



# ST. PETER'S CHURCH

# BROADSHEET

JULY 2010

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

## Services

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July

*Fifth Sunday after Trinity*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Morning Prayer

6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July

*Sixth Sunday after Trinity*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July

*Seventh Sunday after Trinity*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Family Service

6.30pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July

*Eighth Sunday after Trinity*

8am Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong

### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (10am to 12noon) and

Wednesday (10.30am to 12noon) except  
Bank Holidays.

**Wednesday**

10am: Holy Communion

## Sunday Club

The Sunday Club for children aged  
three and over meets in the church

halls at 10.30am on

Sundays 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July.

We will be in church on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>  
July for the Family Service.

*All children are very welcome.*

St. Peter's

**Coffee Morning and  
Bring and Buy Sale**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

St. Peter's Church Halls

10am to 12noon

*All are welcome*

# Welcome!

**Welcome to St. Peter's and our Flower Festival. Welcome to you all – first time visitors or regulars. For this BROADSHEET will be available at the Flower Festival**

So I hope you read this, wowed by the 'Pearls of Wisdom' floral displays, entertained by the various entertainments on the field behind the Church Hall and the choir recitals in church, seduced by the stalls in the craft market, and relaxing with a cup of tea, light lunch or perhaps, a cream tea.

In other words, I hope you have a really good time and go away feeling refreshed and that St. Peter's is a place where you really are welcome.

For we believe we live in a world created by God, peopled by men, women and children who are all loved by God.

We really do want you to relax and feel at home, to enjoy all we have on offer, and to sense God not only in the Church, or in the flowers, but in the music, in the fun and in His people as well.

We welcome to our church people of any faith and of none, and want to share with you our joy and pleasure in our world, and our gratitude for it.

Of course, we know there is much that is wrong, too; we know there is pain and loneliness, unhappiness and so much suffering.

All of that must be acknowledged as, too, must the inadequacy of our attempts to reach out to overcome the ills of the world.

All that is true. But also true are the beauty and wonder and joy; all the love and all the kindness. It's good to celebrate that, too, and not to take it for granted.

So we hope you enjoy our Flower Festival and our Church, and are refreshed by it. And if you are sad, or lonely, or in need of a listening ear, I will be there and glad to help – as I always am.

May God bless you indeed.

**Rev Clare Nicholson, Vicar**

## Seven Kings Fellowship of Churches

### Praise in the Park

Seven Kings Park - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm

*Bring your own seating! All are very welcome*

## St. Peter's Summer Lunch

**Sunday 22nd August - 12noon for 12.30pm**

Three course buffet lunch with wine or fruit juice

*A gourmet's delight!*

£10 – booking with Yvonne Jeffries (020 8599 7250)

*Payment with booking please*

## Around the Hatch

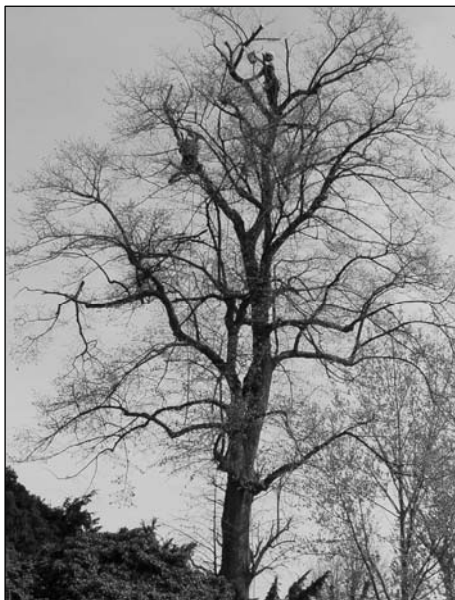


### Garden Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale

37 Spearpoint Gardens,  
Aldborough Road North  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August - 10am to 12noon  
*In aid of*

### *The Children's Society*

*Sit in the garden, spot the squirrels, look  
out for the cats, ruminate with friends,  
relax in the shed-with-the-overhang!*



(Above) Professional tree surgeons at work at St. Peter's in May - thanks to all who contributed to the cost of the work.

To receive the BROADSHEET each month free of charge by email, please contact the Editor at [ronjeffries@live.co.uk](mailto:ronjeffries@live.co.uk)

#### Monday Club

5<sup>th</sup> July AGM and Cream Tea  
12<sup>th</sup> July Cards  
19<sup>th</sup> July Bring and Buy Sale  
26<sup>th</sup> July 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

## Not a good idea!

Back in the days of yore members of St. Peter's Aldborough Hatch and their friends undertook the mammoth task of cutting the grass in the churchyard. We were younger then and set about the task with great gusto. Indeed, so great was our gusto that we also clipped the hedges, often dressed in shorts and baring our chests to the heat of the sun, although this practice came to an abrupt halt one summer in the early 1980s when a particularly virile insect infected the hedge abutting onto Aldborough Road North. Les and others were badly bitten, so much so that they had to take to their beds in darkened rooms, whilst the Men-From-The-Council arrived, dressed in the kind of suits you would expect to wear if a nuclear attack was imminent, carrying spray guns with which they attacked the insects. So successful were they that this variety of insect has not returned.

In 1987 the Revd Michael Trodden arrived as our new Vicar. He watched the goings-on in the churchyard and, indeed, joined in, but it became very clear to him that the grass and hedge cutters were getting older by the year and were taking much longer to complete the work. Indeed, hardly had they reached the far end of the churchyard, when they had to start all over again at the beginning where the grass was once again knee high.

In the following summer the Vicar had a bright idea. Up the road at the Aldborough Hall Equestrian Centre Bob and Mary had a flock of Jacob Sheep and sheep eat grass. And so it came to pass that one warm summer evening in 1988 the Vicar led the Men of St. Peter's Choir and other volunteers up Aldborough Road North where they took command of a flock of Jacob Sheep - under the watchful eye of Bob and Mary - with the intention of driving them back down the road and into the churchyard.

Now you may know this - and yet you may not - but sheep tend to have a mind of their own and do not taking too kindly to being herded by men who may make a passable attempt at singing, but are not cut out to be shepherds. All went well until we approached the Dick Turpin when one sheep decided that the grass looked greener on the other side of the hedge leading onto Dickie Lewis's Aldborough Hatch Farm. Diving through a gap in the hedge, the sheep found himself in a field of barley which was ripe for cutting.

Anxious not to miss out on anything, the rest of the flock followed, pursued by the Vicar and the Men of the Choir - much to the amusement of the patrons of the Dick Turpin who were not used to being entertained in this way whilst supping their ale. Indeed, the spectacle of the worthy Vicar, crawling through a hedge in pursuit of 102 sheep, must have been astonishing to the denizens of the Dick Turpin, some of whom, no doubt, put down their glasses and hastily headed for home swearing never to drink again. With much arm waving, the flock was soon back on the road - only to find another gap in the hedge when the game of chase-me-through-the-barley-and-catch-me-if-you-can started all over again. Eventually the churchyard was reached and the flock secured in a fenced

off area, where they were left to eat as much grass as they could manage, whilst the Men of the Choir went joyfully to sing at choir practice and the Vicar went home to regale Mandy with the exploits of the evening.

Not surprisingly, the local press reported that the Vicar now had a new flock. "People are quite used to seeing sheep in the country, but not in the heart of Redbridge," the Vicar told the *Ilford Recorder*. "The sheep can get to places garden tools can't. It now makes it much easier to go round with the lawn mower." Vowing to bring the 102-strong flock back when the grass got high again, the Vicar was photographed in the churchyard surrounded by sheep and holding a shepherd's crook.

Whilst the media may have painted a glowing picture of grass-munching sheep and a smiling Vicar, all was not well over the next few days. The sheep had, indeed, gorged themselves on the long grass, but they had also taken a fancy to the fresh flowers and bedding plants placed on graves by grieving relatives and friends. Furthermore, the sheep had become partial to the plastic flowers, the shrubs and anything else that happened to be thereabouts. To make matters worse, the flock had decided that the church porch was a sheltered spot in which to sleep through the night - and had left evidence of their being there which, to put it mildly, was not pleasant to eye or nose. And further evidence of a similar kind was strewn on the pathways along which parishioners in their best Sunday clothes would be tripping for morning and evening services in a day or two.

The bride at a Saturday wedding had to pick her way up the path from the bridal car to the church porch through a splattering of droppings and a curious flock of sheep, some of whom took an interest in her floral bouquet and flowing veil.

Visitors wishing to visit the graves of their loved ones found their way barred by wire fencing. Having circumvented this, they were then fondly nuzzled by a sheep or three, some of whom were not averse to chomping away at a skirt or trousers if one looked more appetising than the grass of which they were soon tiring.

There was nothing for it. The flock had to return from whence it came and whilst profuse thanks were proffered to Bob and Mary, the Vicar made clear that some other means had to be found to manage the churchyard.

These days - and for some years past - the Parochial Church Council has employed a gardener to keep the grass under control. Members of St. Peter's, parishioners and those whose loved ones lie in the churchyard are invited to donate towards the cost and their support is much appreciated. During the year the Churchwardens organise a series of workdays to carry out a range of maintenance jobs in the churchyard - trimming the trees on the pathways to the porch, tending the gardens and carrying out a multitude of other tasks, but some of us are a bit wary of that hedge just in case those virile insects decide to return.

The first gardener to be employed after the escapade with the Jacob Sheep was named - yes, it's a fact - Mr Bull! **RJ**

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