



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

BROADSHEET

JANUARY 2010

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

Services

Sunday 3rd January

Second Sunday of Christmas

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

Wednesday 6th January

Epiphany

10am Holy Communion

Sunday 10th January

*First Sunday of Epiphany
Baptism of Christ*

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 17th January

Second Sunday of Epiphany

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

Sunday 24th January

Third Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion
10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 31st January

Second Sunday before Lent

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

Sunday 7th February

Sunday next before Lent

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
Wednesday (10.30am to 12noon)
except Bank Holidays and between
Christmas and the New Year
Wednesday 10am: Holy Communion

**If you have a child or
children aged three or over,
why not try the newly-formed
Sunday Club meeting at
St. Peter's Church Halls?
See overleaf for details.**

Time for pruning?

I try not to overeat or drink to excess at any time – but at Christmas it is more difficult, isn't it! In the run-up to Christmas I seemed to go out for meals with quite a few different people – it is a lovely way of meeting up, sharing news, maintaining friendships – and celebrating Christmas with people I'm unlikely to see over Christmas itself. So, in January, I'm aware of needing to cut back and to re-establish a healthier lifestyle. Back to swimming and healthy eating, hopefully! Of course, there is nothing wrong with parties and celebrations – there are plenty of references in the Bible, including descriptions of heaven as sharing in feasts! And Jesus Himself was criticised for taking part in the feasting and carousing of His day!

So, we needn't feel guilty. But the time for pruning comes! I use the word a little tongue in cheek – read the article about the pruning of St. Peter's trees below! They are not falling down, but to keep them safe and healthy we do need to get them pruned. Just like us, they need to be kept healthy. Perhaps if you feel the need to reassert healthier living after Christmas, you'll consider giving a little of what you save to help our trees!

I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year – may 2010 be a good year for you all. God Bless.

Revd Clare Nicholson, Vicar

Save the Trees!

Is it really five years since we ran the *Save the Trees* campaign? At that time the trees in our churchyard and on the green near the church halls were in a dangerous state and needed remedial work that involved cutting back the dead wood. Now,



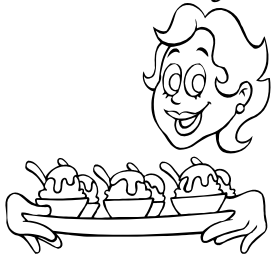
five years later, it has become necessary for more work to be done to make sure that the trees are safe from the extremes of weather that we seem to be experiencing. To help pay for the work we propose to have a Gift Day on Saturday 6th February 2010.

If you, like us, appreciate the beauty of the trees throughout the changing seasons of the year, and would like to join us in ensuring we are able to continue doing so by making a donation towards the necessary work, it would be much appreciated.

Gift envelopes will be available in church and may be returned either before or on the Gift Day. If you are a taxpayer and you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please fill in the front of the envelope. If you are unable to get to church or would like a gift envelope delivered to your home, please contact the Churchwardens, whose telephone numbers are on the reverse. If you live away from Aldborough Hatch, please mail your donation to Aldborough Hatch Vicarage, St. Peter's Close, Oaks Lane, ILFORD, Essex IG2 7QN, marking your envelope "Tree Appeal".

Around the Hatch

St. Peter's Winter Lunch A Three Course Meal with wine or juice



St. Peter's Church Halls
Sunday 24th January 2010 -
12noon for 12.30pm
Tickets £10 from Yvonne Jeffries
(TEL: 020 8599 7250)
*A fine meal in good company -
all are very welcome*

St. Peter's Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale St. Peter's Church Halls Saturday 16th January 10am to 12 noon

Sunday Club

The newly formed Sunday Club for children aged three and over will meet in the church halls at 10.30am on Sunday 10th and 31st January. All children are very welcome. On Sunday 17th January we will be in church for the Family Service and on Sundays 3rd, 24th and 31st we will also be in church.

Monday Club

4th January Open Afternoon
11th January Cards
18th January Speaker - to be announced
25th January Bingo

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

St. Peter's Events

Beetle Drive and Bingo Quiz
Saturday 20th February
St. Peter's Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale
Saturday 6th March
Pre-Mothering Sunday Tea
Saturday 13th March
May Day Fete
Monday 3rd May
St. Peter's Thirtieth Flower Festival
Saturday 26th to Monday 28th June

Last September we were contacted by Roderic Findlay, the son of Doctor Findlay, whose GP practice was at Number One Spearpoint Gardens in the 1950s. Dr Findlay was appointed Regional Medical Officer for Lincolnshire in the late 1950s and died in 1976. His widow - now 96 and in good health - lives near Bridport, Dorset. Roderic, recently retired from teaching history, lives in Bridport and runs a small printing business. Roderic was a Sea Scout in the 1st Aldborough Hatch (St. Peter's) Scout Group - we have compiled this story with Roderic's help.

The Sea Scouts of Aldborough Hatch

Few residents of today's Aldborough Hatch will know that there was once a thriving group of Sea Scouts based at St. Peter's, nor would they be aware that the dozen or so youngsters in their blue jerseys and sailor's hats built a sailing dinghy on the edge of the churchyard.

The 1st Aldborough Hatch (St. Peter's) Scout Group had started before the Second World War in the 1930s, reopening after the War in 1946. In the early 1950s, Derek Williams, who taught woodwork at a local school, was one of the team of young leaders in the Group. Keen on boating and the sea, Derek persuaded the Group to let him lead a Patrol of Sea Scouts within the Scout Troop - named the Eagle Patrol. Soon Derek realised that building a dinghy of their own would mean that the Sea Scouts could enjoy sailing all year round.

At that time the church halls at St. Peter's remained much as when they were built in 1867 - the large hall fronting Aldborough Road North and the Vestry Room at the North West corner were erected in the late 1950s. The open ground where the Vestry Room now stands became a boatyard where the Sea Scouts spent several hot summers and bitterly cold winters building a 14 foot National Dinghy under the shelter of a canvas covering to keep off the worst of the weather. It would have been a considerable achievement for experienced boat builders working in the crude workshop, but what was even more remarkable was the fact that Derek - an experienced woodworker - insisted that the Sea Scouts did every bit of the boat building themselves under his expert tuition, right down to steaming the planks to make the shape of the keel.

Conveyed on a low loader from St. Peter's to the River Roding below Ilford Hill where the dinghy entered the water, the Sea Scouts rowed downstream to the River Thames. With sails hoisted, the *Eagle* - for that was how she was named - moved majestically up river towards London's world-famous Tower Bridge, which was to be opened specially so that the TV cameras from the BBC's *Blue Peter* could film this momentous occasion (the opening of the bridge was to add excitement to the event for the *Eagle* could have sailed below the road bridge with plenty of headroom to spare!).

Roderic recalls that a hitch in hoisting the mainsail just as the dinghy approached Tower Bridge meant that the *Eagle* went through stern first with the tide! But no matter - for the Sea Scouts in particular and Aldborough Hatch in general made TV history.

"We had some wonderful times sailing the 'Eagle'," Roderic remembers, "going down to Leigh-on-Sea by train and sailing right across the Thames estuary."

"I was sent away to boarding school and later the Sea Scouts split off and became 4th Seven Kings. They met in Downshall Junior School, which was closed in the school holidays, so there were no meetings when I was at home and I lost touch. But it was never the same after it split off and a number of the Sea Scouts returned to the 1st Aldborough Hatch, including Den Day, Geoff Griffiths and Colin Woodcock. Other names I remember from the Sea Scouts were Brian Greenhow, Terry Woods, our Patrol Leader, Nobby Clark from Bawdsey Avenue, Geoff Coles, Alan Belcher who went out with Christine from the flats near us at Aldborough Court and was good at things electrical, and Kenneth Chapman from Roy Gardens."

Roderic had what might be described as an ecumenical upbringing as a boy in Aldborough Hatch.

"I went to the Sunday School at Oaks Lane Methodist Church with my friend, Graham Tulloch who lived at 5 Ramsgill Drive - and a very good Sunday School it was - but I was baptised by Mr. Byng when I was seven and confirmed by the Bishop of Barking when I was twelve and loved the services at St. Peter's in Lawrence Pickles' time."

"I went with my mother to take tea at the Vicarage with Favil Greer, the daughter of the Revd Joseph Palanque Byng and Mrs Byng. I am glad Tuopence, Favil and David's son, is remembered in the recently published booklet 'From Westminster to Aldborough Hatch - A History of St. Peter's Church'. He was a dear little boy and it was very sad when he was drowned so tragically in the Vicarage lake in 1949."

"I remember that Favil organised a party of children to go to Bertram Mill's Circus at London's Olympia in the late 1940s and I went with them."

"There were a lot of very good people living in Aldborough Hatch at that time. I remember especially the Thompsons, who owned the newsagents next door to my father's surgery, Mr and Mrs Middleton at the chemists on Silverdale Parade, and Mr and Mrs Perry, the butchers, who came to evensong every week."

RJ

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