



Picture by Paul Dearing.

Under pressure: the sign says there is a test under way on this new water main waiting to be installed in Tarling Road. So does this mean it passed or failed?

Under the hammer

Holy Trinity School is currently gearing up for its annual auction of goods and promises. As ever, there's something for everyone, ranging from a signed Spurs shirt to haircuts from Gus and eye test vouchers from Stewart Duncan.

A meal at the West End's Rainforest Café, horse riding lessons at Trent Park, concert and theatre tickets, and Ally Pally ice-skating vouchers are also among the lots up for grabs to the highest bidder in this year's Easter Auction Extravaganza.

For the first time, the bidding

will be staggered over a week, culminating in the main auction night on Friday 28 March. More than £8,000 was raised at last year's event, much of which has helped finance an upgrade of the school's computing equipment. The school's parents' association is again hoping for some fast and furious bidding.

Easter in East Finchley

By Rev. Michael Giles, Methodist minister
Easter is more than a long weekend, hot cross buns and chocolate eggs, enjoyable though they are.

We all need occasional MOTs on our lives and faith; Easter is an opportunity to re-tune our souls to God and do some 'spring cleaning' on our lives.

The Easter story

Throughout the Easter story Jesus and his disciples faced many issues. These include friendship, betrayal, courage, fear and hope.

Jesus had a wandering ministry for about three years which had brought healing and God's love to many people. Yet the religious authorities felt threatened and were looking for a way to get rid of him.

One of his closest disciples, Judas, betrayed him to the authorities who came in the middle of the night to arrest him.

Jesus was accused of being the 'King of the Jews' which could have been seen as insurrection against the Roman occupiers. His followers wanted to make Jesus their King because they wanted freedom and Jesus

gave them that hope. The title was thrust on him by followers and accusers for different motives. Jesus came as a King of Peace, not as a military King.

He was interrogated, then falsely accused in court before sentence was passed. The speed of events was breathtaking and the story ends with Jesus dying on a cross on what the church calls Good (God's) Friday.

But there's more...

Three days later two women friends found his tomb empty. Then various sightings of Jesus alive took place. One particular disciple, Thomas, would not believe unless he saw Jesus for himself. When he did, Thomas responded 'My Lord and my God'. The Church is a place to bring doubts and questions, but also to discover faith.

The Church is God's Easter People celebrating the joy, peace and freedom of following the living Jesus. 'Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Hallelujah'.

SwampRock's Mardi Gras party

By Betti Blatman

It was Mardi Gras party time with fancy dress and masks at SwampRock's Louisiana-style event on 2 February at the All Saints Art Centre in Whetstone.

Featured band Elvis Fontenot and The Sugarbees are so well respected that they play regularly at the French Quarter Festival in New Orleans, with their unique mix of Cajun, Zydeco, Rock 'n' Roll and Swamp Pop. They were supported by SwampRock's legendary DJs, Flying Home and Lil' Queenie, to make it a hot rockin' night to remember.

The next SwampRock event on Saturday 5 April features The Rockin' Cajun Dawgs playing Cajun Rockin' Rockabilly Blues. Contact Carole Lateman on 020 8810 7454 or check www.swamprock.org.uk.

Holocaust Memorial Day

By Betti Blatman

On 27 January, I attended Barnet's seventh Holocaust Memorial Service at Middlesex University, Hendon, where this year's theme was "Imagine ... Remember, Reflect, React".

Councillor Brian Coleman, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Community Safety, opened the service followed by a welcome from Barnet Mayor, Councillor

Maureen Braun, and a reading of *Belsen Silence* by Barnet Council leader Mike Freer.

Approximately 700 people listened to Cantorial Singers and Alyth Youth Singers; pupils from The Ravenscroft School, Barnet, reading the Barnet Statement of Commitment; speeches by Professor Michael Driscoll (Vice Chancellor, Middlesex University) and His Excellency Dr Vahe Gabrielyan (Ambassa-

dor of the Republic of Armenia to the UK); Suzie Behl's emotional *A Survivor's Story* about her father, and Major Dick Williams recalling his experiences at Belsen.

As the service unfolded, I turned to the elderly gentleman sitting next to me, who had earlier mentioned that he was a survivor from Auschwitz, and the expression on his face told a story of its own.

Six million buttons... and more

By Betti Blatman

I recently visited the "6 million +" Buttons Exhibition at Brent Cross Shopping Centre, created by Leeds-based artist Antonia Stowe, and commissioned by Kirklees Museums and Galleries as part of their Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration in 2006, to commemorate the industrial scale of the Holocaust and recent genocides in the Balkans and Africa.

The buttons in the exhibition were contributed by hundreds of school and college students, and members of the public. Buttons were chosen by the artist for a number of reasons. Each button is unique in shape, size and colour, like each person. Buttons remind us of the millions of garments left behind at the gates of the concentration camps. Buttons hold fabric together, an analogy for each individual who holds a family or community together. Buttons once removed from a garment are vulnerable and serve no purpose. Buttons are enduring, lasting long after garments have faded and unravelled. Buttons connect the past to the present.

Further donations of buttons can be sent to Kirklees Council which owns the exhibition and they will be added the next time it goes on display. The address is: Kim Strickson, Community History Projects Co-ordinator, Kirklees Museums and Galleries, The Stables, Ravensknowle Park, Wakefield Road, Huddersfield HD5 8DJ. The telephone number is 01484 223811.

Holocaust lessons not being learnt

By Jeremy Havardi

The lessons of the Holocaust are still not being learnt, a local educationalist has warned. Louise Heilbron, who works for the Imperial War Museum's fellowship programme, sounded the alarm as she organised a Holocaust memorial event at Finchley Reform Synagogue, attended by dozens of students.

She said: "The ignorance of the Holocaust is unbelievable, even with older people. You only have to open the papers or turn on the television and it is recreated. Today in 2008 in Kenya the same thing is happening." Nonetheless she was delighted with the reaction from students who were "rewarding to work with".

Bob Kirk, who came to Britain in 1938 as part of the Kindertransport programme, also spoke to the students about his experiences. He agreed that Holocaust Memorial Day had a vital role to play in today's society.

He said: "It is so easy to forget what has happened and there are people who pretend that it never happened. It is important to keep the message out there and explain what went on." He had a simple and powerful message for today's young generation: "You have to be sensitive to what is going on around you. You have to be prepared to react if something is going wrong. You must not be quiet."

Holocaust Memorial Day has been held annually since 2001 on 27 January, the day of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Easter Services in East Finchley

Holy Trinity Church

Palm Sunday, 16 March, 10am, Blessing of Palms and Parish Communion. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 7pm, Holy Eucharist. Maundy Thursday 20 March, 8pm, The Eucharist of The Last Supper followed by the Vigil before the Altar of Repose until 10pm. Good Friday 21 March, 10pm, The Good Friday Liturgy. Easter Day 23 March, 10am, The lighting of the Paschal Candle and Parish Communion.

St Mary's Catholic Church

Thursday 13 March, 7.30pm, St Mary's Celebration of the Passover. Passion (Palm) Sunday 16 March, Masses at 8.30 am, 10am, and 12 noon, Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, 9.50am, Morning Prayer and Mass. Tuesday 18 March, 7.30 pm, The Sacrament of Reconciliation & Confessions. Holy Thursday 20 March, 10am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, and 8pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper and watching at the Altar of Repose

until midnight. Good Friday 21 March, 10am, Procession of Witness from St Margaret's URC, Victoria Avenue, and United Act of Worship, and 3pm, Solemn Liturgy of the Passion, and 7.30pm, Stations of the Cross. Holy Saturday 22 March, 10am, Office of Readings and Morning Prayer, and 7.30pm, The Easter Vigil. Easter Sunday 23 March, Masses at 8.30am, 10am and 12 noon. Easter Monday and throughout Easter Week, 9.50am, Daily Morning Prayer and Mass.

All Saints' Church

Palm Sunday 16 March, 8am, Mass, and 10am, Parish Mass with Blessing of Palms. Monday of Holy Week, 8pm, Mass. Tuesday of Holy Week, 11.30am, Mass at Christ the King, Gordon Square, and 8pm Mass. Wednesday of Holy Week, 10am and 8pm, Mass. Maundy Thursday 20 March, 6.30pm, Confessions, and 8pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watch until midnight. Good Friday 21 March, 11am, Confessions, and 3pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion. Holy Saturday 22 March, 8pm, The Easter Vigil followed by refreshments. Easter Sunday 23 March, 8am, Mass, and 10am, Parish Mass of Easter Day.

East Finchley Methodist Church

Good Friday 21 March, 10.30am, Service of meditation and reflection. Easter Sunday 23 March, 10.30am, Family worship and Holy Communion.

FOR SALE

1. Acorn Stairlift in excellent condition. £1,000 (cost over £2,000) Price includes delivery, fitting and 3 month guarantee by Acorn.
2. Sauna by High Tech Health for two persons. In showroom condition. £850 sorry no offers (cost £2,900).
3. Flexomatic "Donna M" fully adjustable therapy massage chair, auto-lift. Fully reclining etc. Perfect condition £1,000 (normal price £3,600).

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