

THE HATCH HERALD

No: 213



**THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
ST ANNE'S CHURCH, LARKSHALL ROAD, CHINGFORD
(CHURCH OF ENGLAND)**

August 2011

50p

SERVICES AT ST ANNE'S		
DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Sunday 7th August Friday 12th August	10.00 am 10.00 am	Trinity 7 Parish Eucharist Holy Communion
Sunday 14th August Friday 19th August	10.00 am 10.00 am	Trinity 8 Parish Eucharist Holy Communion
Sunday 21st August Friday 26th August	10.00 am 10.00 am	Trinity 9 Informal Eucharist Holy Communion
Sunday 28th August Friday 2nd September	10.00 am 10.00 am	Trinity 10 Parish Eucharist Holy Communion
Sunday 4th September Friday 9th September	10 am 10a m	Trinity 11 Parish Eucharist Holy Communion
Sunday 11th September Friday 16th September	10 am 10 am	Trinity 12 Parish Eucharist Holy Communion
Sunday 18th September Friday 23rd September	10 am 10 am	Trinity 13 Parish Eucharist Holy Communion
Sunday 25th September Friday 30th September	10 am 10 am	Harvest Festival Informal Eucharist Holy Communion



The news from nowhere

I have rather enjoyed over the last few weeks watching former editors and media moguls being on the receiving end of the treatment they were only too quick to meet out to others – I wonder if anyone thought to hack their phones? And no doubt along with loads of other leafy lefties I bought for the first and last time ‘The News of the World’ partially to gloat and partially out of disbelief that the life of that particular sewer rat had come to an end. Of course it will be replaced in due time by something equally as unworthy....still it was nice to see it go.

What gets to me is the sheer power of the Murdoch Empire. He owns over a 160 different titles across the world plus a significant interest in a number of non-terrestrial television channels. When the ‘university challenged’ George Bush decided to declare war on Iraq, with (it goes without saying) the unwavering support of Blair, each one of Murdoch’s papers backed George W vociferously without question and even worse defamed, distorted and smeared opposition voices. Those were the voices you may recall like the late Dr Kelly’s who pointed out that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, there was however quite a lot of oil. In addition to toppling a cruel and vicious dictator the war in Iraq to date has claimed 111,294 civilian, 4473 American military and 179 British military lives and those statistics do not include journalists (who oddly enough didn’t work for the news of the world) and non-Iraqi civilians working to reconstruct the country.

My purpose in this letter is not to wax strong about the Iraqi or the Afghani wars and their respective absence of legality and morality: Though it does seem somewhat hypocritical of western powers such as the USA to wage war on governments they had financed and assisted into power. The Taliban - then called the Mujahideen - was largely armed and bankrolled by the U.S. when they were a mere terrorist organisation fighting against the Moscow backed government in Kabul. My problem lies with the power of the media to distort and manipulate and thus make the news rather than report it.

Is there anyone left who doubts the power of the mass media to shape opinion? One of the great myths of the ‘free market’ is that demand drives supply – if that were true then why spend billions on advertising to persuade people to buy products they neither want nor can afford? Do you not think that perhaps one of the reasons why the British public have such an appetite for the private lives of the well-known is because it is served up to us day in day out? There is something not quite right about a society which knows more about footballers, their wives and girlfriends’ private lives than, lets say for example, the work of Amnesty International, Shelter, the Samaritans, Action for Homelessness, etc. Those who spend their lives working for others and for a better and fairer world are, as far as the tabloids go, not newsworthy - unlike overpaid, pampered, anorexic, clothes horses whose one claim to fame is being able to negotiate a catwalk without falling off.

Like many Priests and Ministers I get increasingly depressed at weddings, baptisms and funerals with the number of people who do not know the Lord’s Prayer. It is tempting to blame parents and teachers. While there may be some truth in that, it does not explain why the same people can recite the names of the

Beckham Children, whose going out with who in ‘The only way is Essex’ and what idiot Katie Price is married to this week – data also absent from the school curriculum.

We live in a society which has triviality thrust upon it day after day by a media owned by a remarkably small number of people and the net effect of that is not unsurprisingly a trivialised society. And the trouble with a trivial society is that what happens in coronation street matters more than what happens on my street.

And so what - is not that the price of freedom? Well I beg to differ. There is nothing ‘free’ about the unelected and hugely wealthy deciding what is news or what ‘public opinion’ should be, just as there is nothing ‘free’ about a market which condemns millions to poverty and where the decisions to do so are made in the hidden, faceless, boardrooms of tax-exiles.

What has this got to do with Christianity and faith? Should I not be using this letter for a stream of religious platitudes – the kind of ‘feel good’ Christianity that makes the reader feel happy, secure and comforted?

No I should not.

Christianity is at its best a harsh critic of society or has ‘Casting the mighty from their thrones and raising the lowly’ gone out of fashion? We are in the business of ‘kingdom building.’ Our news, the good news of the kingdom, is that this world can be much better than it is, we can be saved from triviality and meaninglessness. ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done *on earth* as it is in Heaven.’

Too often organised Christian forays into public life have been about matters which the rest of the world considers to be irrelevant, usually with some justification. Consider the hoo-hah over abortion, gay equality etc then going back a bit further to the fuss over Sunday Trading, divorce, living together and the equality of women. I don’t think I will ever forgive the churches for backing Mary Whitehouse and her overtly bigoted view of what society should be. It was that wonderful saint of our times the Rev. Chad Varah, the founder of the Samaritans, who said of ‘Whitehouse; ‘It is not the people who produce porn that frighten me, it is those who would imposed their idea of ‘good’ upon me,

What people choose to do in their own time provided it does not hurt anyone else is up to them, it is neither News International nor the Church’s business. If people want to live in a moral dictatorship they can go and live in Iran. What does matter are human rights, an end to poverty and exploitation (and three cheers for the amount of Christian support the ‘make poverty history campaign’ received), global warming and the deepening energy crisis. What is happening to the rain forests as you read this letter is infinitely more important than whether Cheryl is back with Ashley – so why don’t we read about that on the front page?

For me at least, the enemy of faith is not secularisation, on the contrary secularisation has brought to the enlightened world the freedom to think and question without being arrested. The enemy is triviality, the bread and circuses of the post modern era. The more we allow ourselves and kingdom values to be anaesthetised by ripping

apart the private lives of the few for little more than prurient entertainment and the more we accept the unelected moguls and their lap-dogs have the right to shape public opinion then the more numbed we are to the public life in which we actually live and to the public good of us all. And when that happens we care less for real and genuine human need and we rejoice less in real and genuine human joy.

What is so wrong in relishing the good news that there are people working flat out to alleviate poverty, that there are those who spend their lives campaigning for the environment and the many whose simple acts of kindness allow the light of the kingdom to brighten the world? Of course the trouble is that news like that, news that makes the world better, threatens the power and wealth of those who have made their fortunes keeping the world as it is, consequently it tends not to make it to the tabloids. It would also be bad news for Rebecca, Rupert and James in their relentless drive to trivialise the human mind – but there again, who cares?

Best wishes
Jude



Dear Editor

Jude has asked us what we think about the ethics of euthanasia among other things. My basic instinct is against euthanasia, but, if I was the person suffering an incurable disease or had a loved one so suffering how would I feel. I think I would still be against it, but I don't know. It is so easy to make dogmatic statements as to what you would do in any given circumstance – until that circumstance arises. When my wife, Ruth, was seriously ill the doctors said that if she recovered she would be permanently in a wheelchair. I was sure she wouldn't want that so agreed that if it came to it they wouldn't revive her but let her die peacefully. I still feel guilty that I was also being selfish in not wanting to have to look after her in that state, though, of course, I would have done. I only ask the question, "Is there any of that feeling in the surviving partner"? There were many incurable diseases in the world that are now curable, and think of the strides made in recent years in the treatment of cancer. So why not for Alzheimer's or Motor Neurone disease?

Jude talks about freedom to choose. I know we all like it but freedom can be a very dangerous thing. We are free to worship God, though some aren't, and free to do good works, but we should not be free to rob a bank, distribute pornography or molest children. Though, presumably, the people who do see no wrong in it. Jude, it seems to me, is always going on about homosexuality, I disagree with his views. We should both be free to express our views but if someone was so minded they could charge me with being 'anti gay'. I'm not anti gay person, I'm anti gay acts.

Yes, the bible was written centuries ago and thus requires reinterpretation, but .who is to say whose interpretation is right. Why of course, it's our own!

I think it wrong for parliament to legislate on moral issues – one man's freedom of speech is another man's gag. On the other hand, freedom of speech or action advocating violence is another matter. We can't really expect non-Christians to follow Christian beliefs, but I feel church leaders should offer guidelines – with reasons – but it is difficult when there are almost as many differing views as there are Christians.

I don't suppose all this helps one little bit!

John Wood

What would I do?

I read Jude's piece in July's Hatch herald with interest. When my parents were alive they did not wish to be left paralysed or speechless, my father in particular. Jokingly I said that if there was no switch I would smother him so he would not have to suffer. Fortunately I did not have to do this as he died of phenomena and cancer. But could I have done it? Possibly, I don't know. I was lucky enough to see him partially conscious before he fell into a coma, and asked the Dr to stop all medicines as his heart was failing. Did I shorten his life? - Possibly. Would I do it again? Definitely.

With my mother it was slightly different as she deteriorated slowly, and suffered with among other things a blockage in the bowel, and twice I took her to hospital to be re-hydrated. Having been told that she had only 6 weeks to live as the person on the spot I made the decision with the support of my brother and sister, to care for her at home. Her drip was withdrawn and she was given pain relief. This decision shortened her life by 2-5 days, so was I wrong? She would have died in agony, would I do it again? You bet I

would. People I know have died in pain because giving them enough morphine to kill the pain would have killed the patient.

As Jude said my head says one thing and my heart another. But surely it is wrong to let people suffer unbearably. If I knew I was going to lose the ability to make my own decisions I would want to do not resuscitate on my notes, write a living will or go to digitas if necessary.

I watched a programme which showed a man's moment of death. It was very peaceful and moving. People had the choice to watch it or not.

Should anyone have the right to decide whether I live or die? Should anyone who helps me to die be prosecuted? Is it right to kill yourself? Do you have the right to kill yourself? Could you assist anyone to die? either through active assistance or by not doing anything. Should Dr's have the right to assist in easing a patient into death?

I have just watched an amazingly moving programme (with tears running down my face) about a young man terminally ill with cancer. His family and friends had such strength the power of love shone through every minute of the film, and they all showed such incredible bravery. He lived every minute of his life and was not scared.

It has thrown me into greater confusion than every. If he had shortened his life he would have missed meeting and marrying the girl of his dreams, how much life he would have missed.

I don't have any answers just more questions. I feel I have the right to make my own decisions, everyone has a right to make their own choices, but it would be wrong to make a law either preventing or allowing assisted suicide. Each case should be seen individually. HELP



Sung Evensong
For
Harvest Festival

St. Anne's Parish Church
Sunday 2nd October

6.30pm

Gallery Choir
With period instruments

All Welcome

A reminder from Barbara of times gone by.....

We Are Survivors (For those born before 1945....)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, plastic, contact lenses, videos, Frisbees and the Pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens, before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes,, and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house husbands, computer dating, dual cars and when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with cousins and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were born before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yogurts, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1945 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double decker bus to the depot. Pizza, McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal house, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party and nothing more, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today.....BUT

By the grace of God we have survived

Hallelujah.!

Let's all give up – now !

by Adrian Plass

Let's all give up – now!
There are two things to be said about this starkly uncompromising suggestion, certainly as far as followers of Jesus are concerned. This is a very bad idea, but it is also a great idea, the Holy Grail of true Christian endeavour, as opposed to religious ambition or human optimism.

First of all, why is it a bad idea?

In 1995 Bridget and I and three of our children spent Sunday morning in a large tent in Soweto, the enormous black township that stands on the edge of Johannesburg, the capital city of South Africa. We were there with hundreds of black South Africans to join in with a Christian service of outreach and celebration. It was a year since national elections had spelled the end of the evils of apartheid, and there was an atmosphere of guarded relief and hope. The singing was spectacular. In particular we were moved to tears by a song that consisted of only three words, sung again and again in those vibrantly surging harmonies that, in that part of the world, are fuelled by accumulated passion in the hearts and souls of those who participate.

“Never give up, never give up, never give up...”

The church in South Africa was and is highly influential in the process of political change,

playing a crucial role in the avoidance of the bloodbath that many, many people had feared. So, no, without denying huge challenges still faced by that bruised nation, of course those suffering people don't want to give up, and nor should we. Following Jesus has never been easy, but in every way that will ever count in this world, it is the only game in town. We are for Jesus and we must never give up.

Reverse direction with a screech of brakes. Why should we all give up – now? Simply because a lot of our carefully labelled strivings are at best harmless but a complete waste of time, and at worst a source of confusion and frustration to those who struggle so hard to make them mean something.

Let's give up waiting to become Christians who are wonderful enough to be used by God. We'll be waiting forever. God loves us exactly as we are, and far too much to leave as we are. Let him do the changing, and we'll co-operate whenever we can, but in the meantime we need to get on with the job.

Let's give up any attempt to make the Holy Spirit happen. Read the tenth chapter of Leviticus and find out how God responds to the use of unauthorised fire. There's a lot of it about in the modern church, and sometimes it looks and sounds very convincing. Words and music and lights and buildings and visual effects can be truly wonderful, and they might be gateways to the outer courtyard of the Kingdom of God, but, in themselves, they are not God.

The old Christian adage remains as true as ever: find out what God is doing and join in. It's the only safe way.

Finally, let's begin the process of giving up our precious rights, our treasured certainties, our adherence to a personal religious agenda that is more likely to close doors than to open them. Let's give up anything, in fact, that impedes the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us. The list goes on, but that will do for now.

Let's decide that we will never give up on Jesus, and let's do our very best to give up anything that gets in the way. Now? Yes, this would be an excellent time to start.

The above article is taken from 'Momentum', the newsletter of the Scargill Movement and is printed by permission.

John Wood

BIBLE QUOTE

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all mankind; and by it we are disciplined to renounce godless ways and earthly desires, and to live a life of temperance, honesty and godliness in the present age, looking forward to the happy fulfilment of our hope when the splendour of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus will appear.

Titus ch. 2 vs 11-13



From John Wood's Library

If we trust in God, wherever we are and whatever is happening to us is the best that is possible at that time.

Adrian Plass

How likely is it that a visitor to your church would react by saying, 'God is really among you'?

Stephen Rand

There is a difference between having a strong will and being immovably stubborn. I wonder how often we confuse prejudice with principle, and how often, when we claim to be standing on our principles, we are merely stubborn in our prejudices.

William Barclay



Congratulations

to

Barbara and Stan Shepard

who celebrated their
Diamond Wedding
Anniversary in July

The New Commandments.....

To mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, York University ran a competition for young people between the ages of five and sixteen, who were asked to come up with ideas for extra tablets, that Moses might bring back in the digital age.

'Shalt nots' included eating junk food, cyber bullying and having underage sex, and 'thou shalt not take out a super-injunction if you snog the wrong person.

'Among the Thou shalt ' were recycling, being eco friendly, and 'thou shalt wear a cycle helmet', while one of the winners suggested that these should all be printed on banknotes.



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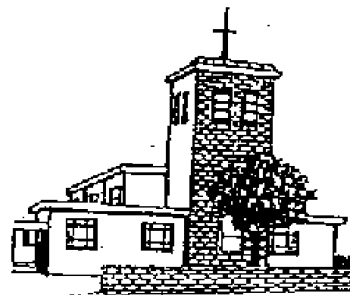


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From MONDAY 4th JULY 2011

	TITLE	HALL / CLUBROOM	TIMES	HOURS	WEEKS
Mon	Pre-school	C	0915 – 1330	4.25	36
	Line Dancing	H	1000 – 1100	1.0	40
	Women’s F’ship	H	1345 – 1445	1.0	36
	Short Tennis	H	1700 – 1900	2.0	40
	Ju-Jitsu Club	C	1930 - 2100	1.5	48
	Yoga	H	1930 – 2030	1.0	48
Tue	Pre-school	C	0915 – 1330	4.25	36
	Weight Watchers	H	0930 – 1100	1.5	48
	Brownies	H	1745 – 1915	1.5	36
	Weight Watchers	C	1900 – 2000	1.0	48
	Bridge Club	H	1930 – 2230	3.0	48
Wed	Tai Chi Beginner	H	0830 – 1030	2.0	48
	Pre-school	C	0915 – 1330	4.25	36
	Tai Chi Exp	H	1030 – 1200	1.5	48
	Karate	H	1600 – 1700	1.0	48
	Weight Watchers	C	1715 – 2015	3.0	48
	Beavers	H	1730 – 1830	1.0	36
	Cubs	H	1840 – 2010	1.5	36
	Scouts	H	2015 – 2130	1.25	36
Thurs	Pre-school	C	0915 – 1330	4.25	36
	Badminton	H	1415 – 1545	1.5	48
	AA	C	1600 – 1800	2.0	48
	Brownies	H	1815 – 1945	1.5	36
	Rainbows	C	1830 – 1930	1.0	36
Fri	Pre-school	C	0915 - 1215	3.0	36
	Coffee	H	1030 – 1100	0.5	N/A
	Toddlers	H	1300 – 1430	1.5	36
	Karate Class	H	1830 – 1930	1.0	48
	Women’s Even F	C	1930 – 2130	2.0	24 (Fortnightly)
Sat	Mini Market	H	1000 – 1200	2.0	(1st in the month)
Sun	Scramblers	C	1000 – 1100	1.0	
	Coffee	H	1115 – 1200	0.75	
	Simple Lunch	H	1230 – 1400	1.5	(4 th in the month)

The contact details for the groups listed can be found overleaf

WHO'S WHO AT ST ANNE'S

Our Clergy:

Vicar: Revd Jude Bullock 020 8529 4740
(Day off—Tuesday)

Licensed Reader:

Jenny Howland 020 8504 2348

Our Church Officers:

Churchwarden:

Anthony Sullivan 020 8529 4217

Lindsey Archer 020 8524 8221

Secretary to the Parochial Church Council:

Veronica Brand 020 8531 3763

Treasurer:

Andy Crawford 020 8527 6512

Organisations meeting in the Centre:

Alcoholics Anonymous - Lisa Leveridge - 8524 4945
Beavers - Barbara Rouse-Booth -07061 316389
Bridge Club - C G Mayhew - 8527 4317
Cubs - Ian Woodward - 8529 8964
Ju-Jitsu - Richard King - 07884 233477
Karate (Friday) - Eric Krappinger - 8531 9109
Karate (Wednesday) - John Sawyer - 07940 530978
Line Dancing - Maria Gill- 8262 7287
Pre-School PG - Nicola Thurbon - 07941 517751
Scouts - Alice Robinson - 8524 3393
2nd Brownies (Thurs) - Caroline Rouse - 8529 3688
2nd Guides - Debbie Watson - 8527 5016
2nd Rainbows - Pat O'Sullivan - 8531 4586
Taoist Tai Chi Soc - Eleonora Spencer - 8504 9808
Tai Chi Beginners - Hazel Boraster - 8504 0899
Thursday Badminton - June Tucker- 8501 3028
Toddler Group - Beryl Stratton - 8524 2655
12th Brownies (Tues) - Sarah Harrington - 8529 2668
Weight Watchers (Tues morn) - Elaine Marsh - 07818 655349
Weight Watchers (Tues even) - Terri Reding - 07941 159634
Weight Watchers (Wed) - Dawn Sant - 8527 3971
Whitehall Tennis Club - Gerry A Abbott - 8529 3864
Women's Evening Fellowship- Jean Mayhew- 8527 4317
Women's Fellowship - Beryl Stratton- 8524 2655
Yoga - Sharon Simon - 07846 931560

Useful local numbers:

Age Concern - 558 5512
Chingford Police - 8529 8666
Citizens' Advice Bureau - 8520 0939
Clarence - 0800 232323
Credit Union - 8520 8740
Healing Centre - 8504 2348
Help-on-Call - 8524 4777
Library, North Chingford - 8496 1070
Library, South Chingford - 8496 1079
Longshaw Primary School - 8529 5693
Samaritans - 8520 9191 (24 hour emotional support line)
Waltham Forest Direct - 8496 3000
Waltham Cross Hospital - 8539 5522

The Hatch Herald

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