

# FRIENDS OF HORNSEY CHURCH TOWER

As spring arrives, the church tower is looking in good health. The tactful repairs to the stonework, and the replastering of the entrance arch show that this a building that is cared for. The gleaming hands of the clock face on the West front tell the time, and the northern clock is doing its best (although in need of a little further adjustment!).

And it is also a building that is in use, for there are now church services on both Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Father Stephen Taylor, who was responsible for this, has now moved on, but a new curate will be arriving in May.

Meanwhile the Friends have been busy pruning and clearing in the Memorial Garden and churchyard, with more activities planned as the weather gets warmer. Future plans include:

- Reseeding the grass around the tower
- Lavender bushes in the memorial garden
- British bluebells in the woodland area
- A tidy up of the dog free area to encourage use by the school

Look out for the improvements,- or even better, come and help on the gardening days.

We would like to add a small stretch of railings close to the tower on the South side, to protect the grass and tombs in this area, but fencing is expensive. If you have any spare hooped railing (the type used in the dog free area) please let us know.

We are very pleased that we have obtained a grant for the conservation of the angel capitals inside the chapel, from the Heritage of London Trust. HOLT have helped us before, with grants for the emergency repairs and for repairing the Rogers Tomb, and we are most grateful for their continuing support when they have so many calls on their funds.

## Newsletter No. 43 Spring 2006

Haringey Council has agreed to fund the repair of the churchyard gates (erected as part of the Hornsey War Memorial in 1951) and we look forward to celebrating completion of this on our Open Day in July, when we will also once again be able to open the tower to visitors.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sat 11 March: Gardening Day**

**Sat 29 April: Gardening Day**

**(both from 10.30-1pm. Further gardening days to be arranged)**

**Sun 30 April: Churchyard**

**Conservation Walk, 2.p.m.**

**(with BCTV)**

**Sat 6 May: Towers and Turrets**

**Tour (see separate booking form)**

**Sat 15 July: OPEN DAY**

**Wed 11 Oct: Lecture on the Tower  
repairs ( with Hornsey Historical Society)**

The completion of work on the clock, funded by Haringey as part of the Hornsey High Street improvement campaign, was celebrated on December 16 2005. The council was represented by Councillor Mrs Prescott and by Faisal Khan, project leader of the High Street campaign.



## *The Future?*

It would be a mistake to think that now that the scaffolding has come down, no more work is needed and we can all sit back and do nothing. In fact the essential repairs to the exterior fabric turned out to be more complicated than had been anticipated, for the extent of work needed only became apparent when the fabric could be examined at close hand from the scaffold. Fifty years of neglect had taken their toll, there were gaps that needed to be filled with new stone and extensive mortar repairs to create surfaces that would throw off the rainwater effectively. It was obviously the right decision to concentrate on the areas accessible while the scaffolding was in place, but as a result other work which we had hoped to do on the interior has had to be deferred.

The Friends contributed all their existing savings (a total of around £7,000) to add to the grants we had received, and we now urgently need to replenish our funds so that further work can continue on both tower and churchyard.

### **YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS VITAL**

The annual Friends subscription (£5) is due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. **Please renew your membership** (fill in the slip below), and if you can spare anything extra it would be much appreciated. Send it to: Lachlan McDonald, Ellis & Moore, Hill House, 17 Highgate Hill N19 5NA

#### **FRIENDS OF HORNSEY CHURCH TOWER**

I am already a member.    I am a new member  
(please tick as appropriate)

name:

address:

email:

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please tick here.

I enclose my subscription for 2006-7 @ £5

Donation.....

Total.....

Please let us know also if you have any suggestions about sources of further money, and have any comments on use of the site.



It is exciting to be involved in the rebirth of a neglected and derelict historic building and to realise how much potential there is for it to function as a community asset. We have always been aware of the broad educational value of the tower and churchyard – both historical, and ecological, and this is something we hope to develop further.

The conservation walk on April 30 is an example. We look forward also to working with the parish - looking ahead to the end of the year there are already plans for Christmas community carol singing ( including the Friends' traditional mince pies and mulled wine), and improved Christmas lighting on the Tower.

Meanwhile it is encouraging that the local steering group which is overseeing the regeneration of the High Street continues to be active. At present the focus is on plans for improving the open space outside St Mary's Junior School: ground breaking should start in April, and there will be improvements to some shops in the summer. We look forward to when the churchyard end of the High Street comes under scrutiny.

**Published by FRIENDS OF HORNSEY CHURCH  
TOWER 2006  
c/o the Old Schoolhouse  
136 Tottenham Lane N8 7EL**