

NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2011

Recent events

On 24 September the **London Gallery Quire** visited and sang in church, as part of an East London tour. They keep alive the tradition, begun in the 18th century, of west gallery choirs with musicians singing popular and tuneful music. We never had a band here - from the start there was a large organ - but there was certainly conflict over the 'old ways' when Bryan King introduced a surpliced east end choir in the 1840s, singing a very different style of music, so their visit was fitting. About 50 singers sang lustily, with musicians sitting in the central aisle (including a curly serpent for the bass line). We hope to invite them back to sing Evensong next year.

October began with a weekend of activities marking the 75th anniversary of the **Battle of Cable Street**, here and elsewhere. The Council arranged, funded and expertly organised events in the Gardens on the Saturday, with performers both local (including Soyyten Sen) and professional (including a fabulous 1930s French-style jazz band), but it was poorly attended, apart from speeches by the Mayor and others around the restored mural. The next day over 1,000 people marched with banners from Aldgate to the mural, with a similar range of political, trade union and other groups as were involved in 1936 - plus some Bengali groups. Some original participants were there, among them a lady whose 106th birthday was the following day. The Rector brought up the rear with a group from Southend who shared their memories with him. We were proud to be part of the hosting of these events - now, as then, the churches must make common cause with those of all faiths and none to resist the blandishments of racism.

For our **Harvest** celebrations, St Paul's School were as generous as ever in providing appropriate produce for the Whitechapel Mission, and it was good to share with the children material from Christian Aid focused on Bangladesh, where mission partner organisations have helped local communities to respond to coastal flooding by planting salt-water friendly rice, and grow crabs for sale. Unsurprisingly, but impressively, some of them were well-informed about conditions in a country which many of them have visited. The congregation added to the produce for local distribution, and made contributions to **Christian Aid**. (One of the PCC's current projects is to review our charitable giving as a church, and develop a clearer policy for devoting a fixed proportion of our income to local, national and international causes - of which our support of Christian Aid will form a part.)

Future events

November is sometimes described as the 'Kingdom season': as the leaves fall and shadows lengthen, our thoughts turn to the things unseen - the communion of saints, and our fellowship with all who have gone before us in the joyful hope and expectation of sharing in the heavenly banquet. So we keep **All Saints**, on 30 October, remembering those whose Christian pilgrimages has been chronicled and celebrated; and **All Souls** on 2 November, remembering our own loved ones whose stories may not be widely known yet have inspired our own journey. In the New Testament, all God's faithful ones, on earth and in heaven, are termed 'the saints'. Names for All Souls can be added to the list in church, or given to the Rector.

Remembrance Sunday on 13 November will be marked in the usual way: the service starts at 10.15am and includes a procession to the war memorial to lay a wreath at 11am. The 'kingdom' theme culminates in the celebration of **Christ the King** on 20 November, before we move into Advent and the start of the new Christian year.

Concerts

Flyers are, or will be, available in church (and sent round electronically) for three musical events this month:

♫ Saturday 12 November at 7pm: *Six Centuries of Song* - Byrd, Mozart, Schubert, Tallis, Simon & Garfunkel [who used to stay in Dellow Street] and Wilbye, plus some instrumental items, presented by **Gaudeamus** (tickets £7.50/£5 concessions)

♫ Thursday 17 November at 8pm: another concert by **F-IRE Klang Codex**, *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. Fred Thomas, who curates and directs these concerts, writes *William Blake's cycle of poems provides a vessel into which songs from the 12th Century to the present can be boldly poured, transcending style, revealing common ground and shedding unique light on the broad themes of Innocence and Experience. Taking the form of a palindrome, this unique concert will feature songs by Hildegard, Solage, Bach, Schubert, Schumann, Stravinsky, Gershwin, Ellington, Folk composers, Barney Keen, Ellie Rose & Fred Thomas* (tickets £8/£5 concessions) [The group's last concert, on 29 October, featured virtuoso performances, showing some ingenious things you can do with a tuba and a piano!]

♫ Friday 2 and Saturday 3 December at 7.30pm: a semi-staged performance of a rare one-act Puccini opera *Suor Angelica* by a group of professional musicians, who are excited by the creative possibilities of performing this work, set in a convent, in a church. Expect nuns' cells in the windows, and lots of candles!

In the deanery

Our new area **Bishop Adrian**, and **Archdeacon Rachel**, will be spending a week in Tower Hamlets Deanery from 17-23 November, for which various events are planned. They already have a strong grasp of some of the local issues, and are beginning the process of getting to know the churches and their congregations. The Rector will be meeting Rachel here on 1 December, and Bishop Adrian will be rededicating St Paul's School on 10 January - more details of this in due course.

Carrying the Light

Last month we reported on the bicentenary of the **National Society**, which did so much in the 19th century to provide schools and teachers throughout the land, and continues its work of supporting church schools. Part of Jan's job is to be its General Secretary, and they organised a great celebration at Westminster Abbey on Friday 14 October, with banners from every diocese in England and Wales, and an inspiring address by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the many primary and secondary school children who were there. There have also been events in Hackney, since the Society's founder, Joshua Watson, lived there - his brother was the incumbent of the parish church.

Dioceses have arranged their own events to mark the bicentenary, some of them very imaginative. London has sent 'the Light of Christ' round all church schools in the diocese (it arrived at St Paul's one day in mid-October); the plan is that it winds up at St Paul's Cathedral on 22 November, when Terry, the Rector and some children from our school will be present. But will St Paul's have re-opened by then? Please hold the difficulties there in your prayers, in the hope of a sensible resolution that will affirm both the importance of the protest and the need for the life of the Cathedral to continue.

Quiz Night - Saturday 19 November at 6pm, in the Crypt

A great social event for all, with food (£2 a head), and Paul Kellaway as quiz-master - so we can expect questions that are both intriguing and hilarious. The 6pm start is to encourage children to come, because they are such a valued part of our parish community. Put the date in your diary, and bring your friends, relations and neighbours!

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Tue 1	Eucharist 12.30pm
Wed 2	All Souls (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed) Eucharist 7.30pm
Sun 6	Third Sunday before Advent - All-Age Parish Eucharist 10.15am
Tue 8	Eucharist 12.30pm
Wed 9	St Paul's School Governors 5.30pm
Sat 12	'Six Centuries of Song' - concert by Gaudeamus, 7.30pm
Sun 13	Remembrance Sunday - Parish Eucharist with Act of Remembrance 10.15am
Tue 15	Eucharist 12.30pm
Thu 17	700th Anniversary service at St Mary Bow, 7.30pm (Bishop of London)
Sat 19	Quiz Night in the Crypt, 6.00pm
Sun 20	Christ the King - Parish Eucharist 10.15am
Tue 22	Eucharist 12.30pm
	'Carrying the Light' - diocesan schools service, St Paul's Cathedral 2.30pm
	Deanery Synod, St Benet's, 7.30pm
Thu 24	Parochial Church Council, 7.30pm
Sun 27	Advent Sunday - Parish Eucharist 10.15am
Tue 29	Eucharist 12.30pm
Wed 30	Andrew the Apostle
December	
Fri 2 & Sat 3	Puccini <i>Suor Angelica</i> , 7.30pm
Sun 4	Advent 2 - All-Age Parish Eucharist 10.15am