



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

# BROADSHEET

JANUARY 2009

A MONTHLY NEWS ROUND-UP FOR THE PARISH OF ALDBOROUGH HATCH

## Services

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

*Second Sunday of Christmas*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Holy Communion

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

*Epiphany*

10am Holy Communion

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

*First Sunday of Epiphany*

*Baptism of Christ*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January

*Second Sunday of Epiphany*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January

*Third Sunday of Epiphany*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

*Fourth Sunday of Epiphany*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Holy Communion

### Weekdays

The church is open for private prayer on

Monday (10am to 12noon) and on

Wednesday (10.30am to 12noon) – except

Bank Holidays

**Wednesday**

10am: Holy Communion



**St. Peter's**

**Coffee Morning and  
Bring and Buy Sale**

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January  
St. Peter's Church Halls**

**10am to 12noon**

## Kneeling

*Moments of great calm,  
Kneeling before an altar  
Of wood in a stone church  
In summer, waiting for the God  
To speak; the sun's light  
Ringing in me, as though I acted  
A great role. And the audiences  
Still; all that close throng  
Of spirits waiting as I,  
For the message.  
Prompt me, God;  
But not yet. When I speak,  
Though it be you who speak  
Through me, something is lost.*

*The meaning is in the waiting.* R. S. Thomas.

The meaning is in the waiting. Sadly, we seem to have lost the art and the value of waiting. Even in the current economic situation we may have bought our Christmas presents with credit cards, we celebrated 'Christmas' long before 25<sup>th</sup> December, so that the actual day may well have been something of a let down.

Mince pies were sold in Sainsbury's in September – with a sell-by date of October, and, at the same time, you could buy hot cross buns! Strawberries are available all year round, not just in the summer. We don't have to wait for anything.

And so we frequently find we are living in the future instead of enjoying the present moment. And we miss out on all that 'waiting' can give us. For in the waiting we can value and rejoice in all that is now, rather than constantly anticipating what might be, or looking back to the 'golden times' of the past. Pregnant women know all about waiting. And they would not want the time to be cut short. Waiting allows us to appreciate more fully the event when it does come. And the waiting itself may enable us to deepen our awareness, our understanding and our sensitivity. It is in the waiting of pregnancy that the woman begins to get to know her baby, and the slowly growing little life within.

Life itself is a little like pregnancy – something new growing, slowly, often hidden, yet appreciated most fully in the patience of waiting. And it is in the waiting for God to speak to us that we can be most fully attentive to Him, and thus allow Him to grow in us.

How about a New Year's resolution - to enjoy and value the waiting, to be fully attentive to the present, and to allow God to speak to us in that waiting.

I wish you all a very joyful and fulfilled 2009. **Revd Clare Nicholson, Vicar**

## Vote for Redbridge's Parks!

*Help win £400,000 to improve Fairlop Waters Country Park.*

*The Mayor of London has short-listed Fairlop Waters as one of a number of Priority Parks. Grants will be awarded to parks that receive the most public votes.*

**Vote now for Fairlop Waters**

**Online** - Go to <http://www.london.gov.uk/parksvote/vote/> select your favourite park and vote!

**By TEXT** - Text PARKS followed by your full POSTCODE to 62967 (Texts cost 10p plus standard network rate)

**By post** – request a postal vote form from Public Liaison Unit on 020 7983 4100

*Voting will close on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Only one vote per person.*

**The bid money would be used at Fairlop Waters to:**

- (1) Develop the venue into a state of the art attraction offering a mix of sports and leisure activities, including sailing and climbing;
- (2) Improve footpaths and cycle ways;
- (3) Create artist-designed gateways ;
- (4) Protect its amazing wildlife

**Redbridge Council has also submitted a separate bid** to the Greater London Authority for £2m - and one which isn't decided by public vote - to develop Fairlop Country Park both as a regional and local attraction.



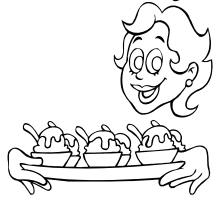
**St. Peter's Bingo Quiz Night**

**St. Peter's Church Halls - Saturday 28th February**



## St. Peter's Winter Lunch

*A Three Course Meal  
with wine or juice*



St. Peter's Church Halls  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February  
12noon for 12.30pm  
Tickets £10 from Val Smith  
(TEL: 020 8599 6452)

*From Westminster to Aldborough Hatch*

### *A history of St. Peter's Church*

Published in October 2007, this eight page A5 booklet tells the story of St. Peter's in some 2,500 words, with 21 full-colour and two black and white illustrations. Priced at £1.50, the booklet covers the history of Westminster Bridge, the building of St. Peter's, the background to the Chapel on Aldborough Hatch Farm and the story of the organ.  
*Copies are available from 020 8599 7250.  
All profits go to St. Peter's Church.*

#### Monday Club

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> January  | Cards          |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> January | Open Afternoon |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> January | Quiz           |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> January | Bingo          |

### Church's life force

Going to church every week can help you to live longer, say scientists.

In fact, attend two services a week and you can cut your chances of dying by 20 per cent.

*"There is something going on here that we don't understand,"*

said Dr Eliezer Schnall who led a long-term US government-funded study of the health of 92,000 women.

The findings were published in the journal *Psychology and Health*.

*Daily Express, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008*

#### St. Peter's Organisations

- Monday Club - Monday 2pm
- Beaver Scouts - Monday 5.15pm
- Cub Scouts - Monday 6.30pm
- Scouts - Monday 7.45pm
- Brownie Guides - Tuesday 7pm
- Guides - Wednesday 7pm

*Keith Tranmer continues his World War II recollections*

## Defending the Hatch against invasion

The Bowling Clubhouse in Seven Kings Park housed six members of the RAF Balloon Service. They had a barrage balloon and a Lewis-gun to defend it from German fighter planes intent on sending it down in flames, but hardly a defence for an invasion which took on a more serious aspect.

Very quickly work commenced on building defences, one of the lines being the railway embankment (steam trains in those days), and some of the tank traps (large square concrete blocks) can still be seen by those who walk down Chase Lane to Sainsbury's. At the Barley Lane - Eastern Avenue junction, a large concrete pill box was erected, whilst Hainault Road junction had a large hutted camp to house a company of the Grenadier Guards. After the war this became the home of ex-Polish soldiers wanting to stay in this country. Abury House and unoccupied houses in Spearpoint Gardens housed the Scots Guards.

There is a defence structure remaining of their stay in the alley between No. 1 Spearpoint (the Surgery) and the two shops. Sunk in the roadway are small concrete blocks which once had metal handles, now rusted away. When removed old sections of railway line, bent at angles, could be inserted overlapping to form an effective tank trap. Later the Guards were replaced by the Royal Ulster Rifles, until the danger of invasion passed. They may have had a canteen in the church hall run by Mrs Lipscombe.

The airfield built at Fairlop was used as a standby for Hornchurch which was put out of action by dive bombers during the Battle of Britain. Fairlop provided facilities to refuel and re-arm and occasionally landing for planes damaged in action as recalled by the late John Wilkinson of this parish who served at both airfields mentioned.

In 1944 and 'D' Day, word went out to the Bawdsey Warden's Post (and others) that a nerve gas may be released on us by the Germans and boxes of gas mask filters were issued in large numbers to clip over the existing filters and seal with tape provided. I recall houses in Bawdsey Avenue where I was handed gas masks where the Perspex eye piece was split or broken because the children of the house were allowed to play with them.

At about the same time I recall shortly after going on duty at the Post, hearing what I took to be the sound of an aircraft with engine trouble and from the door saw a plane on fire going at speed above me which I reported to HQ by telephone. The following day an illustrated leaflet - I believe headed 'Secret' - arrived informing us of the Flying Bomb weapon, later known as the V1 and in the weeks that followed we saw plenty of examples. These in turn were joined by the V2, the first of which in the Hatch was that of the Dick Turpin incident (see BROADSHEET, August 2008). The second fell in the grounds behind where the maisonettes stand (that run from the Ramsgill Drive bus stop on the South side of

the Eastern Avenue to Aldborough Road South). The maisonettes were built after the war so the houses on the North side that faced onto the Eastern Avenue took the full blast, blowing in front doors and windows and tiles off the roofs. The Wardens' Post that stood where the Ambulance Station now stands had a very close shave.

A lasting impression of those days I still recall, when walking down Aldborough Road South and past the second park gate - the one used by cars wishing to park. Old soldiers used to say for safety under bombardment, jump into the nearest shell hole because a shell never strikes twice in the same spot. Well, a small German bomb fell in the road just outside the gates and badly damaged the Park Keeper's house inside the railings. The hole was filled in leaving a circle of the crater in the road. Within a month a second bomb fell slap in the centre of this circle, but did not explode.

*Continuing the series of articles looking back over the past when the sun shone every day.*

## Church and Chapel - built within a year

The booklet *From Westminster to Aldborough Hatch - A history of St. Peter's Church*, published in October 2007, refers briefly to the Chapel - not a church - of St. James which stood on the North-West corner of the junction of the A12 with Hainault Road.

Major G. E. Ibbetson built the chapel in 1862 - whilst St. Peter's was also being built - behind his residence at Heath House, Little Heath. It was originally intended for the use of his family and friends, but it attracted a considerable congregation from outside. Major Ibbetson maintained it and employed a succession of curates until his death in 1908, when the Heath House estate was bought by the County Borough of West Ham for the extension of Goodmayes Mental Hospital. The chapel was leased by West Ham to the congregation, and the last curate, H. R. Landon, remained until 1918.

Financial difficulties then caused the congregation to appeal to the Bishop, who executed a new lease and placed the chapel under the administration of the Vicar of Aldborough Hatch, in whose parish it lay. Services were continued until about 1930. In 1933 the building was demolished.

The chapel, known as the Chapel of St. James, was never consecrated. It was built of brick, with stone dressings, and consisted of nave, chancel, aisles, transepts and a west tower with five bells.

The panelling from the chapel was moved to St. Peter's, where it was installed in the sanctuary and remains there to this day. The brass processional cross was also taken to St. Peter's and these days is used only at festivals, for it has developed something of a wobble. The baptismal registers have been preserved in St. Peter's.

Bernard, who worships at St. Peter's with his wife, Jean, was born and brought up in Little Heath. His father went to the Aldborough Hatch Church School in the grounds of St. Peter's - now part of the church halls. Bernard was baptised at St. James' Chapel. **RJ**

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Published by: St. Peter's Aldborough Hatch Parochial Church Council

Printed by: SPS Communications, 499 Aldborough Road North, Ilford, Essex IG2 7SY - 020 8599 6452

Copy deadline for Next Issue:  
Sunday 5th January