

SPIRE

St. Stephen's community magazine
Christmas 2009
Issue 4

InSpire:

Angels and Shepherds
A Christmas message

Kingswood House
More than Just Architecture

Changing Times
Dulwich College's new Master

At your service
Love for free

Dates for Your Diary
Upcoming events this winter

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WELCOME

Jan Brades-Payne
Editor



In the joyful screech of Noddy Holder -"It's Christmas!" A time of peaceful reflection and hope.

This edition of Spire is certainly packed full of reflective and hope filled articles. Our Vicar Bernhard reflects on the meaning of Christmas through the eyes of angels and shepherds. Nick our curate boldly offers 'Love for Free' in his reflections on Baptism. We are also grateful to the new Master of Dulwich College who shares his vision for the role of the College in our community. Back in reflective mode, we look behind the façade of our local 'Castle', Kingswood House, to reveal a community centre which has been the beating heart of the Kingswood Estate community for over fifty years. We are hopeful that it will continue to serve our community for another fifty years.

All of us on the Spire team hope that you have a very happy and relaxing Christmas and New Year!

Cover photo by kind permission of Philip Lane of Great Brownings

Remembrance Sunday
War veterans recently attended the rededication of St. Stephen's restored war memorial.





St. Stephen's youth Club - 'Da Best of Da Best' - joined forces with KETRA for a very successful 'Alternative Halloween' Party with a blazing finale provided by our very own fire eating Curate. Well done Nick!







Christmas cards by Elo Allik-Schünemann, sold in aid of church funds, are now available at the back of the church. Price: 60p each or 50p each for 10 or more.

St Stephen's Church

College Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7HW
Tel: (020) 8766 7281
Office open on Saturday 10.30-11.30
Vicar - Revd Bernhard Schünemann
vicar@ststephensdulwich.org
Curate - Revd Nick Davies
curate@ststephensdulwich.org
Reader - Mrs Trot Lavelle
trotl@ukonline.co.uk
Churchwardens
Joan Greenwood & Patrick Robathan
churchwarden1@ststephensdulwich.org
Vicar's secretary - Gill Burdett
ParishOffice@ststephensdulwich.org



Looking for a venue for you party or group?

St Stephen's Millennium Hall: available to hire from £35/hr.

To book contact Mrs Joy Parkinson on (020) 8670 5373 or hallbookings@ststephensdulwich.org

The team: Andrea Hensher, Jan Brades-Payne, Nick Davies, Sarah Bucknall, & Michael Goodman.

Let us know what you think at Spire@ststephensdulwich.org

Angels and Shepherds

A Christmas message



What an outing - the host of heaven had been out singing and praising God. Now back, they chatted over the day's events.

"I've a bad feeling about this," said one angel to his friend.

"Did you see the conditions of that stable? The parents looked decent, but they're not world changing, are they? Did you see the baby? Cannot for the life of me see how a tiny naked human being is going to make a difference. I suspect it will all be the same as before, nothing will change and finally there'll be another flood."

"Boss says there'll be no more of that, he's done with floods," replied the friend.

The first angel continued, "And did you see that Shepherd? 'Ruffy' - rough by name and rough by nature! His Father was murdered when he was a small boy, ever since he's responded with violence."

"You wouldn't believe that if you saw him this evening!" exclaimed another angel. "His face was luminous and he was so relaxed. You might say he was happy for the first time in his life!"

The first angel mused, "Perhaps



that's the mystery. Perhaps human's troubles are about fear, fear of sinking low, so low that Christ cannot reach them any more. Christ can't find a room in an inn worthy of humans. He is born in the darkness of a stable; he is there for those who cannot sink any lower. Perhaps he will liberate humanity?"

At Christmas we want everything to be perfect. Finally it is time for a few days off - everything stops and the whole nation relaxes and takes a 'holy day'. For Jesus it was not like that. An unmarried couple had a baby in extremely reduced circumstances, with animals and shepherds for company. In Dulwich we don't have many shepherds, so we may have romantic notions about their lives. In truth shepherds lived in the wilderness, detached from towns and villages, fending off wolves and thieves with bare hands. Then one night, unexpectedly, God revealed himself to shepherds in the form of a naked, defenceless baby and in that moment changed forever the lives of those shepherds! I hope this Christmas can change us a little so we emerge strengthened and refreshed by real encounter and peacefulness.



On behalf of everyone at St. Stephen's Church I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.

More Than Architecture

Jan Brades-Payne

There's a Castle for hire on Kingswood Estate! Kingswood House is a fine example of a Victorian Mansion House with oak panelled library, grand ballroom, billiard room, ornate ceilings and fireplaces and a splendid façade. The house has performed many roles over the years. It is, however, in its current, most enduring, role as a Community Centre, that it touches the lives of so many living on and around the Kingswood Estate.

As Joan Stewart, resident, writes - '...Tenants came here in the early 1950's to a brand new estate. We couldn't believe our luck after being bombed out of our home. The lovely mansion house was to be pulled down so our husbands formed a Tenants Association and fought hard for it to be kept as our community centre...' Today it remains the beating heart of the Estate. On offer, to all, are a public library, keep fit classes, 'Over 50's' group, Reminiscence Group and children's activities. Additionally, a number of support services operate from the House, for example Time Bank - an inspired way of sharing skills and time to get the community working together. The Community Centre is run by a committed Southwark team, Manager Janice Francois and Deputy Manager Ruth Baidoo. Janice totally believes in the centre "It was my dream to work here; 7 years ago it came true. This place brings people together. My role is to create a community feeling. Without the Centre people live locked up in their homes and don't come out. I look for ideas to get people mixing." Janice is keen to attract the wider community. "Many people don't know about us, or, if they do, believe that the facilities are for estate residents only."

The Centre relies on revenue from facility hire to a wider community. If you are planning anything from a large party or conference to a family Sunday lunch there are impressive facilities to suit. There are more intimate rooms for small group activities. If you run a business you can rent an office suite. There is even a state of the art radio suite. Janice is keen to get a radio station up and running. Are you a budding community DJ?

Local volunteer groups work hard to support the House and Centre - KETRA (Kingswood Estate Tenants and Residents Association) and The Friends of Kingswood House. KETRA is about to host an 'Over 50's' Christmas lunch at the House. They are also involved in setting up a satellite Community Shop.

The 'Friends' work hard to ensure the building used for a variety of activities and have a core role in fund raising. As Jane Wenlock, Secretary, states "Ensuring the Centre is used is what keeps the building vibrant. If Kingswood House were to be boarded up or sold-off the Estate would die. We need more 'Friends' to keep it going - the greater the membership the greater our voice!" Jane encourages community minded people, interested in local history and architecture, to sign-up for as little as £5! As a first step buy a Friends of Kingswood House 2010 Calendar available at the House for £1.00.





To become a Friend of Kingswood House please contact Jane Wenlock on wenlockrj@aol.com





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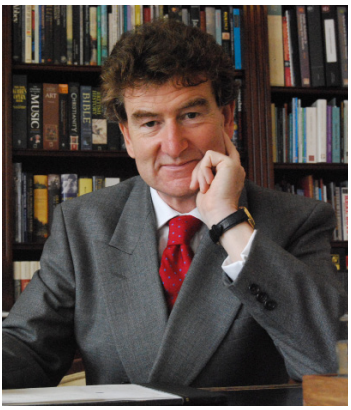
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Dr Joseph Spence, Master

Dulwich College

The new Master of Dulwich College, Dr. Joseph Spence, shares his vision for Dulwich College in our local community.



Dulwich College should be a community school. By that I mean that I want Alleynians working in the community and for the community. I hope to develop an ever stronger community service programme and I hope that we will be a school that will become ever more accessible to the people of this community, regardless of their wealth.



I have been very touched in my first ten weeks here to meet Old Alleynians whose lives were transformed by the Dulwich Experiment. Old boys of Dulwich College who believe that everything good in their lives grew out of the fact that they were educated here, free of charge or on substantial scholarships or bursaries. I want to launch a new Dulwich Experiment to make the school a viable educational option for every young boy in this community.

I have enjoyed reading of the contribution that present Dulwich boys are making to hospitals, charity shops and schools in our area. At Oakham School I ensured that community service was not the Cinderella of our activities programme, after the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award scheme, but something that was undertaken by young people who were thoroughly committed to the service that they were providing. I want the same to be true here. Of course, I believe that the CCF, DofE and the Scouts can also provide opportunities for our pupils to serve the community.

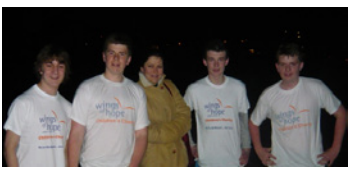
More than anything else, I want Dulwich boys to be respected in this parish. I want them to be congratulated for looking smart and being considerate in how they walk the streets, act in our shops and look for opportunities in which they can make a difference. The great energy I have found in pupils and staff, and the goodwill of so many parents to serve the community, suggests to me that this will not be too difficult.

My wife, Angela, and I have arrived in a very special community in Dulwich, one





that we want to become thoroughly part of, to our own benefit and for the good of the College. I am not interested in Dulwich College being seen as a cloistered school apart from the community; I want us to be at the heart of everything that is going on in work of the Dulwich Society and the Dulwich Festival and in such places as our wonderful Picture Gallery and



the Horniman Museum. Only then will we fulfil our duty as a charity and as educators in the broadest terms. I am pleased to find that the churches are at the centre of much of the life of this community, be it St. Stephen's or at Christ's Chapel, and I hope that my pupils can serve their congregations well in the generation ahead, be it by enhancing services with our music or in finding creative ways to encourage more people to attend services, in to which so much thought goes and from which so much good can come.

Love for Free.

Rev'd Nick Davies

As we approach Christmas we are getting ready to celebrate a very special baby. At St. Stephen's we seem to do that every month as we are conducting a growing number of baptisms.

Anyone can get their child baptised at St. Stephen's and we make no charge for the service. It either takes place during the main Sunday service or at Midday as a twenty-minute service attended by family and friends.

There is a lot going on in baptism. At one level it is a celebration of the free gift of God's love. At a time when surveys suggest that it can cost £3,000 a year to bring up a child, it's good to know that some things are free. On another level baptism is also an opportunity to welcome a child, both into its own family and into the family of the Church.



Many couples who have been married at St. Stephen's, come back to get their children baptised here. Baptism allows parents to gather together family and friends - the people who they and their child can depend on. The saying - 'it takes a village to raise a child' - may seem a bit old-fashioned, but we all know that being a parent isn't easy and a good support network can make all the difference.

Over the last year, I have enjoyed conducting my first baptisms. When I was training to be a priest, we used to practice baptisms with a large teddy bear and I'm glad to say that I haven't dropped a child yet! It is great to be with parents and families at this special time, to hear about their hopes for their child's future and to pray for these children, their families and their community.

If you live in the Parish you have a right to get your child baptised here. If you live further away, we ask that you come along to church a few times to get to know us a little. If you are interested and would like to know more you can either visit our website or come to one of our open office mornings any Saturday 10.30-11.30.





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DULWICH COLLEGE



Dr Joseph Spence, formerly Headmaster of Oakham School, took up the post of Master of Dulwich College at the beginning of a busy term. The music department arranged some 13 concerts and competitions, two major productions were performed in the Edward Alleyn Theatre and on average over 30 rugby matches were played every week. All of those activities were in addition to the continued high standard of academic achievement which last year produced the best A-level results ever.

For more information, contact the Registrar on 020 8299 9263
the.registrar@dulwich.org.uk
www.dulwich.org.uk





Community Christmas and New Year Events

Dulwich College

December

Tues 8th 7pm
Christmas Concert All Saints Church - Rosendale Road, SE21

Sunday 13th 6pm
Festival of nine lessons and carols - Christ's Chapel.
www.dulwich.org.uk.

Kingsdale School

December

Mon14th 1.30 – 2.30pm
Yr 7 Talent Show – in the POD

Tues 15th 1.30-2.30pm
Yr 8 Talent Show – in the POD

Thurs 17th 1.30-3.00pm
Upper School Talent Show – in the POD
Tel: (020) 8670 7575

Langbourne School

December

Fri 11th 2.00 – 3.30pm
Christmas Fair. This will be a culmination of the work being done on the theme of 'Festivals' in Key Stage 2.
Tel: (020) 8670 5470

KETRA (Kingswood Estate Tenants & Residents Association)

December

Tues 15th – 12.30 for 1pm
The Over 50's Christmas Lunch . Great food, entertainment, Grand Raffle and lots of fun!
Kingswood House Seely Drive, SE21.

Kingswood Community Church

Langbourne Junior School

December

Sun 20th

10.30am Carol Service

Fri 25th Christmas

10.30am Christmas Morning Service

Sun 27th 10.30 Regular Morning Worship

St Margaret Clitherow Church

Kingswood Drive, SE19 1UR
Fr Harty: (020) 8670 1639

December

Wed 24th: Christmas Eve
Midnight Mass - carols at 11.30
Mass at midnight

Thurs 25th Christmas
10.30am: Mass

Sundays:
9 am: Mass in Portuguese
10.30 Parish Mass

Saturdays:
6.30 pm Vigil Mass

Kingswood House Community Centre

The Community Centre will be closed over the Christmas period.
Exercise/Keep Fit classes and Pilates groups will start again in early January.
Tel: (020) 8761 9248.

Dulwich Helpline Group

December 1st and 15th, then every other Tuesday
2.30-4 pm New social group for the over 60's. Tea, cakes speakers, music and more.
The Residents Hall, Sydenham Hill
Tel: (020) 8299 2623

Dulwich Picture Gallery

December 29-30th
6-8 yrs 10.30 - 12.30 am
9-11yrs1.30 - 3.30 pm

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Christmas at St Stephen's

Sunday 13 December

5pm Christingle Service

A children's hands-on celebration of Christmas with candles and oranges.

Sunday 20 December

6.00 pm Lessons & Carols jointly with St Margaret's Clitheroe.

A service lead by our Choir 'The Stephen's Singers' and our Schola & Choristers.

Followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve

4pm Blessing of the Crib

Children please come dressed as angels, shepherds, wise men and other characters from the nativity.

11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS

Friday 25 December – Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer 1662)

10am Christmas Day Parish Service

Saturday 26 December - St Stephen's Day

11am Sung Eucharist

Wednesday 6 January - Epiphany

9.45am Epiphany Day Service with renewal of Baptismal Promises

Regular Services

Sunday:

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Sung Parish Eucharist with Sunday School during term time

Monday to Friday:

8.30am Silent Prayer followed at 8.45am by Morning Prayer

Wednesday:

9.45 Holy Eucharist

