

# St GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST WITH ST PAUL

## Newsletter for July 2013

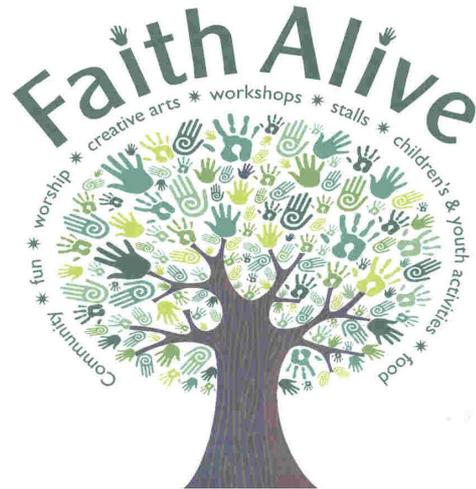
### I do like to be beside the seaside

For our summer trip this year, we decided to go to **Bradwell-on-Sea**, on the Essex coast, and join in the annual pilgrimage that for many years has been organised by CTEEL (Churches Together in Essex and East London), centred on the historic chapel of St Peter's on the Wall. This year the theme is 'Faith Alive', and the keynote speaker is the RC Bishop of Brentwood, Thomas McMahon. We'll leave here by coach at 9am to arrive in time for an opening act of worship in Bradwell at 11am, after which we'll join the two mile walk (or go in one of the minibuses that will be laid on) to the chapel. After worship there, we can join in the activities for children and adults that will be provided, eat our lunches, and enjoy the coastal setting in whatever way we wish and the weather allows, leaving (after we have shared the scones with jam and cream that have become part of the ritual of our summer trip) at around 5pm. It should be great fun, and inspiring too, and it's not too late to book a place on the parish coach (for which we're asking a nominal £5 contribution). You can find more details of the day [here](#) or by asking the Rector or wardens. We're hoping for a full coach!

## Bradwell Pilgrimage

Bradwell on Sea

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013 \* 11.am - 3.30pm



### Strike a light - Matchgirls 125

The following day (7 July) sees the culmination of an imaginative programme of events (art, music, guided walks) co-ordinated by the union UNITE to mark the 125th anniversary of the courageous **matchgirls' strike** of 1888 against their appalling working conditions, in particular the effects of white phosphorus, which caused the cancer known as phossy-jaw. (Red phosphorus was safer, and its use was promoted by the Salvation Army, but it was three times the price.) Although Bryant & May's factory was in Bow, events are being held locally (a) because Wilton's is involved - in particular, mounting a revival of the musical *The Matchgirls* by Bill Owen (of *Last of the Summer Wine* fame); (b) because UNITE now has a training centre in the basement of St George's Town Hall (which our school is planning to tap into to help parents with IT and language skills) and (c) because the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street was successfully held in St George's Gardens.

Children's Church are researching the story of the matchgirls, and will share their findings at our all-age eucharist on 7 July, linked to the prophet Amos and his call for social justice. A further connection to the Christian tradition comes from the ironic fact that *phosphoros* is the Greek word for the bright 'morning star', eg in 2 Peter 1.19 - *You will do well to be attentive to this [prophetic message] as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.* The reference is to Christ's transfiguration, yet so often God's brilliant gifts have been used for human *dis*figuration (as, most terribly, on 6 August, the feast of the Transfiguration when the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki).

### Sorting out the Church of England?

The same weekend, and the following days, also sees the General Synod meeting in York, when members will be urged by the bishops and others to avoid a second train crash - as the Secretary General describes it - on the question of women in the episcopate. (Rachel our archdeacon rightly protests against speaking of 'women bishops' as if they were a separate species: the intention is simply that some of our bishops in future will be female.) Since the last 'package' was rejected, work has been done on building trust, and also giving women their proper place in consultations about the way forward, alongside the current all-male House of Bishops. The latest 'package' is built on the priority of mutual trust, rather than legalism; but will this be accepted? Much will also be said about same-sex marriage... Jan will be there, and may tell us what really happened, as opposed to how the media spins it.



## St Paul's School

As well as Founder's Day on 28 June, when each class shares something about the life and doings of the remarkable Dan Greatorex, there will be a '**Celebration of Excellence**' on Thursday 4 July from 3.00 to 5.30pm, to mark the achievement of staff, pupils and governors of 'oustanding' status in

the recent OFSTED and denominational reports (mentioned last month). The Year 6 '**graduation**' event is on 18 July. Their last RE topic is the **eucharist**, and the Rector has been helping them with their work on this, planning a simple celebration in church (date to be fixed), since the best way of understanding the eucharist is to experience it. After **Write-On Week**, with various special events, the **end of term service** (at which leavers are given bibles) is on Tuesday 23 July at 9.30am - all are welcome.

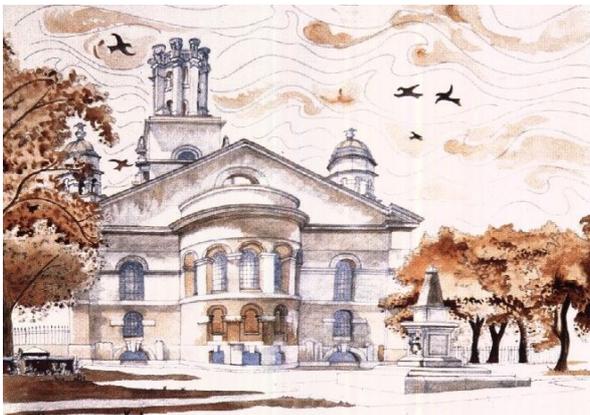
The exciting project with the **Jamie Oliver** foundation, growing and cooking healthy food, is going ahead, with a dedicated building in view. Meanwhile, fruit and veg are being grown around the site, and school would be delighted to hear of anyone with green fingers who could go in and spend a bit of time with the children on this, and stop the cabbages bolting!

## 'May Ramadan bring peace and prosperity, good health and wealth, and brighten your life forever'

The Muslim month of fasting begins on 9 July, ending with Eid Al-Fitr on 8 August. This is a good time for us to hold our Muslim neighbours in our prayers, since it can be tough, as well as spiritually rewarding, to keep the dawn to dusk fast in the summer months. (It is not, of course, the same as dieting; indeed, some say they actually put on weight during Ramadan, because of the communal feasting when night falls.) We have written in previous years of the difference between this corporate and publicly-observed discipline and the Christian approach, in line with Jesus' teachings is private and less prescriptive.



Last year Alex, our churchwarden, was one of a group who planned and ran a successful interfaith community project in Gosling Gardens during Ramadan, and they have funding to repeat something similar this year - good news!



## 284 Not Out

Silver for a 25th, gold for a 50th, and various lists for everything in between (for example, one says amethyst for a 17th, but another says gifts of furniture). But nothing is prescribed for a 284th anniversary; suggestions are invited, absent which we shall joyfully mark the consecration of our church in 1729 as we have in previous years, with a celebratory service followed by a barbecue in the Rectory garden - with the proviso that nowadays seems necessary even in summer, 'weather permitting': if it rains, we will cook and eat elsewhere! All are most welcome. It's a great opportunity for friends old and new to pay a visit.

## Other news

¶ We'll be bidding farewell to **Wapping High School** at the end of their summer term on 19 July (though they'll still be around until they move into their permanent premises on Commercial Road at the end of August). We've been glad to provide a temporary home for their first year of entry in 'Crypt East' (their other base has been in the crypt of St Paul Shadwell) - not least because the Rector knew headteacher Paul Guénault and his family years ago in Lancaster! Paul is a musician, and they have enjoyed using the church for music-making.

¶ Talking about, and eating, **hot potatoes** on the second Sunday of the month has been going well, but we won't be doing it in July because of our summer trip and anniversary barbecue, or in August because of holidays; so the next one will be 8 September.

¶ It was a great pleasure to see again **Austin Tiffany**, from Texas; he was a Jellicoe intern with us last summer, and this summer is working on a project in Stoke Newington. He has kept in touch through the year, and has much enjoyed his theological studies at university.

¶ Older readers may remember Prebendary **Arthur Royall**, former area dean of Poplar / Tower Hamlets and incumbent of various churches in Bow and Poplar, and later the Archbishops' Adviser on Clergy Appointments [*right*]. He wrote a number of pieces about local church history, referred to on our website; Marcus Cooke, a lifelong friend, kept in regular contact. He has died in his 95th year; his funeral will be in Swaffham on 3 July.

¶ We duly affirmed our 2013-14 **churchwardens** in office, and re-presented their staves - one topped by a crown (Allan's), the other by St George on one side and St Christopher on the other (appropriate for Alex as leader of our work with children). The Rector recently attended an ecclesiastical law seminar with the title 'Churchwardens - a case of mistaken identity?' which argued that wardens were historically more the officers and representatives of the local congregation than officers and 'eyes' of the bishop: discuss!

¶ Finally, a warning that The **Highway will be closed** on Sunday 28 July for the Triathlon, and Sunday 4 August for Prudential Ride London. Planners of these events seem indifferent to the impact on churches, though you should be able to drive here by other routes: details [here](#).

