

# Impact

Church and community magazine  
St Hilda with St Cyprian, Crofton Park

Spring 2003

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...and more

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Mrs Irene Griffiths 07747 723 378

**READER**

Mr Doug Whitfield 020 8699 4497

**SERVICE TIMES**

**Sundays:**

**8am Holy Communion**

In Lady Chapel: entry via main church entrance on Courtrai Road

**10am Solemn Eucharist**

Followed by tea and coffee in the Parish Room  
Entry via main entrance on Courtrai Road

**10am Sunday School**

In St Cyprian's Chapel: entry via Crypt door on Brockley Road

**10am Third Sunday of the month: Children's Service**

**Weekday Masses:**

**10am Wednesday**

In the Lady Chapel: entry via Crucifix door on Courtrai Road

**Weddings & Baptisms**

To arrange banns of marriage, weddings or baptisms please come to the church on Saturdays between 11am and 12 noon, or telephone the vicar.

**Room and Hall Bookings**

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**Impact Editorial**

We serve the wider parish and local community through Impact. If you have an item of local interest which you would like to see published, please write to the Editor c/o The Vicarage, or e-mail [impact@croftonpark.com](mailto:impact@croftonpark.com).

## FR BATES WRITES

. As I write, troops are invading Iraq, there are divisions in Europe, and fears throughout the world. I personally feel there has been a 'rush to war' but, whatever we believe, we are all concerned that action should be as short as possible. We are worried about those who have to fight – and all the people who will be hurt or killed. If things go wrong the grief and suffering will be matched by our guilt, and our fear of sharing terrorist recriminations with the USA . Let us hope things will be otherwise.

What can we do? Many of us are praying for our troops and Iraqi people alike. Is it foolish to pray? We feel our prayer may not have stopped either Saddam's evil, or war against him, but is it a waste of time? Never! We must never underestimate how much good comes into our lives when we truly pray with a selfless heart. We, at the least, are changed by our prayer. Focus on the Highest and most loving Will opens our wills to be aligned with God's harmonious force. The world is changed because we are changed. True prayer establishes our inner being from which we choose our actions – and our actions influence the world. Will a soldier who truly prays torture, rape or destroy? Will he abuse captives and deny their humanity? - No! And can we be sure that things would not have been worse if we had not prayed? God changes the world through us; who we are makes the world what it is.

Only the mad and bad like Saddam Hussein – he is a monster! But the hashing up of all old dossiers on Saddam to convince us 'all of a sudden' that his country must be bashed has not washed here. The way we have spotted propaganda and not been taken in by it, has made me hopeful and proud. We know the score, we abhor oppression, but we are not fooled by those in power or big business. This is not just about cynicism - it shows some core of good judgement. We are not impressed when a large nation flexes its muscle in the name of humanitarianism, when it is itself holding prisoners and denying them legal rights, as the USA does with its Afghan campaign captives.

We have so many problems at home and yet we seem to have a war chest of billions to spend when the USA clicks its fingers. Is it a case of the weak child allying with the biggest bully in the playground? Many of us fear it is. What about the future of Europe, and The United Nations? Who will really control the wealth of Iraqi oil? Those of us who care could begin to despair. It is the strength our prayer that returns us to an unchanging reality. Not to escape – but to become centred and to touch again that Grace which guards and strengthens the commitment we can bring to life whatever happens.

## Parish Roundabout: news and minor incidents

By Arthur D Holmesley

**A camera on top of a tall pole** has been put up near the mini roundabout for surveillance purposes. We are now like the Berlin Wall. Local shop keepers are still victimised by petty theft and assault despite this modern device.

**Two men clung on for dear life** when the cables holding the cradle on a mobile hydraulic lift snapped. They had been servicing the security camera, and were rescued by emergency services.

**An MBE** was recently awarded to Mr Stephen Parr for 20 years' service to the disabled in our borough. He and his wife are regular dancers at the Rivoli Ball room.

**Mr Tony Benn and Mr Bruce Kent** were speakers at a recent rally against the war, held at the Rivoli Ballroom. Some first timers at a political rally were not impressed by the logic of debate.

**Two scruffy shops** on our main drag have be sold and are in the process

of being developed. one is already nearly finished, but the fate of the other is yet to be decided.

**The Brockley Grove corner** still has the scruffiest front gardens and houses in the area. Can you do some tidying up homeowners? We would all love you if you did.

**An International Same Sex Dance Competition** was held at the Rivoli during Feb. Many people attended to watch, and first timers were amazed at how exciting and inspiring the dancing was.

**Walls** have been repaired and rebuilt at the top of Bartram Road and in Buckthorne Road - they look very smart!



### Kids' Easter Activities Day

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 3pm**  
**For children aged 5 – 8**

Enjoy a day of Easter Activities such as card and flower making, painting, making cakes, games and an Easter bonnet competition

Children to bring a packed lunch – drinks will be provided.

**£7.50 per child or £12 for two**

For further information or an application form please ring Julia on 020 8690 1897 or Irene on 07747 723378



## **Brockley Police news**

*A selection of news items from the Brockley Police Newsletter, Issue 5, September - January 2003*

### **Gary Wade**

Gary Wade, who writes the Police Newsletter, has a new job title: Community Beat Manager for businesses. His area covers the main road from Brockley Cross to Brockley Rise and Honor Oak Park.

### **Businesses and burglary**

Gary is pleased to report a big reduction in burglaries of business premises since the last Police Newsletter, though they are on the rise again. Cafés and hair salons seem to be particular vulnerable. Burglars target places which carry small cash floats, and often make their entry from the back or the roof. Anyone with any information on this subject should phone 020 8690 1212. On a positive note, regular visitors to the excellent Homeview Entertainment video shop will be pleased to hear of the arrest of one of two suspects in the armed robbery which took place there a while back.

### **CCTV**

Work on two areas already identified for Closed Circuit Television has already commenced, and a third camera will be located at the junction of Brockley Road and Wickham Road. Two other cameras will be sited at the Dalrymple and Mantle Bridge.

### **The Rise Youth Centre**

With the help of Lewisham Youth Services, a new youth centre has opened at St Saviour's Church Hall (near the corner of Brockley Road and Herschel Road). It's been a great success so far, and is equipped partly thanks to money from government grants. It is open every Friday evening from 7pm.

### **Holiday help for single parents**

Sponsored, subsidised and discount holidays are now up for grabs for single parents from a national charity. Holiday Endeavour for Lone Parents (H.E.L.P.) which is run by volunteers, organised over 23,000 holidays for families across the UK last year.

If you think you might be eligible for a subsidised holiday contact H.E.L.P. at 57 Owston Road, Carcroft Doncaster DN6 8DN, or call 01302 728791, or visit <http://www.helpholidays.org.uk/>.

## It didn't really happen in Brockley... did it?

*A short story by Laq Konic*

It was the cat clawing at the tablecloth to reach the cream that caused the plate to topple off and roll towards the baby, knocking her over and making her scream; that had the mother come running down the stairs to see what was happening.

She ran headlong into her teenage daughter who was dashing upstairs to get changed to go out. They collided so violently that they knocked each other over; daughter, caught off-guard, missed her step and fell back down the stairs which she had so recently scaled, landing still rolling at the foot of them, just as Dad opened the front door wide enough for her to continue her mobility; out of the door, down the garden path, out of the gate and onto the pavement, straight into the path of the next-door neighbour who was returning laden with several carrier bags of groceries, two of which were knocked out of her hands and distributed their contents widely. The potatoes took a joyful bound into the road and underneath the front tyre of a cyclist, who was actually riding in the road and not on the pavement!

The cyclist, being knocked off his bike nearly in front of an oncoming car, caused the car driver to brake sharply. The following vehicle drove into his boot, which flew open to release a startled dog which had been peacefully dozing therein! Dog leapt out and shot down the road, knocking over a policeman who had been directing traffic at the road junction.

Without proper signals telling its driver how to proceed, and with the

policeman now lying prone with his arm pointing to the left, a second car coming from that direction did an obedient U-turn, running bang smack into the hapless first, whose driver who had quite reasonably thought his way was clear.

A passer-by, alarmed by the now somewhat crowded condition of the road and the uniformed body lying in its midst, called an ambulance which arrived quickly, klaxon blazing, but being unable to see the traffic cop who was now surrounded by dented and damaged cars, scooped up the passer-by who had since fainted.

Arrived at the local hospital, the ambulance off-loaded its patient who after good treatment was allowed to go home.

*Our contributor, whom we believe to be of ancient Polish-Turkish stock, ran away before telling us the purpose of this tale. Is it an allegory? Was it a dream? Do we really exist? Who knows!*

## UK Online... and Crofton Park online

Crofton Park Library (on the corner of Brockley Road and Darfield Road) has a suite of 8 computers with a fast connection to the Internet. These facilities are free for you to use for browsing the web and getting access to your e-mail. You can print too, though a small charge is made to cover costs.

The computer suite was developed during modernisation of the library a year or two ago. It was paid for by the Government's New Opportunities Fund, which seeks to promote lifelong learning, social inclusion, leisure, education and employment. For information about UK Online, the face of UK Government on the Internet, get along to the library and visit [www.ukonline.gov.uk](http://www.ukonline.gov.uk).

If you're interested in learning more about the Internet, you could do worse than making the Library your first port of call. Some courses are run locally, and the helpful people there should be able to point you in the right direction.

## Helpful Homeopathy!

I would like to tell you about the low cost Homeopathy Clinic which has been running for three years. It has already raised over £2000 for the Chaithanjapuri Homeopathic Hospital in Kerala, India. The hospital is situated in a very poor, rural area of India and brings essential free treatment to over a hundred patients a day. The hospital is trying to expand to keep up with the heavy demand. A nurse is paid the equivalent of £40 a month in Kerala so the charitable money has been very helpful.

Our busy monthly clinic which takes place at Holy Trinity Church near Sydenham offers treatment to those living on benefits for a £10 fee which includes medicines. The clinic has helped children and adults with all **kinds of health problems** including: eczema and other skin problems, digestive problems,

women's health, children's health, ear, nose and throat problems, headaches, emotional problems, insomnia, arthritis, general lack of energy and much more!

If you would like to know more or make an appointment please contact me:

Marie Ingham on (020) 8690 8182 or  
Helen Dalton on (020) 8291 2647

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## About this issue

Please excuse us while we revamp Impact's design. Things should have settled down in time for the next issue, which will follow more quickly than usual... watch your doormat!



## **Walter Saunders: new shop front improves Crofton Park**

Many of you will have noticed that two shops on Brockley Road have been sold and one is being significantly improved already. The new front is very smart black metal and as I write a new counter and shop front is becoming visible in through the fine plate glass window.

Walter Saunders is a Licensed Conveyancers. It deals with buying and selling property, and all legal matters to do with property, both commercial and residential. If you want to want to buy or sell a house privately they will help you as much as they will local estate agents. But other matters which affect property, like extending a leasehold or securing a freehold, are matters they can deal with; and there are lots of other legal affairs which come up with property too.

The business is not new to the area. It was started by Mr Wally Saunders in 1992, but has been tucked away in the business centre at Brockley Cross. The Crofton Park site will give the business a public shop front, and be a work place for 15 people. Mr Saunders started as a property lawyer in the West End before moving south-east to our area.

The new shop is going to be smooth and stylish. It has been the pet project of Marc, one of the staff members. The metal work, the glass, the interior - heather and cream paint work - and even the waste bin that will sit outside on the pavement have been carefully chosen.

Jane will soon be on the new reception counter, and Sharon, the office manger will be downstairs. If you have a legal enquiry about property, or buying and selling houses for any purpose, you can call in.

### **Age Concern Holidays 2003**

**Tel: 020 8695 0895 between 10am and 1pm, Monday to Friday**

**All trips depart Monday and return Friday unless otherwise stated**

9<sup>th</sup> June – Lyme Bay Village, Devon  
Half board for 5 days, £169

1<sup>st</sup> September – Sand Bay Holiday Village nr. Weston-Super-Mare  
Full board for 5 days, £179

17<sup>th</sup> November – Palace Hotel, Paignton Sea Front  
Half board for 5 days, £179

## Who watches the watchers?

*Observations from an occasional contributor*

I am glad if Crofton Park becomes a safer place thanks to the new CCTV facilities you will have noticed springing up around the place, and I believe that our police have the public's interest at heart. But I can't help being in two minds about the whole idea.

Take a look at this article:

[His] organisations all run elaborate surveillance systems including mobile teams that follow a target, fixed observation points overlooking key intersections and choke points on routes through <insert city here> and other major cities... all linked by modern real time communications.

The effect is to make it extremely difficult... to try to hide activity from the State.

Who is 'he'? Could be David Blunkett or Ken Livingstone. Where's the city? Could be London. In fact, this text is taken from Number 10's recently published dossier on the dangers of trusting Iraq (you know, the dossier which was partially cribbed without permission from a PhD student) , and it's speaking about Saddam and Baghdad.

Just as well we can be sure we'll never have cause to mistrust our government, then!

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*Letters to Impact are always welcome, provided you include your name and address - we will be happy to omit these from publication if you wish. We cannot guarantee to publish anything you send. Published articles do not necessarily represent the opinion of Impact editors, Crofton Park Community Link or St Hilda's Church.*

## High Church – High Altitude!

People high in the Peruvian mountains will be receiving money from St. Hilda's Lent Appeal this year. We will be featuring this project in forthcoming issues. It involves collecting and channelling water for irrigation. The drought months keep the people of the Yanacancha region in a state of perpetual poverty. The channelling of local water will include a micro-hydro electric power station. The money we will send will be the savings from the things people have chosen to give up for Lent.

## Easter Services

**Palm Sunday 10am Palm procession and solemn Eucharist**

### Holy Week 14 – 20 April

**Spy Wednesday 10am Mass**

**Maundy Thursday 8pm** The Liturgy of the Last Supper  
Stripping of Altars and Short Watch

**Good Friday 10.30am** Children's Good Friday Service

**3pm The Liturgy of Good Friday**

**Saturday 9pm** Lighting of New Fire, Easter

Vigil and Mass

**Easter Sunday 10am** Solemn Eucharist with procession  
and Easter Eggs



### Family News

**Baptisms** Lucas Anthony Winnifred  
Kyerron Lee Dixon-Bassey

**Weddings** Peter Shead &  
Eloise Kempton

**Funerals** Doris Allskin  
Dorothy Baker

### Forthcoming Events

23rd March AGM & Vestry Meeting

28th March Bingo Evening

30th March Mothering Sunday and  
British Summertime begins

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