



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

BROADSHEET

JUNE 2009

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

Services

Sunday 7th June

First Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 14th June

Second Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 21st June

Third Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Service
6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 28th June

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

St. Peter's Flower Festival

9am Holy Communion
7pm Festal Evensong

Sunday 5th July

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion

Weekdays

The church is open for private prayer on Monday and Wednesday (10.30am to 12noon) – except Bank Holidays

Wednesday

10am: Holy Communion



Charmas Stage School will be dancing round the Maypole at this year's Flower Festival – see details of the programme of events in the next column. Here they are seen (above) strutting their stuff at the May Day Fete at St. Peter's last month.

One of the great festivals

The last Sunday in May was Pentecost Sunday, or Whit Sunday as it is sometimes called. It's at this time when we think about the Holy Spirit, remembering the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church. But the Holy Spirit is probably one of the hardest aspects of our faith to explain, as well as being one that can divide churches. Yet the Holy Spirit brings our faith alive.

I think it's hard to explain because it's a bit like me. What *is* me? After all, every single cell in my body has died and been renewed many times over in my lifetime. Physically I am not the same person I was even a year ago, let alone more than sixty years ago! Yet I have a very real sense of being the same person. I have memories as far back as the age of two! Of course, I don't feel the same as that two-year-old, but I do feel I'm the same person – just grown up a little (I hope!). Perhaps the Holy Spirit is a little like that sense of self. It's the aspect of God that communicates God, Father and Son, to us. And I believe it is the part of God that enlivens our spirits, freeing us to become more truly, more fully, ourselves.

I don't think God wants us to be Jesus clones! He wants me to be me, and you to be you! But without the limitations and the distortions that constrain us – you know, all the things that have happened to us, either things we have done ourselves, or the things others have done, or just the circumstances of life. Lots of things can work together to hold us back from being 'the real me', the 'me' God creates us to be. Isn't that what Jesus came to show us – how to live as free people, loved and created by God? The Holy Spirit works within us to give us that freedom. And that freedom allows us to recognise our common humanity. When I am truly free to be myself, I can more easily allow you to be yourself, because your differences no longer threaten me.

So, as I write this in early May, I look forward to celebrating Pentecost as one of the great festivals of the Church year. Will you celebrate, too? I hope so.

Rev Clare Nicholson, Vicar

St. Peter's Flower Festival 2009

Theme: Our green and pleasant land

Saturday 27th June

Church open from 10am to 7pm **Craft Market** open from 10am to 6pm
Refreshments available from 10am to 6pm (including hot and cold drinks, ploughman's, strawberries and cream teas)

Robert Pyatt 'Music for a Summer Afternoon' on the green at 1pm

Display of Greek Dancing on the green at 2pm

Choral Music The combined Choirs of St. John's, St. Laurence's and St. Peter's will give a recital in Church at 3pm

The Palmerstone Dancers on the green at 4pm

Service of Compline in Church at 7pm

Sunday 28th June

Service of Holy Communion at 9am

Church open from 10am to 7pm **Craft Market** open from 10am to 5pm
Refreshments available from 10am to 5pm (including hot and cold drinks, ploughman's, strawberries and cream teas)

Robert Pyatt 'Music for a Summer Afternoon' on the green at 1pm

The Palmerstone Dancers on the green at 2pm

Choral Music The combined Choirs of St. John's, St. Laurence's and St. Peter's will give a recital in Church at 3pm

Charmas Stage School on the green at 4pm **Festal Evensong** at 7pm

Monday 29th June

Church open from 10am to 7pm

Around the Hatch

Flower Festival Sponsorship

We are again inviting friends of St Peter's to sponsor the floral arrangements at this year's Flower Festival to celebrate the life of a loved one. If you or your family would like to participate in this scheme (or require further information), please contact Mrs Val Smith, 499, Aldborough Road North, ILFORD, Essex, IG2 7SY for a form before 12th June. (Forms are also available from the Church.) The minimum sponsorship remains at £15 and cheques should be made payable to St Peter's Church. We are also inviting people who pay income tax to Gift Aid their donation. We will arrange for the name of your loved one to be attractively displayed close to the main door of the church, but if you particularly wish a name to also appear near a certain window or display please speak to Val.

Summer reflections in words and music

Julie and Gerry
with

The Redbridge Ladies'
Choir

in St. Peter's Church
Saturday 18th July at 7.30pm

Light refreshments

Tickets £5 from

Yvonne Jeffries (TEL: 020 8599 7250)

St. Peter's Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale

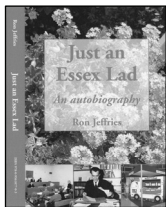
St. Peter's Church Halls

10am to 12noon

Saturday 11th July

Monday Club

1st June Cards
8th June Open Afternoon
15th June Speaker
22nd June Bingo
29th June Visit St. Peter's Flower Festival



Just an Essex lad is written by the Editor of the St. Peter's BROADSHEET. With a full-colour cover and 390 pages plus 8 pages of photographs, the book includes articles about St.

Peter's in the 40s and 50s that have appeared in the BROADSHEET. The cover price is £9.99 (plus £2.75 postage and packing) from Ron Jeffries, 37 Spearpoint Gardens, ILFORD IG2 7SX (TEL: 020 8599 7250; Email: ronjeffries@hotmail.com)

Just Desserts Evening

Friday 12th June at 7.30pm

Aldborough Hall Farm

Have your main course at home, then enjoy a range of delicious desserts at 50p per portion - Raising money to purchase the flowers for the Flower Festival

£1.5m for Fairlop Waters

Redbridge Council has secured £1,042,710 from the Government's Growth Area Fund, £400,000 from the London Mayor's Priority Parks programme and £60,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families' 'Play-builder' scheme for investment in Fairlop Waters and is pursuing opportunities to secure up to £900,000 in additional grants to ensure Fairlop Waters becomes one of the Capital's finest open space recreational facilities. Consultation in 2007 showed the majority of public opinion favoured the retention and improvement of the park's existing facilities, with the provision of sailing, outdoor pursuit and children's play resources. A new entrance to the south of the park, opening it up to Station Road in Barking, will be completed shortly. Other improvements include park landscaping, the provision of play facilities and the development of a sailing centre with dry side facilities. This summer will be spent doing ecology work, with additional landscaping recommencing in the autumn.

The Editor continues to look back to the post-war era in Aldborough Hatch, when the highlight of the week was a walk with your girl friend down Painters Road on a Sunday afternoon and a cuddle in a haystack - if the farmer wasn't looking - and there were no mobiles to interrupt the sylvan twittering of the birds!

Simple pleasures

Much of the social life in these parts in the 1940s and 1950s revolved around St. Peter's and our pleasures were simple ones. The highlight of the social calendar was the monthly St. Peter's Birthday Party held in what is now the back hall (for the hall at the front had yet to be built).

These events were a cunning ruse - by the Vicar, the Revd Joseph Palanque Byng, I'll wager - to have the refreshments paid for by those luckless ones whose birthdays happened to fall in that month. In this way, the church coffers were filled with the entrance fees (all of one-shilling-and-sixpence in real money) with no deductions for expenses. And not only did the birthday lads and lasses have to pay for the tea, milk, sugar and a delicious selection of austerity cakes, but also for the spot prizes. An important, nay vital, part of the evening was the spot waltz. Here the dancers pranced around the floor until the music stopped, when the Master of Ceremonies (usually the Vicar) would blindfold some hapless soul (often one of the Churchwardens). The latter would move amongst the dancers as instructed by the MC: "Two paces to the left, four paces to the right, two paces backwards - touch the nearest couple on your right". The

pair who were touched received one of the spot prizes. Simple enough, but the excitement was intense, I can tell you - for you might win a bar of Lifebuoy Soap!

The music was provided by the redoubtable Nora Wilkinson who was a dab hand on the pianoforte. One-time Captain of the Girl Guide Company and, I am sure, a force to be reckoned with in the company's forerunner, the Girls' Friendly Society, Nora had entertained the troops during the war by tinkling the ivories when tea and wads were served in the church halls to the lads and lasses stationed far from home on Fairlop Airfield. Now that the dark days of wartime were behind us, Nora brightened many a Saturday evening in the grey post-war era.

Later Harry Harmer joined Nora with his piano accordion - and a mighty machine it was too. The trio was complete when Nora's husband, John, joined in with his drum set - when they called themselves the Harmonics. It has to be said that John was the unlikeliest of folk to beat the drums and tinkle with the cymbals, for whilst Nora would smile away with enjoyment and Harry squeezed for all he was worth with a look of contented determination, John had a dour, fixed expression on his face with not a movement of a muscle. But he made a jolly sound with the drums and was adept at clashing the cymbals when the need arose - as it often did. The dancing was interspersed with games, which would be the excuse for the more daring amongst us to slip outside for a kiss and a cuddle in the churchyard. If only the gravestones could talk, what a story they would tell!

The last dance of the evening was crucial for any lad who was tilting his cap (as the saying went) at a particular young maiden, for whoever you tripped around the floor with in the last waltz of the evening was the girl you would be duty bound to walk home afterwards. There would be much posturing and positioning as the last dance hove into view. Those lads who were not quick enough were left to meander home alone, although it has to be said that occasionally a lass would spurn the boy with whom she had waltzed and walk home arm in arm with a girl friend who had missed out and had sobbed throughout the first verse of the National Anthem, the singing of which brought all social events to an end in those days, with us all standing with backs like ramrods, fists clenched with hands at our sides and thumbs down the seam of our trousers, and with heads held high. **RJ**

From Westminster to Aldborough Hatch A history of St. Peter's Church

Priced at £1.50, copies are available from

Ron Jeffries on 020 8599 7250.

All profits to St. Peter's Church.

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

Vicar: Revd. Clare Nicholson - 020 8599 0524 Churchwardens: Roger Goffee - 020 8590 1610, Martyn Stewart - 01277 821790

Reader: Brian Kerrison - 020 8599 4368 Hall Bookings' Secretary: Stella Fletcher - 020 8599 3115

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