has become clear that the following is taking place:

1. We are not currently growing numerically, having reached a glass ceiling on a Sunday of some 120-150 people. This is despite the large numbers coming to us for baptism, school admissions and weddings. This implies that people are not staying in church, which again implies that our provision for worship, follow up and pastoral care needs to be looked at and developed.
2. Our current children's provision is not sustainable, as the 5 groups require some 15 people per week to make them operate well. In reality this means that some people only ever lead our children's groups, and never make it to a church service.
3. Our Sunday morning service now takes usually 90 minutes, as there is so much good news to fit in (Great numbers of children, spotlight, good teaching etc). We are mindful that this is too long for small children, and this then makes it difficult for parents to pray.
4. Our Sunday morning provision, for some, also seems chaotic, and this then makes them stay away on particular Sunday's (Baptism Sunday for example)

To address these issues, we are proposing to enter into a period entitled: *Growing St John at Hackney*. This period, which will begin on Advent Sunday (29th November) will bring with it a new diversity in expressing faith, liturgy, worship, study and prayer, and the proposed provision will look like this:

The 10am Parish Eucharist will be replaced by:

- a. **The 9.30am Parish Choral Eucharist.** This service will have a traditional feel to the worship. Lasting no more than one hour, we will be aiming to lead people to Jesus through the singing of hymns, through scholarly preaching and through the breaking of bread. We shall also aim to develop our Choir with the regular use of anthems. There will be a very basic children's provision, in which toys and activity sheets will be made available in the Hurdman hall.
- b. **The 11.00am Parish All Age Eucharist.** This service will have a more contemporary feel to the worship. Again, lasting no more than one hour, we shall be aiming to lead people to Jesus through the singing of hymns and songs, where music will be led over time by the church band and an informal group of singers. This service will have a greater degree of interaction through teaching, preaching and praying, and it is here where baptisms are likely to be celebrated, although not exclusively. On most Sundays there will be a children's provision with Little Sparks, Sparklers, Stars and Blessings. Older children will be expected to join in with the worship in church.
- c. **Between the services from 10.30am to 11am,** refreshments will be served for both congregations, and a priest will be available for personal counsel, prayer or confession.

There will be occasions during *Growing St John-at-Hackney* when we shall be combining these two services, so that both congregations will be able to worship together.

I do commend this new provision into your prayers. Over the next two months the working parties will be discussing the implications of this developing provision. So let us pray that St John's will grow in faith and number as we offer our worship into the hands of Jesus Christ.

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!

POETRY CORNER

George A. Strong

A Modern Hiawatha

He killed the noble Mudjokivis,
With the skin he made him mittens,
Made them with the fur side inside,
Made them with the skin side outside,
He, to get the warm side inside,
Put the inside skin side outside:
He, to get the cold side outside,
Put the warm side fur side inside:
That's why he put the fur side inside,
Why he put the skin side outside
Why he turned them inside outside.

**Don't spend the whole service
trying to figure that one out!!**



**WE ARE A
FAIRTRADE
CHURCH**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Deadline for contributions
for November issue is
Sunday 25th October 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.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Audrey Seabrook



I have been producing this journal for many years now – originally without a computer, literally cutting and pasting bits together – until it has grown to what you see today.

I have always used a local firm to do the printing. Now, it is produced on the church photocopier. 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.

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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