SPIRE

St. Stephen's community magazine
Spring 2009
Issue 2



InSpire this Spring

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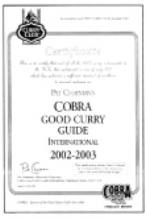
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WELCOME

Andrea Hensher
Editor



Spring is here, a time for shedding winter layers as we head into longer, lighter days. We hope to bring you some seasonal brightness in this second issue of Spire, the community magazine of St Stephen's Church, South Dulwich. Meet the men at the tollgate, discover what's happening at Langbourne Primary and learn about changes in church law which make it easier to get married at St Stephens. The Easter story with its promise of renewal brings a timely opportunity for reflection, while our roving photographer offers another chance to win a bar of chocolate for the reader who can spot the location in our picture competition. Once again we have a selection of community events for your diaries and feature our very own St Stephen's Who's Who just so you know what we all look like. Okay. Ready? Let's get on, then...



Where in the parish?

Can you identify where you will find this?

The first five correct answers by post or email to the editor will receive bars of fair trade chocolate

Last issue's photograph was on the Kingswood Estate!







Looking for a venue for your party or group?

St Stephen's Millennium Hall: available to hire from£35/hour. To book contact Mrs Joy Parkinson on (020) 8670 5373 or HallBookings@ststephensdulwich.org

Spire will be out three times a year. Let us know what you think at Spire@ststephensdulwich.org

Also available to download at www.ststephensdulwich.org

St Stephen's Church

College Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7HW
(020) 8766 7281
Our office is open on Saturday mornings 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 - churchwarden1@ststephensdulwich.org
Patrick Robathan - churchwarden2@ststephensdulwich.org

Vicar's secretary
Gill Burdett - ParishOffice@ststephensdulwich.org



Risen with healing in his wings

Bernhard Schünemann

This poetic phrase is taken from the famous Christmas Carol: 'Hark the herald angels sing,' and it neatly draws to our attention how closely related Christmas and Easter are.

It is a question which is sometimes raised at school assemblies or even as an argument amongst my own children: what do you prefer - Christmas or Easter, serious presents or a glut of chocolate Easter bunnies, leaving on one side the unlikely possibility that some might even prefer the meagre hot-cross bun of Good Friday to either of the above.

For me this poses the question of how exactly humanity might be saved through Jesus Christ. Was it because God humbled himself and heaven touched earth at Christmas, the time of the birth of our saviour? Or was it because this innocent man suffered on the wood of the cross for us, something we commemorate so movingly on Good Friday. Or was it because God changed everything at Easter and death was turned into joy? The truth is that Christmas, Good Friday and Easter belong intimately together as an expression of God's saving love, and it takes us the best part of half a year to celebrate them fittingly.

Easter 2009 is not just another Easter. Many of the certainties and fundamentals in our lives that we have come to rely on have been shaken or at least don't feel as firm as they used to. For me all this has made the message of Easter even more relevant and more powerful. It has made me ask myself what gives me certainty and joy in my life. Easter is a good time to realign ones hopes and expectations in this regard.

People sometimes turn to ancient wisdoms to glean new insights. In the Christian faith we have many witnesses who describe the experience of Easter faith in their lives. I came across this powerful Easter sermon by the fourth century saint and teacher John Chrisostom:

"Enter ye all, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and let both the first and those who come after partake of the reward. Rich and poor dance one with another. Ye who fast and ye who fast not, rejoice today. The table is full laden: do ye all fare sumptuously. The calf is ample, let none go hungry. Let all partake of the banquet of faith. Let all partake of the riches of goodness. Let none lament his poverty; for the kingdom is manifested for all. Let none bewail his transgressions; for pardon has dawned from the tomb. Let none fear death; for the death of the saviour has set us fee. He has quenched death who was subdued by it. O Death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory? Christ is risen and thou art cast down. Christ is risen and the demons have fallen. Christ is risen and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen and life is made free. Christ is risen and there is none dead in the tomb. For Christ is raised from the dead, and becomes the first fruits of them that slept. To him be glory and dominion from all ages to all ages. Amen."

On behalf of St Stephen's I would like to wish all residents in the parish of South Dulwich many blessings at this time of our great festival of Easter.

As you may know, St. Stephen's is a lively place. As well as the regular services, we have a Sunday school, a youth club, a social committee and concerts. There are a lot of people who make it all happen and we wanted to introduce you to a few of them.

Revd. Bernhard Schunemann, Vicar
T: (020) 8693 3797
E: vicar@ststephensdulwich.org
Bernhard and his family arrived at St. Stephen's in 2006. "I think that St. Stephen's is a mix of tradition and informality. It's a relaxed Church where people can find their own level."



Revd. Nick Davies, Curate
T: (020) 8768 4273
E: curate@ststephensdulwich.org
Nick began his apprenticeship here last summer and can often be found walking his Spaniel in the woods. "I like the fact that St. Stephen's is a pretty forgiving place!"



Trot Lavelle, Reader
T: (020) 7274 1400
E: trotl@ukonline.co.uk
Trot lives in Camberwell and has worshipped here for twenty years. As a Reader, Trot preaches and often leads services at St. Stephens, "I appreciate the depth of spirituality and the ever-presence of prayer."



Revd. Hazel Kimber, Hon. Priest
When not at Church Hazel is involved with a number of groups on the Kingswood estate where she lives. She says, "I like the warmth and welcome. I would encourage people to come and see what they make of it."



Revd. Peter Westwood, Hon. Priest
After a career in Prison Chaplaincy, Peter has worshipped here for twenty years. "I think we're a pretty welcoming place."



Joan Greenwood, Church Warden
Joan is the 28th vicar's churchwarden and says she feels a real responsibility for the building. "I like the fact that it's a friendly Church and doesn't have any cliques."



Patrick Robatham, Church Warden
Patrick says that he was first attracted to St. Stephen's ten years ago by the music and then stayed because of the welcome he received.



Carol Field, Head Teacher, Langbourne School

'A Calm, lovely place to be'







The atmosphere is ordered but relaxed. A large screen over reception scrolls pictures of children involved in various activities from snake-handling to carnival celebration. Langbourne Primary School, tucked away on Bowen Drive on the Kingswood Estate, has about 200 pupils and a loyal staff, many of whom have been there at least as long as the head teacher Carol Field. She has led the team for the last eight years.

"Langbourne is a happy, cheerful place, everybody here is very welcoming. The staff wants to be here and they like people. I would say our main strengths are that we care for the children and are interested in them as individuals."

One Langbourne child told Ofsted inspectors on a recent visit that 'the teachers never give up on me', and this may be demonstrated in the well-established range of peer support groups in place to build self-esteem and help all the children feel part of the school community. "If a child is a loner or having trouble fitting in they choose four or five other children and they form what we call a circle of friends; they'll play together, encourage each other by saying positive things and this way the child can feel supported and understood."

As a Healthy School, Langbourne has its own flourishing vegetable garden which supplies the school kitchen, and the curriculum is currently being developed to make it more hands-on and investigative for the children.

"We do a lot of trips out, to show the children as much as we can of the world outside the estate and expose them to different things. My vision is that every child will make the best of themselves academically and leave here with confidence and good self-esteem so that whatever pathway they go for they can feel fulfilled." One pupil was awarded a full scholarship to Dulwich College last year.

The school connects with the local community by offering classes for parents, with a successful and well-attended parenting and cooking courses offered recently. Each summer the children make costumes and instruments for a carnival procession which goes around the estate.

There are changes ahead. The Harris Academy will be using part of the Langbourne site for a year from September 09 for their Year 7 students. "This will involve extensive refurbishment and re-equipping to provide science, IT and sports facilities. Some Harris staff will also work with Langbourne children during the year, and at the end of that time that section of the school will return to Langbourne and become a resource for the community."



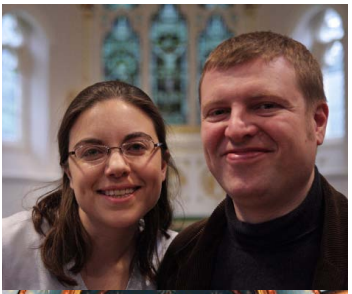




'The most natural thing in the world'

Thinking of a Church wedding?

If you have ever passed St. Stephens on a Saturday in summer you will know that it is a popular place for weddings. Last year a change was made to legislation which now makes it even easier for people to get married in Church.





That is good news for couples like Caroline and Richard who have chosen to get married at St. Stephen's later this year. Richard explains, "My grandfather was a minister and it just seemed the most natural thing to do. It is nice to get married in the heart of the community. Somehow it all makes sense, rather than in some anonymous Council building."

Although not living in the parish they have chosen to attend St. Stephen's for six months before their wedding. In this way they can be married here. "It's been great, people have been very welcoming and introduced themselves over coffee. We visited some other Churches but things just seemed to chime for us at St. Stephen's" says Caroline.

The new legislation means that if you, your fiancé or your parents have lived in the parish for six months or regularly attended worship at St. Stephen's for six months, you can get married here. In addition, if you were baptised or prepared for confirmation here or if your parents or grandparents were married here, you too can be married here. If none of the above seems to apply but your heart is set on St. Stephen's, you can join Caroline and Richard and attend worship here for six months.

The poetry of the wedding service makes it clear that a lifelong commitment needs love, forgiveness and understanding - as well as the support of family and friends. In an age when people ask questions about the best way to raise children, a Church wedding is one way to put your plans on a firm foundation.

As the popular passage from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians says, "Faith, hope and love remain but the greatest of these is love."

If you are considering getting married here, you can get further details from our website or by dropping in to our open office on Saturday mornings 10.30-11.30.

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MEET THE GATEKEEPERS

The men in the Toll Booth give us a glimpse into their world

The College Road Tollgate may be a nifty traffic-calming device or an irritating inconvenience, depending on your point of view. For the men who staff this controversial local landmark it's an unpredictable and occasionally alarming workplace.

Frank and Dudley are the two mainstays of the Toll Gate which separates St Stephen's from Dulwich College and Dulwich Village. Frank took on the job fifteen years ago after an illness caused him to give up work on the buses. Dudley joined 8 years ago after retiring from the Railways where he had been an assistant in their engineering school. Both came to Britain as young men, settled and brought up children and are now proud grandparents.

Frank enjoys meeting people and answering their questions; he helps many find their destinations and is surprised at how many ask him what the weather is going to be like. Dudley is quieter, though he does readily emerge from the toll booth when needed. He has overcome the shock of being attacked in his second year of doing this job by two youths who inflicted permanent damage to one eye in a robbery. On another occasion a driver who did not want to pay the toll fetched an axe from his car; fortunately the man thought better of using it and went away peaceably.



Frank Williams



Dudley Yearwood

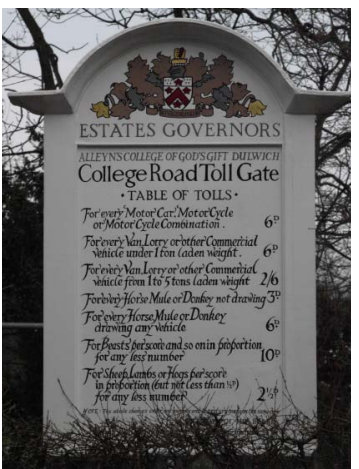
The Toll Gate has been here since 1789 when the then Lord of the Manor of Penge, John Morgan, built a road from Penge Common, at the top of the hill - now the site of Crystal Palace - to fields which he rented from Dulwich College. When the lease expired in 1809 the College kept the toll. Today they see its value in controlling the volume of traffic. Originally the cottage by the gate was built for the gate keeper but in recent years the cottage has been sold and the present gate with its central kiosk was opened in 1993.

Today the cost of passing through is £1 each way. In 1901 it was 3 old pence per car for a return journey; 10d for a score of beasts; and 2 1/2d for a score of sheep, lambs, hogs or goats. This compares well with today's price.*

(WWW.MeasuringWorth.com calculates that the price of a car through the toll would be the equivalent of 97 pence, based on the Retail Price Index.-Ed.)











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2nd - 4th April 8pm

Dulwich Players present The Rivals - Edward Alleyn Theatre, Dulwich College.

Tickets £8 (020) 8699 6398

5th April 10.30 – 12.30am

Friends of Dulwich Picture Gallery

Easter Egg Trail £5 per child

15th April 7.30pm

Friend of Dulwich Picture Gallery

Concert – Vienna Piano Trio play Beethoven and Schubert. Tickets £22, including a glass of wine

17th April 7.30 pm

Charity concert in aid of Practical Action SE London St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill, Sydenham. Tickets £12, including a glass of wine.

8 – 17th May

Dulwich Festival.

www.dulwichfestival.co.uk

15th May 7pm

Kingsdale School

Dulwich Youth Gala Concert

11th June 7pm

Kingsdale School

Drama Festival

25th June 7pm

Kingsdale School

Music Festival .

1st July 7pm

Kingsdale Chamber Choir

at the O_2

1 – 12th July

Sydenham Arts Festival. See www.sydenhamarts.com for information or to get involved



The donkeys at last year's Palm Sunday Church's Together procession

3rd July 7pm

Kingsdale School

Dance Festival

17th July

Langbourne School

Summer Carnival procession and School Fair

Kingswood House – regular classes and activities

Mondays

9.45 – 1.15am
Yoga

10 – 11am
Under 5s storytelling & music in the Library

1- 3pm
Pilates

Tuesdays

9.30 – 11am
Surestart

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Dulwich SE19 1UR

Fr Sean Hearty
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5th April Palm Sunday
10.30am Mass
including Street procession with Donkeys and St Stephens and Kingswood Churches

9th April Maundy Thursday
Evening Mass 7.30pm

10th April Good Friday
3pm Solemn Liturgy
7.30pm Stations of the Cross

11th April Holy Saturday
7.30pm Easter Vigil

12th April Easter Sunday
10.30am Easter Mass

Normal services

Sundays
9am Portuguese Mass
10.30am Parish Mass

Saturday
6.30pm Mass

Kingswood Community Church

Langbourne School Gymnasium (entrance in Bowen Drive)
Contact: Sandra Surrey 0798 600 2389
Sunday service 10.30am

Holy Week Services at St Stephen's



5 April: PALM SUNDAY

10am Eucumenical procession with donkeys and band.

Service starts by the shops in Seeley Drive (Kingswood Estate) Following, the reading of the passion and Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist. Families with children especially welcome

9 April: MAUNDY THURSDAY

8pm Parish supper & Eucharist

Supper and foot washing in the Church Hall followed by and Watch until midnight - Families with children are especially welcome to the first hour of this!

10 April: GOOD FRIDAY

10am Exploring Good Friday

an all age workshop (Church hall)

2pm Good Friday liturgy

with veneration of the cross



12 April: EASTER SUNDAY

5am Easter Vigil –
with Easter Fire outside the church and celebration of the resurrection

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Easter Day Parish Mass
with Sunday School for children

Services

Sunday:

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Sung Parish Eucharist with Footsteps

Monday to Friday:

8.30am Silent Prayer followed at 8.45am by Morning Prayer

Wednesday:

9.45 Holy Eucharist