

SPIRE

St. Stephen's community magazine
Easter 2010
Issue 5

InSpire:

The Joy of Easter
An Easter message

Kingsdale School – Exciting Times
Report on a recent tour of Kingsdale School

Kingswood Estate
New Community Shop

At your service
Loving Memories

Dates for Your Diary
Upcoming events this Spring



MAGGIE'S

The Ultimate in home cleaning

(020) 8777 9713 (Answerphone)

Regular monthly, bi-weekly or weekly service to coincide with your requirements. We also offer a spring cleaning service.

Maggie's professionally trained team of ladies are here to dust your blues away. We are in your area now. We supply all our own materials and equipment.

Ring us on our mobile:
07860 367857

Cleaning in Dulwich for 25 years

ROGER POPE & PARTNERS

INDEPENDENT DISPENSING OPTICIANS

IN DULWICH TO GIVE YOU PERSONAL ATTENTION

SPORTS EYEWEAR
CHILDRENS FRAMES
CONTACT LENSES
NHS & PRIVATE TESTING

29 DULWICH VILLAGE SE21 7BN
TEL: (020) 8299 0230

Also 41 New Cavendish Street W1G 9TW
Tel: (020) 7935 2124

www.rogerpope.co.uk

DULWICH MONTESSORI NURSERY SCHOOL



DMNS provides high quality private education and childcare for children aged 2 to 5 years.



DMNS is open from 9am to 3pm Monday to Thursday and 9am to 1pm on Friday (8.30am start possible).

St. Stephen's Church, College Road, London, SE21 7HN
Tel.: 020 8766 0091, 07795322688
Email: office@dulwichmontessori.co.uk,
Website: www.dulwichmontessori.co.uk

WELCOME

Jan Brades-Payne
Editor



In true seasonal tribute this edition of Spire has rebirth, renewal, fresh beginnings and celebration as its core themes.

Bernhard, our Vicar, encourages us to come into the light of Easter in joy and celebration (chocolate bunnies too). Nick, our Curate, takes a tour of Kingsdale School that, phoenix-like, is set to be a real 21st Century contender. We celebrate the new Kingswood Community Shop soon to open its doors for the first time.

In the sprit of fresh ideas we always welcome any comments you may have on the style and content of Spire editions. We are particularly interested to hear about news and views and suggestions for future features. Please have your say by emailing us on Spire@ststephensdulwich.org

All of us on the Spire team wish you a joyous Easter.

Inspire SPIRE

Have your say on what goes into Spire!

CONTACT US

Spire@ststephensdulwich.org

Pet Service 16 May 4pm; Bring your pets for a blessing!

Our Curate Nick Davies and Oscar the Spaniel discuss plans for the pet service.

'Two dog collars for the price of one' (Ed.)





Guess which local school has just been named as the sixth most improved in London for 5 or more A*-C GCSEs. Turn to page 7 to find out.

Join the Eucumenical Palm Sunday Procession 28th March







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

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

The Joy of Easter

An Easter message



Of the eighteen winters I have lived in London, this last one has certainly been the coldest, harshest and most beautiful one. I cannot remember such sustained periods of frost and snow as we have experienced in these last few months. Spring, therefore, comes this year with particular power and intensity.

For us Christians this has always been a most welcome coincidence. Our most favourite, central and most holy festival, Easter, falls at springtime. We have adapted the ancient symbol of the Easter egg to remind us of the new life that is available to believers through the resurrection of our saviour Jesus Christ. How Easter bunnies hopped into the picture is, however, unclear to me.

'... I was showing my husband an egg that was all speckled rather than all white like the rest. "The Easter Bunny must have laid this one," I said. "Perhaps she did," he answered absently, and returned to his paper. "I always thought the Easter Bunny was a he,'" I reflected. "Look," said my husband, putting down his paper, "It's hard enough for a rabbit to lay eggs without being a male too!" ' (Mrs. George Maskell)

Many may scoff at the commercialisation of Easter; yet our Christian church, itself, can be a bit gloomy in the way we proclaim our Easter faith. Easter is, first and foremost, a festival of joy and hope. Perhaps the shops and the children delighting in their chocolate and bunnies have got that bit right after all. Easter is a festival of joy because we learn that our life has meaning beyond the superficial level of satisfying our needs. What Easter might and should do is open our eyes to the possibility of joy in our lives.

The mystery of Easter joy is that we are invited to glimpse and to experience that positive purpose that God has for us. Fear and depression are not the last word, but, as St. Paul once so memorably put it,

'It is faith, hope and love that abide at the end, but the greatest one of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13, 13).

Easter promises that this is true.

When we light the Easter fire at 6am in the morning outside St Stephen's and carry light into the dark, unlit and gloomy church, we celebrate the promise that God, in the resurrection of his son and our saviour Christ, has turned the cross, an instrument of torture, into a sign of liberation and peace. God will not, therefore, leave us comfortless even when we are in darkness in our own lives.

Amidst the signs of spring and joy all around us, I wish all the readers of SPIRE a joyful Easter and God's blessings on your homes and families.



Kingswood Community Shop

Jan Brades-Payne

March brings an exciting development to the Kingswood Estate. Seven years of planning, investigation and campaigning come to fruition when the Kingswood Community Shop opens its doors to the public.

The Shop, located in the Seeley Drive Precinct, will offer a much needed drop-in advice service, counselling and health provision, as well as, a café and many other opportunities for support and community contact.

Kingswood Estate is a thriving community, but its geographical location means access to shops, essential services and wider community contact is somewhat limited, especially for the elderly and or immobile residents. So in 2002, following the Kingswood Estate Regeneration Programme, residents came up with a vision to - 'create a community based project that provides local people with access to a range of services which will enhance their social, financial and emotional well-being.'

The driving force behind the project has been the Kingswood Community Shop Action Group (KCSAG), founded by Hazel Kimber and Nina Kennedy, in close partnership with Kingswood House Management (Janice Francois), Kingswood Estate Tenants and Residents Association (KETRA) and The Crystal Palace Development Trust (CPDT), which helped to provide much needed funding.

At the outset it was hoped the shop would provide a place where people could come for company and advice, as Hazel and Nina of KCSAG put it "a little 'tea and sympathy'." Audits and a feasibility study identified more specific opportunities. The Shop could provide a whole range of services and activities:- information services, advocacy and support on benefits and pensions, debt and legal advice, counselling on bereavement and depression, advice on diet and health, cross generational projects with youth groups, a befriending service, Time Bank services and necessary health services in partnership with the local surgery at Paxton Green. All these as well as being a welcoming space to simply come and have a chat!

The Community Shop project has been very well supported and funded by a variety of groups from local development trusts to local schools, churches and Police. In total £365,865 was raised as the capital start up fund.

We asked Hazel and Nina what KCSAG's hopes are for the shop over the next two years – *"We envisage the Kingswood shop will be playing a pivotal role in the lives of residents. It will be offering a range of services and cross-generational activities with opportunities for consultation with our users enabling them to take things forward. There will be a pooling of expertise and new ideas, contribution of talent and identification of gaps. The shop will be known as a place for caring and sharing, where anyone can drop-in to find a listening ear. Old and new friends will chat together over a cup of tea or coffee and everyone will be assured of a warm welcome!"*









There will be a blessing of the Community Shop at the start of the Palm Sunday procession. An official opening ceremony for the shop is planned for May date and time to be confirmed.

St. Stephens will be donating its Lent Appeal collection to The Kingswood Community Shop.

HARVEY & WHEELER

EST 1855

27 DULWICH VILLAGE, LONDON SE21 7BN

FAX: 020-8693 6582 email: sales@harveywheeler.com

www.harveywheeler.com

020 – 8693 4321

ESTATE AGENTS VALUERS PROPERTY MANAGERS

Specialists in the sale of property in Dulwich and the surrounding areas. Please contact us for our latest Property List or visit our website **www.harveywheeler.com**

Oakfield Preparatory School

To Care, Challenge and Inspire

A rapidly developing, forward thinking school for children aged 2-11

- Stunning newly refurbished Nursery and Pre-Preparatory Department Opening: Autumn 2009
- Major Investment in ICT: Autumn 2009
- Superb results at 11+ to local Independent Senior Schools
- New Games Fields (in partnership with Streatham & Marlborough Cricket Club): May 2009

Every day is an open day to see this Happy School in Action!

125-128 Thurlow Park Road, Dulwich, London SE21 8HP
Tel: +44 (0)20 86704206 Fax: +44 (0)20 87666744 Email: oakfield@cfbt.com
www.oakfield.dulwich.sch.uk

Report on his recent tour of Kingsdale School

by our Curate, Revd. Nick Davies

Driving past Kingsdale School, it is easy to miss what is going on inside. Over the last ten years, however, it has been nothing short of a revolution.







The school has seen investment of £30 million in exciting new buildings including an award winning sports complex, music block and a state of the art auditorium and cinema complex called The Pod. It has also become a Foundation School, gaining specialist status in performing arts. Indeed, Ofsted recently described Kingsdale as, *'a good and rapidly improving school with a number of outstanding features.'*

The students that I met seemed to agree, "It's an excellent school. The performances are really good. Everyone learns while having fun and the relationship between teachers and students is very good" says Charley in Year 8. Ntsik, another Year 8, welcomes the school's diversity, "There's something for everyone, everyone's different, but in a good way we're all still one."

I asked George, my student guide, what he hoped to do when he leaves, "I've always been interested in animals and would like to study biology, specialising in animal behaviour. I'd like to go to a good University, try and get a PhD and then work abroad."

Deputy Head, Christine Matheson has been a big part of the improvements at the School, "I've seen a tremendous change and I am delighted that Kingsdale is currently heavily over-subscribed." The school now offers scholarship grants in sports and performing arts and has been able to limit class sizes to twenty in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. Building on these achievements, the school will be opening a new sixth form this year and hopes to achieve a second specialist status in Maths. Christine adds, "We are extremely proud of our children and our staff. We want our children to excel and achieve their potential. Kingsdale is about aiming higher."

Links with the local community are key; Ms Matheson reports a massive increase in referrals from local primary schools and the work of the community forum in bridge building locally. Use of the school's astro-turf and fitness suite by the local community is evidence of the flourishing relationship developing with the Kingswood Estate, "It was always the case that when we refurbished we would share our fantastic facilities with the local community...Kingsdale did offer after-school adult education classes in the past and that is not ruled out for the future."

My guide, George, is obviously proud of his school and when asked what he would say to others thinking of coming here he suggests, "Come for a tour, I would guarantee them they would be impressed."

For more information about Kingsdale or to join a tour call: (020) 8670 7575 or visit their website at

www.kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk



Loving Memories

Trot Lavelle, Reader



When someone dies it is usually their nearest and dearest who are left to organise what, they hope, is the most fitting way to hand them back to God. Should it be burial or cremation? Should we have a service in church?

All sorts of questions emerge alongside the many formalities which have to be gone through including visits to the Registrar and the undertaker. It can be very distressing continually being asked the same questions over and over again.

The Church reaches out to help at such difficult times. Being invited into the life of any family and their friends when they are bewildered and grieving is a very great privilege. The funeral service of the Church of England can be very short and quiet with only a few family members present, or an occasion of great solemnity with music, hymns and a packed church.

Whichever form the funeral takes, it marks the close of a human life on Earth. So through spending time together the Christian minister and those closest to the deceased have opportunity to get to know each other a little more. Choosing favourite music, hymns and readings, or respecting the deceased's wishes not to have any music and hymns at all. We learn of treasured memories as well as humorous occasions. Searching questions may be asked too. And why not? Death is a life-changing experience and one we will all experience.

Solomon in The Old Testament Book of Ecclesiastes writes *'Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.'* Comforting words which are an important part of our Christian faith which, like lots of others, help us look beyond the immediate sense of loss that we may be feeling.



Spring bulbs break through ground recently hard and frozen, blossoming into fragrant flowers. Early morning skies show stunning displays of radiant pinks and silvery-greys, shafts of sunlight hi-lighting the wonders of our Earthly surroundings. It is God's world and beyond this Earthly life we celebrate the greater light of Heaven. None of us know what it is like, but our Christian faith comforts and assures us that we will celebrate and enjoy the love of God and whole company of Heaven. Easter Day is the time for great celebration. We share the joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ whose humanity was destroyed through crucifixion, but whose spirit and soul was uplifted to the heavenly Kingdom of his Father God.





15% OFF* with this advert

The Secret Garden, your local independent garden centre

A very individual and beautiful garden centre in Crystal Palace becomes a big favourite with all who find it. Come and see all the treasures that this garden centre has to offer including herbs, perennials, shrubs, trees and seeds. Try growing your own fruit and vegetables, because home-grown tastes so much better, especially when it's organic.

Some reasons to visit

- Wide range of excellent plants, pots, tools and trellis
- Knowledgeable, friendly staff who care about plants
- Delivery service
- Monday – Saturday 9-6, Sunday 10-5
- Wild bird food, Hills pet food, Calor Gas and turf
- Free parking, next to Sainsbury's



The Secret Garden, Coxwell Road, Westow Street, Upper Norwood, SE19 3AF
Tel:020 8771 8200 www.thesecretgardencentre.com

* Offer excludes gift tokens, Calor gas, Hills pet food. Offer closes 31st May 2010






Virgo Fidelis Prep School

An Independent Catholic School
For Girls and Boys aged 3 – 11
All faiths are warmly welcomed.

'A School where every child is valued, where respect is paramount and where fun is part of every day'

Small classes; outstanding academic results – in the past two years, 30% of pupils obtained scholarship to top local schools.

Please contact the school for further information.
147 Central Hill, Upper Norwood,
London, SE19 1RS
Tel: 020 8653 2169
office@vfps.org
www.vfps.org

A. YEATMAN & SONS

~Established 1886~

INDEPENDENT
FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS
& MEMORIAL CONSULTANTS

Personal attention 24 hours
Home visits at no extra cost
Weekend & Horse Drawn Funerals
Please telephone for a quotation

020 8670 1127 *24 hrs*
384 Norwood Road, West Norwood SE27 9AA



Help the Aged Funeral Plans

PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLANS
Re-Patriation Service
to and from
Any Country

Helpline for Bereavement Counselling & Probate Problems
Low cost & DSS funerals available
Funerals & Memorials arranged nationwide
Please Telephone for a Quotation.

Get hooked on Mini Cook workshops

Let your kids experience a Mini Cook's fun-filled cooking & foodie adventure



New to St Stephen's Church

Easter food & craft workshop
Your Mini Cook will create fab Easter food gifts during this fun-filled session of baking, chocolate making, Easter egg & egg cup crafts.

Saturday 27th March
2pm-5.30pm

£45 per child & 15% sibling discount

For Bookings & More Information

E:info@Minicook.co.uk T: 0845 026 7788 www.minicook.co.uk
Mini Cook parties are available throughout London & South East

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

March

Saturday 20th - 7.30pm Dulwich Choral Society St John's Passion by JS Bach with international soloists - All Saints, West Dulwich

Sunday 21st – 6pm Special *Choral Evensong* - St Stephen's

Sunday 28th – 6pm James Allen Community Orchestra in aid of the Dulwich Helpline. Concert of Tchaikovsky and Beethoven. Holst Hall, James Allen Girls School. Tickets £7, concessions £5 on the door or from music department JAGS

30th – 7pm Concert by the choirs of Sydenham High School at St Stephen's Church

April

7-8th *Dulwich Picture Gallery*
Mad Hatters 10.30am – 12.30pm 6-8yrs. Design your own Easter hats and masks using a wide range of recycled materials.
Beautiful Creative Easter Nests 2.30pm – 4.30pm 9-11yrs. Create your own papier-mâché box based on spring time creatures; take home a wonderful egg holder.
Both courses £18 for both days (020) 8299 8732. http://www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Saturday 24th - 7:30pm Concert *Bowjangles* in aid of Dulwich Helpline. A classically trained professional string quartet with a difference who will be bringing their energetic all-singing, all-dancing show to the Michael Croft Theatre, Alleyn's School - tickets £15 (£12 concessions) from Dulwich Helpline (020) 8299 2623.

Sunday 25th - 11.30 after the Parish Servive - ***St Stephen's APCM***

May

7th - 16th - Dulwich Festival Various locations see www.dulwichfestival.co.uk/

Sunday 9th - Dulwich Festival Fair 11am-4pm Dulwich Park

Sunday 16th - 4pm Pet Service at St Stephen's Bring your pets for a celebration and blessing

Sunday 23rd - 6pm All your favourite Hymms old and new – send in your request at St Stephen's with St Margaret Clitherow and Kingswood Community Churches

9th-16th Christian Aid Week: Please help with a door-to-door collection call Jane Wenlock (020) 8299 0697 or email: janewenlock@googlemail.com

June

Sunday 13th *St Stephen's Festival* Service followed by a bring and share lunch

Saturday 26th *St Stephen's Fun Day* – FREE fun, games and activities for children of all ages with refreshements, tombola and raffle.

St Margaret Clitheroe RC

Palm Sunday
10.30am Procession together with St Stephens & Kingswood Community Church

Maunday Thursday
7.30m: Mass of the Lords Supper

Good Friday
3pm: Good Friday Service
6.30pm: Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday
8.30pm: Easter Vigil Service

Easter Sunday
10.30am: Easter Sunday Mass

Kingswood Community Church (Langbourne School Hall)

25th-27th March 7.30 pm:
A three-day renewal and prayer event (all are welcome).

Palm Sunday 10.00 am
Procession together with St Stephens & St Margaret Clitheroe

Maunday Thursday 7 pm: Fellowship and Communion gathering **(Ketra Rooms, Telfor House, Kingswood Estate)**

Easter Friday service:
10.30 am

Easter Sunday Service
10.30 am

Please call Sandra Surrey for further details and times 07986 002389



Easter at St Stephen's



28 March: 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
NB British Summertime starts at 02.00am so don't forget to put your clocks back to be in time



1 April: MAUNDY THURSDAY

8pm Parish supper & Eucharist
Informal supper and foot washing in the Church Hall followed by Eucharist and Watch until midnight - Families with children are especially welcome to the first hour of this!

2 April: GOOD FRIDAY

10am to 12 noon Exploring Good Friday an all age workshop in the Church hall and Church

2pm Good Friday liturgy with veneration of the cross



4 April: EASTER SUNDAY

6am Easter Vigil – with Easter fire & candle, exultet & liturgy outside the church and celebration of the resurrection

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Easter Sunday Parish Mass with Sunday School for children

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