

NEWSLETTER for OCTOBER 2011

Looking back over the summer.....

■ Holidays seem a long time ago now, but members of our congregation made various interesting trips, at home and abroad, during August. The Rector and Jan had a fascinating few days with friends in **Finland**, visiting some wonderful medieval churches (including one which was burnt down and has been rebuilt with beautiful modern art work), a few of the Åland islands between Finland and Sweden (which can be explored by an amazing system of free ferries), and of course a lakeside summer cottage (in this case, state-of-the-art, with solar power) replete with sauna, barbecue, fishing...

Mika Pajunen, our generous host, is a Lutheran pastor who now directs one of the regional institutes training deacons - who are keen to explore the English experience of multicultural issues - as well as being an assistant in the Anglican chaplaincy of Finland, within the diocese in Europe; we hope will be visiting us at some time in the next few months. All this is the positive fruit of the Porvoo agreement, between the Anglican churches of the British Isles and the Baltic and Nordic Lutheran churches.

■ Following the return of our **organist** Hannah to the USA, we were glad to welcome Robert Langston to play for us on several Sundays. Robert currently lives and works in Hong Kong, but plans to return permanently to the UK some time next year, when we hope he might be with us again. Our organist until next summer is Lydia Sargent, a student who lives locally, and has embarked enthusiastically upon her duties: welcome, Lydia!

■ From 29 August to 9 September, we were pleased to host an excellent and informative exhibition marking the 25th anniversary of the '**Siege of Wapping**' - the arrival of the Murdoch presses at News International across The Highway, and its impact on the local community. A public meeting here on 5 September gathered many of those who were actively involved at the time - in the week when the sale of the site was announced. We watch with interest to see the outcome of this, and its implication for our links with NI, for instance through the annual carol service.

...and ahead to October

■ The first weekend of October sees a variety of events to mark the 75th anniversary of the '**Battle of Cable Street**', when an alliance of political, community and other groups came together to oppose the provocative march of Oswald Mosley's fascists through the East End - shades of EDL in 2011! The law at that time was powerless to prevent them (it was changed the following year, banning uniformed parades), and the outcome was a bloody set-to at the junction of Cable and Dock Streets (where the blue plaque is), which successfully repelled the mob. Because the mural marking this event is on the side of the Town Hall in Cable Street [*pictured above*], there will be events in the Gardens, with stalls and activities on the afternoon of Saturday 1, and a march and brief speeches on Sunday 2 (with events at Wiltons throughout the day).

The 1936 alliance, which took up the Spanish Civil War slogan *no pasaran* - 'they shall not pass' - included trade unionists, socialists, communists, anarchists (with Jewish versions of each of these) and others. There were perhaps not many church folk involved, but an honourable exception was Fr John Groser, and the Christian Socialist congregation at Christ Church Watney Street, where he was based before his move to St George-in-the-East following the Blitz in 1941. He was a founder of the broad-based Stepney Tenants Defence League, which had brought together local residents across all the traditional divides, and the STDL was certainly part of the resistance to Mosley. So he, and other committed Christian activists from that period, would rejoice that some of the celebrations marking this anniversary will be based around our church (and the marchers will come inside if the weather is bad).



The actual anniversary is on Tuesday 4, when there will be a public debate: see *East End Life*, or <http://www.battleofcablestreet.org.uk/anniversary.html>

Harvest

Because of these events, we decided to move our **Harvest Festival** on one week, to 9 October (with the school service the previous Friday). At our all-age service that day, we will be thinking about harvest issues in Bangladesh, using material from Christian Aid [*Selina Begum pictured below, harvesting rice*]. As usual, gifts brought by school and members of the congregation will be distributed locally, and cash gifts directed via Christian Aid to their partner churches and organisations. And the service will be followed by a **bring and share lunch** in church - to which all are invited!



■ **National Society bicentenary:** as Jan has explained to us, this year sees celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the National Society, whose astonishing achievement in the 19th century went a long way to achieving their vision for a church school in every parish, at a time when the state did not seem to be bothered about providing schools for the poor. The schools established in our parish certainly benefited from its activities. There is a thanksgiving service at Westminster

Abbey on Friday 14 October - let the Rector know if you'd like to attend, and he will see if he can get you a ticket!

Edith Wyeth



On Saturday 17 September Edith's ashes were interred in the family plot in the churchyard at Ashingdon, in Essex, alongside her beloved husband Jimmy. It was a lovely sunny afternoon, and the brief graveside service ended with the singing of the hymn *The Lord's my shepherd*. The church was open, and so the younger family members were shown the Wyeth inscriptions within, including one in the front pew to Jimmy's brother Eric, who was Rector's Warden, and a brass tablet to their father John Herbert Wyeth, who was a Lay Reader in the parish.

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

~ ~ Sat 1 - Sun 2 various events to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street ~ ~

- Sun 2 **Trinity 15** - Parish Eucharist 10.15am
- Tue 4 Eucharist, 12.30pm
- Thu 6 Deanery Synod, All Saints Poplar 7.30pm
- Fri 7 St Paul's School Harvest service, 9.30am
- Sat 8 Yom Kippur - please pray for the Jewish community of the East End
- Sun 9 **HARVEST FESTIVAL** - Festal All-Age Eucharist 10.15am, followed by a bring and share lunch in church
- Tue 11 Eucharist, 12.30pm
- Thu 13 Diocesan Synod (extra meeting to vote on legislation for women bishops)
- Fri 14 National Society Bicentenary - service at Westminster Abbey 12 noon
- Sun 16 **Trinity 17** - Parish Eucharist 10.15am
- Tue 18 **Luke the Evangelist** Eucharist, 12.30pm
- Thu 20 Parochial Church Council 8pm
- Fri 21 schools close for half term
- Sun 23 **Last Sunday After Trinity - Bible Sunday** Parish Eucharist 10.15am
- Tue 25 Eucharist, 12.30pm
- Fri 28 **Simon & Jude, apostles**
- Sun 30 clocks go back **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** - Parish Eucharist 10.15am
- 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

Sunday Readings

2 October	Isaiah 5.1-7; Philippians 3.4b-14, Matthew 21.33-end
9 October	<i>Harvest</i> : 2 Corinthians 9.6-15; Luke 17.11-19
16 October	Isaiah 45.1-7; I Thessalonians 1.1-10; Matthew 22.15-22
23 October	Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 8-12; Colossians 3.12-17; Matthew 24.30-35
30 October	Revelation 7.9-end; I John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12
2 November 7.30pm	Wisdom 3.1-9; I Peter 1.3-9; John 6.37-40
6 November	Amos 5.18-24; I Thessalonians 4.13-end; Matthew 15.1-13