



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

BROADSHEET

JULY 2009

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

Services

Sunday 5th July

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 12th July

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 19th July

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

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

Sunday 26th July

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 2nd August

Ninth 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

Redbridge Ladies Choir Concert

The Canon Palmer Catholic School
Monday 6th July at 8pm
Varied programme
Tickets £5 including light refreshments
from Catherine and Doug Hunt
(TEL: 020 8599 0576)

Monday Club

6th July AGM and Cream Tea
13th July Bring and Buy Sale
20th July Speaker: Ron Jeffries
27th July Bingo

Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st August – 10am to noon
37 Spearpoint Gardens
in aid of The Children's Society

Our green and pleasant land

The theme for our Flower Festival this year is: *'Our green and pleasant land'*. I hope you are enjoying it and, indeed, having a pleasant time! As I write this I'm looking forward to the Flower Festival and seeing just how this theme is explored in flowers.

After Easter I was lucky enough to visit Switzerland, for a study tour of the United



Nations in Geneva, with many talks and exhibitions on the work of the various teams there, followed by a few days holiday. Switzerland is beautiful.

However, flying back from Zurich to the City of London airport, we passed over the Channel and South Coast, the South Downs and Surrey, and I was struck by the sheer amount of green. Since then, I've been looking back at some of my holidays in this country. East Anglia, Cornwall, Wales, the Peak District, Shropshire, Yorkshire . . . they really are lovely. I think we are very lucky. Perhaps we are particularly lucky because our country is small. That means we have a great variety – lovely coastal regions not far from hills and dales, picturesque villages and historical towns, agricultural areas and woodlands, all within relatively easy reach. We have mountains, too, and areas that feel incredibly remote and peaceful yet can be reached in a few hours at most. We don't have to travel for days to reach a change in scenery!

I'm sure we all have our favourites. Most people know mine is St. Ives in Cornwall. It is simply the best place on earth! I am grateful for them and for the chance to visit them all.

In these times of economic anxiety, even hardship for many, and when we keep on hearing of our politicians' failings and are tempted to lose trust in our political systems, isn't it good to remind ourselves of all the good things that are available to us all? We are so rich in beauty, and I want to celebrate our wealth and thank God for it. I hope our Flower Festival has helped you do the same. May God Bless you and give you great pleasure in His gifts to us all.

Rev Clare Nicholson, Vicar

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

Around the Hatch

If you were around prior to the 1980s, you will understand why the bench immediately outside the porch at St. Peter's was placed there in memory of Archie Titmarsh (Mr T) and not be confused by the fact that the plaque on the Reader's Desk in the Chancel inside the church refers only to Archie Titmarsh. But if you are a relative newcomer to these parts you may be slightly bewildered! But why the different names? Here all is revealed . . .

Mr T

Mr T, as Archie Titmarsh was known, was a very strong influence in the lives of many young people at St. Peter's. He was a civil servant – a reserved occupation during the war – who had lived in East London until sometime in the late 1930s when he bought a house in Applegarth Drive. Next door lived Mr and Mrs Sewell, a lovely East End couple who were great friends with Mr T. They seemed to be in and out of each others houses all the time and as a bachelor, Mr T clearly enjoyed having some meals prepared for him by Mrs Sewell. Both the Sewells and Mr T were members of St. Peter's, Mr Sewell being a churchwarden for some years and Mr T serving as Lay Reader in church, leader of the Sunday School and Group Scout Leader of the 1st Aldborough Hatch (St. Peter's) Scout Group.

Mr T is not to be confused with Mr T, the actor, who appeared in the popular American TV series in the 1980s – *The A Team*. Our Mr T pre-dated the one appearing in *The A Team* by about 30 years.

When Mr T – our Mr T that is – died in the 1980s, the Diocese of Chelmsford – in its infinite wisdom - refused to allow us to erect a brass plaque in the church naming him as Mr T, making the point that people would assume it was in memory of the actor. What rubbish! Everyone in Aldborough Hatch knew Mr T (although some spelt it like the beverage when writing notes to Mr T regarding their offspring). When the plaque was unveiled in church many folk wondered who this Archie Titmarsh was. But we got round this by installing a bench seat in the churchyard where the plaque bears the name Mr T – for at that time the Diocese did not need to approve a brass plaque adorning a bench outside the church building. That showed 'em! Although I fear that today there may well be diocesan legislation that would put a stop to such a thing being permitted.

So well regarded was Mr T that in addition to paying for the two plaques and the bench seat, the donations we received on his death (which approached £1,000, a goodly sum in the 1980s) enabled us to purchase and erect the flag staff that stands in the church hall grounds, buy a couple of flags to hoist up the said flag staff and to pay for the design and manufacture of the badge bearing the St. Peter's keys that members of the 1st Aldborough Hatch (St. Peter's) Scout Group wear on their scarves to this day. Further a flag and tape recorder were purchased for the Girl Guides to enjoy.



This photograph of St. Peter's Church Choir, taken in 1950, includes Mr T, and appears in 'Just an Essex lad', the autobiography of the Editor of the BROADSHEET, now in its second printing (details from the author – TEL: 020 8599 7250, email: ronjeffries@hotmail.com). (Back row) Tony Mathews (Server), Mr T (Lay Reader), Mr Cornish, Ron Jeffries (Server), Mr Bretton (Choirmaster), Mr Smith, Mr Webb, Mr Vernon, Colin Brett, Mr Fairey (Organist), Brian Brett (Server); (Middle row) Ted Vernon, Geoff Griffiths (Server), Bob Smith, Raymond Woolmore, Adrian Lankaster, Brenda Harmer; (Front row) Laurence Tasker, John Bretton, Revd Joseph Palanque Byng (Vicar), Barry Priest, Brian Heaton

Mr T had that uncanny knack of being able to relate to young people who put their trust in him and yet both were able to keep their distance. Over the years I called at his home on numerous occasions, but rarely went beyond the front door, unless a committee meeting was to be held in his house.

When I returned from National Service in 1953, Mr T had recently taken over as Acting Group Scout Leader of the 1st Aldborough Hatch, but continued to run the Wolf Cub Pack of some 36 lively 8-to-11-year-olds and needed help. "Come along and give me a hand," said Mr T. "It will only be one night a week." I agreed and, like many others before me and, no doubt, many others after me, I assumed that it would be only one night a week, but it turned out to be a commitment that virtually took over my waking hours.

With Mr T as Group Scout Leader, the 1st Aldborough Hatch numbered well over a hundred strong – a full Cub Pack of 36 (with a waiting list almost as long), a Scout Troop of 40 or so, a Senior Scout Troop of 20, and ten or so Rover Scouts of whom some were amongst the dozen or so adult leaders. The 1950s and 1960s were in many ways the heyday of the Scout Movement in suburban London.

Mr T was an accomplished pianist, who played entirely by ear. He was equally at home bashing out choruses (and singing at the top of his voice) in Sunday School and accompanying rehearsals for the Scout Group's annual Gang Shows – held at the Torbitt, then St. John's Halls and finally at Ilford County High. Somewhat bandy in the legs, Mr T would amble up Applegarth Drive in shorts and BP hat. He had his own small

tent which he pitched at many a Group camp. He did not like the wind and would complain when the metal eyelets in the canvas rattled against the metal tent poles. A tot of whiskey last thing at night ensured that he slept on his camp bed – the only one permitted in camp in those days.

Whenever I pass Waltham Forest Town Hall, I think of Mr T. The Wolf Cubs (forerunners of today's Cub Scouts) were camping at the White House in Woodford in the late 1950s. Late on Whit Saturday evening Mr T suggested that some of the young leaders might take an hour or two off – for the Cubs were asleep and Mr T would keep watch. And so a number of us piled into Ken's car to visit a local hostelry. It was a hot and sultry evening and driving back to camp we passed the said Town Hall where the lake glistened in the moonlight at midnight. Soon we were splashing in the cool water in our underpants. I guess that today such behaviour would attract ASBOS – and probably rightly so!

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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