



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

# BROADSHEET

AUGUST 2009

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

## Services

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

*Ninth Sunday after Trinity*

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

### Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August

*Tenth Sunday after Trinity*

8am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August

*Eleventh Sunday after Trinity*

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

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

*Twelfth Sunday after Trinity*

8am Holy Communion  
10.30am Holy Communion  
6.30pm Evensong

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August

*Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity*

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

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

*Fourteenth 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

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question: "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven . . ."

## Help change the world

I wonder if you watch the news or read a newspaper with despair in your heart? There is so much tragedy, so much suffering and much evil in the world. There seems little anyone can do to make the world a better place.

Often, I feel helpless. I long to see a world in which every single person is valued, and has all they need to live a happy and fulfilled life. No more wars, no more hunger, no more disease – and no more selfishness or greed! A pipe dream. Yes, of course. But to despair is to ensure that our world continues in its seemingly self-destructive way.

There's a story about a boy walking along a beach. All along the shore there were thousands of starfish washed up. You could hardly walk on the sand for them. The boy was putting a few into his bucket and taking them back to the sea.

A man came along and said: "There are thousands of starfish. Why do you bother? You will hardly make an impression. You will only be able to put a few back into the sea."

The boy replied: "It will matter for these few and it will matter to me."

Though our effort to make the world better may seem puny in comparison to the need, it does matter. It certainly matters to anyone you help and perhaps makes the world a different place for them. The world is made up of individuals – their pain, their suffering can be the whole of the world for them. It will matter to you, because you will have changed the world for someone, perhaps by a simple act of friendship. And it matters to God, because God loves the person or people you help just as He loves you.

Have a good August – and help to change the world!

Revd Clare Nicholson, Vicar



## Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August

10am to noon

37 Spearpoint Gardens

in aid of The Children's Society

*Sit in the shed-with-the-overhang – look for the frogs and goldfish – find the cats – seek the squirrels*



## St. Peter's Summer Lunch

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

12noon for 12.30pm

Three course lunch with wine or fruit juice

£10 – bookings to Yvonne Jeffries (020 8599 7250)

Payment with booking please  
Good company – fine food

## St. Peter's Quiz Night

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September – 7.30pm

Tables of 8 – Hot Supper

Tickets £7 - Bookings to Yvonne Jeffries (020 8599 7250)

## Around the Hatch

### Flower Festival success

Our 29<sup>th</sup> St. Peter's Flower Festival at the end of June was a resounding success with visitors from far and near enjoying the sunshine – and avoiding the thunderstorms!



### Flower Festival DVD

A DVD with 88 colour photographs of the flower arrangements and accompanying music is available at £5 (plus 76p postage and packing) from Ron Jeffries, 37 Spearpoint Gardens, IG2 7SX. Cheques payable to St. Peter's – all profits to St. Peter's.

## Grand Charity Sponsored Fun Walk

Valentines Park, Ilford

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 10am

The Cardinal Heenan Centre and the Ilford Athletic Club are organising this event to raise funds for Anxiety Care, Royal British Legion, Little Havens Children's Hospice, CAFOD, Arthritis Support Network (NE London), Cardinal Heenan Centre, St John Ambulance and the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (Childcare). The first event is the 'competitive run' organised by the Ilford Athletic Club - £5 entry fee - 10am to 11am. The second event is the 'sponsored walk' – open to all - from 11am to 2pm - free entry, but sponsorship must have already been obtained when being registered.

See [www.cardinalheenancentre.com](http://www.cardinalheenancentre.com) for more information and forms, or contact Joe Browne at the Cardinal Heenan Centre on 020 8220 2290. [cardinalhcentre@aol.com](mailto:cardinalhcentre@aol.com)

### Monday Club

3<sup>rd</sup> August Cards  
10<sup>th</sup> August Open Afternoon  
17<sup>th</sup> August Speaker  
24<sup>th</sup> August Bingo  
31<sup>st</sup> August Bank Holiday – no Club

*We continue recollections of St. Peter's from the time the author joined the church choir in 1944 through to sometime in the late 1960s, when the sun shone from morn till night throughout the long, warm summers . . .*

## Vicars I have known

I have sat through the Sermons of some eight vicars of St. Peter's Aldborough Hatch. I have listened to many of them, but would admit that as a choirboy I would often revert to counting the stars painted on the ceiling in the chancel – I made it ninety-nine or one-hundred-and-one, depending on how wide awake I was at the time.

The Rev. Byng clasped his hands firmly behind his back when preaching from the pulpit, fiddling with his fingers. The Rev. Lawrence Pickles spoke through one side of his mouth, whilst staring out through the window adjacent to the pulpit as though seeking inspiration from the fields beyond. It was he who erected the sounding board above the pulpit to assist the voice of the preacher to reach the distant parts of the church building. Later – much, much later – we installed a sound system with static and roving microphones, something never even dreamt about in the Rev. Pickles' time.

The Rev and Mrs Byng retired to a house in Southbourne, left to Mrs Byng by a relative. Yvonne and I spent one Easter there early in our married life. The house was so cold that we longed for bedtime so that we might cuddle-up under the blankets. I would guess that money was tight in retirement, for as we moved into a room they would switch on one bar of an electric fire and turn it off as soon as we left the room.

The Rev. Pickles lived with his mother in the Victorian vicarage with its huge garden, lake and meadow – all where St. Peter's Close now stands. A former journalist on the *Yorkshire Post* (a fact of which he was very proud and rightly so, for it was – and is - a prestigious newspaper), Rev Pickles was a keen gardener, but preferred to work with fork and hoe in the nude. Callers at the Vicarage when the Vicar happened to be gardening were advised by Mrs Pickles to call out as they searched for the Vicar amongst the geraniums to give him time to pull on a pair of corduroy shorts which were all the rage at the time.

The Rev. Jack Hesketh came to St. Peter's following a stint as chaplain to the deaf. It was the Rev Jack who sold off the Vicarage meadow in the early 1960s – as was his right under church law at the time – to a developer who erected the homes that now stand in St. Peter's Close. There was sufficient cash to build what was then a state-of-the-art vicarage and to give the Vicar a salary that exceeded that of the Bishop. But within a year or so, ecclesiastical laws changed and the money went to the diocese, leaving subsequent vicars with the same salary as their counterparts elsewhere.

The Rev Hesketh's daughter continues to live locally and smiles when I remind her of the day I returned to my home to find a somewhat distraught Yvonne standing on the doorstep where she greeted me with the news that "the Vicar is in our bedroom with a bird!" Fearing the worst, I

dashed upstairs to find the Rev Hesketh on his hands and knees under our dressing table, trying to catch a sparrow that had flown in through an open window.

Sadly, the Rev Hesketh died whilst in post shortly before Christmas, to be succeeded by Rev Bill Barnes, whose wife died shortly after they moved into the brand new vicarage, leaving Bill to bring up his two sons alone. Two tragic deaths within a matter of a few years.

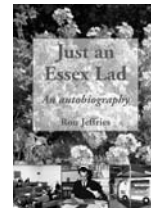
But enough about Vicars – for those who followed are hale and hearty. If they had any idiosyncrasies (and I am not saying if they did or did not), I am too much of a coward to divulge them – well, not yet anyway! **RJ**

## Putting the record straight

I am grateful to Brenda King, neé Harmer, for writing to put me right about two aspects of my article under the heading *Simple Pleasures* which appeared in the June issue of the BROADSHEET. Brenda's parents, Doris and Harry Harmer, lived in Ramsgill Drive. Brenda and her mother, who now live in Kettering, enjoy the BROADSHEET but make the point that Nora Wilkinson was a Lieutenant in the Girl Guides and not Captain – for this role was filled by Mrs Lipscombe.

Further, the band in which Harry, Nora and her husband played – and to whose music we lads and lasses danced the hours away - was not a trio but a quartet. The fourth member played the trumpet and the saxophone. Doris cannot recall his name but recalls that he lived on the corner of Ramsgill Drive and Bawdsey Avenue. Brenda tells me that her mother, now 94, often talks about her time in the Hatch, her mince pies at Christmas, sponges, scones and rock cakes, and they both send their best wishes to the members of the Monday Club.

My apologies for the errors of memory. **RJ**



**Now in Second Printing, 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 £12.99 (plus £2.75 postage and packing) from Ron Jeffries, 37 Spearpoint Gardens, IG2 7SX (TEL: 020 8599 7250; Email: [ronjeffries@hotmail.com](mailto:ronjeffries@hotmail.com))

**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

**BROADSHEET Editor:** Ron Jeffries – 020 8599 7250 **Distribution:** Yvonne Jeffries – 020 8599 7250

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