



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

BROADSHEET

FEBRUARY 2010

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

Services

Sunday 7th February

Second Sunday before Lent

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Prayer

4pm Holy Communion

Sunday 14th February

Sunday next before Lent

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

4pm Evensong

Wednesday

17th February

Ash Wednesday

10am Holy Communion

8pm Holy Communion

Sunday 21st February

First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service

4pm Holy Communion

Sunday 28th February

Second Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

4pm Evensong

Sunday 7th March

Third Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Prayer

4pm Holy Communion

Weekdays The church is open for private prayer on Monday (10am to 12noon) and Wednesday (10.30am to 12noon) except Bank Holidays.

Wednesday 10am: Holy Communion

Sunday Evening Services are now at 4pm and not 6.30pm

St. Peter's

Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale

St. Peter's Church Halls
Saturday 6th March
10am to 12 noon

All are welcome – a chance to chat in a friendly atmosphere

To see more clearly

At the end of last year - on 28th October and 11th November to be precise! - I had cataracts removed from both my eyes - one at a time, of course! Although I did have cataracts, I didn't really need the operation yet - they were at a very early stage. However, I have been very short-sighted all my life, so the good doctors at Moorfields Eye Hospital agreed to give me the operation early! I am still utterly amazed at how well I see.

I've worn glasses, all the time, since the age of six. I now only need them for reading. What's more, the world is a brighter and clearer place. I can even see my congregation snoozing in the back of the church during my sermon. Previously, I could just make out there were people there. Who they were, or what they were doing - that I couldn't tell. It's my own small miracle, courtesy of the NHS! And I really am grateful.

It has made me wish we could have a similar operation for our spiritual vision! Wouldn't it be good to see the world, and all that is happening, more clearly? To understand more; to see more clearly what *we* can do to make our world a better and happier place for all people. Wouldn't it be good if we had more compassion for the weak and vulnerable, enough to make us act, rather than merely feel sorry for them?

And wouldn't it be good if we really saw what we are doing to the world, by our use of scarce resources, our use of energy, for example, and the choices we make in our shopping? Wouldn't it be good if we could see the world, its people and ourselves, through God's eyes?

When He lived on earth, Jesus promised His followers that the Holy Spirit would help them in all things. Help is there - if we ask. Of course, our vision won't be perfect even then. My eyes aren't perfect - just a lot better. And our spiritual vision can get better, too. Perhaps we can ask God for his help and maybe we won't need spiritual glasses to correct our vision! Lent begins later this month - a good time to ask God to help us.

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.

The cost of the remedial work is expected to be in the region of £1,800 and to help pay for this 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 Beetle Drive and Bingo Quiz



St. Peter's Church Halls
Saturday 20th February

7.30pm - Free entry

Light refreshments - bring your own
drink - An evening for the family

Sunday Club

The newly formed Sunday Club for children
aged three and over will meet in the church
halls at 10.30am on Sundays 7th and 14th
February

All children are very welcome.

On Sunday 21st February we will be in church
for the Family Service.

Monday Club

1 st February	Cards
8 th February	Bingo
15 th February	Open Afternoon
22 nd February	Bingo

Launch of the 'Eagle'



In last month's *BROADSHEET* we told the story of the building of the 'Eagle' in the churchyard at St. Peter's in the 1950s. We are grateful to John Roper who has sent us the newspaper clipping (above) showing the launch on the Rover Roding at Ilford Broadway. Sir Rob Lockhart, Scout Commissioner for London, is seen (far left) with the Mayor and Mayoress of Ilford, Alderman and Mrs Headley (who lived at the Shrubberies in Roy Gardens). We have managed to identify 16 people in the photograph, plus to owner of one arm. And the yacht was an 18 foot national and not 14 foot.

Have you ever wondered how certain things came to be - such as the traffic lights at the William Torbitt School? If so, read on . . .

How the traffic lights came to Aldborough Road

If you were to stand today where the A12 intersects with Aldborough Road - both North and South - here in sunny Aldborough Hatch you would be hard put to imagine that only a mere forty or so years ago there were no traffic lights at this busy junction.

In those halcyon days cars, lorries, bicycles, motor cycles and the very occasional horse-drawn vehicle would approach the junction from the North, South, East or West, giving way to each other, with a wave of the hand and, sometimes, the exchange of a few pleasantries about the weather before going merrily on their journey. Traffic went about its daily business in what might be termed a very gentlemanly and somewhat refined manner. Indeed, two cars passing each other would sometimes stop as their drivers would down their windows to pass the time of day or to exchange the latest gossip. It had been thus for more years than most of us could imagine and, I would guess, few of us at that time thought that anything would change.

But in the early 1960s, things did indeed change. As post-war austerity receded, more and more vehicles were using the A12 and - would you believe it - a few of these wanted to turn left or right into Aldborough Road North or South. To make matters worse, some drivers travelling from the East would decide that they wished to turn into Aldborough Road North, moving across the lines of traffic that were jogging out from London in the West. And if simultaneously - and at the same time - a driver journeying from the West made the decision to turn into Aldborough Road South, a confrontation of sorts would occur.

At first there were no problems. Vehicles were few. Traffic jams did not occur. Juggernauts were only just beginning to make an appearance on the roads of this Emerald Isle. But over a year or two the volume of traffic increased and speed became the norm. So much so that accidents occurred with grim regularity at that junction with results that were declared disastrous by many residents.

The brick wall surrounding Aldborough Court, the post-war block of flats at the North East corner of the junction, took many a hard blow from a vehicle. Indeed, cars and lorries were careering through the wall time after time, for hardly had the Council's bricklayers made good the damage, when another driver decided to see how big a dent he could make in the brickwork.

Attempts had been made to encourage the Department of Transport to install traffic lights.

"No, no, no," declared the Men from the Ministry, "the volume of traffic at the junction does not warrant this."

"Yes, yes, yes," replied the inhabitants of Aldborough Hatch, "for we have seen with our

very eyes the bricks flying from the wall at Aldborough Court."

But the Men from the Ministry were unmoved and even made public the results of a survey said to have been carried out by their Department.

"Ho, ho, ho!" cried the inhabitants of Aldborough Hatch - as one man and one woman - for the figures were laughable, bearing no resemblance to what we knew were the true facts.

"Something must be done," affirmed many but, as so often happens on these occasions, those who called for action then retired quietly behind their front doors to sit in their armchairs in the hope that someone else would get off their rear ends to get things moving.

It so happened that at that time I was Scout Leader of the 1st Aldborough Hatch (St. Peter's) Scout Group and, noting that there was concern within the local community, and after deep and meaningful discussion with my fellow leaders within the Group, we set about disproving the Men from the Ministry.

We chose a Friday and arranged for one Scout and one adult to man every junction between Barley Lane (in the East) and the Green Gate (in the West) - a distance of almost a mile - from 6am to 9am and again from 4pm to 7pm - the two periods of major rush hour. We compiled our statistics - noting that they made the Department's figures look like a fairy tale or a figment of the Man from the Ministry's imagination (assuming that such a thing existed, of which I had grave doubts at the time) - and we sent off our results.

The response was - not surprisingly - condescending in the extreme, implying that account could not possibly be taken of a survey carried out by Scouts.

"Whatever next!" exclaimed not just the Man from the Ministry, but all his fellow Men from the Ministry, too. We were livid - and made our views well known in the local press. That set the cat amongst the pigeons, I can tell you, as local politicians leapt onto our bandwagon - for there must have been an election in the offing.

Our voice from the wilderness of Aldborough Hatch was heard finally in Whitehall - or wherever the Men from the Ministry were hanging out at the time - and within a matter of months, workmen appeared and holes were dug as brand new traffic lights were installed. And they are there to this day.

So next time you pause at red at the A12, waiting to move off when the lights turn to green, just remember that the installation of traffic lights owes its origin to the 1st Aldborough Hatch (St. Peter's) Scout Group. And that's a fact. But if the traffic jam extends up Aldborough Road North and past the Dick Turpin, please don't call me! It's not my fault and, in any case, I do not drive! **RJ**

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

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