



# Theft at church as conservation project starts

By David Melsome

**Urgent conservation work has now begun at All Saints' Church in East Finchley following the grant award of £250,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (*The Archer*, April 2019).**

But there was a setback when church wardens discovered that a quantity of lead had been stolen from the roof above



'Stripped bare: Wooden boards are all that are left on one section of All Saints' roof'

the entrance. Thieves stripped the lead sheets, leaving bare wood exposed.

Churchwarden Alan Toms said the theft was discovered quickly and a temporary cover made of tarpaulins and battens ensured that there was no damage to the church interior.

He said: "We are now in discussion with Historic England as to whether we can replace the lead with material which is less attractive to thieves.

"The police have been informed. I would ask people to please be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police or the church. We would

rather be alerted even if it turns out to be a false alarm.

"The cost of the damage is still to be counted but it is not just the financial element. We have a small congregation, hard-working and faithful, and it is disappointing that we now have to address these additional remedial works."

## Good news

On a positive note, the church congregation now

knows that it has been awarded two new grants for its conservation project, £7,500 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £6,000 from Allchurches Trust, taking them to 70% of their fundraising target.

All Saints Church is the main venue for the Annual East Finchley Arts Festival. This year the Festival is scheduled from Thursday 26 September to Saturday 5 October. Festival director Geoffrey Hanson has been told that the repair works will finish in time, but obviously potential liabilities will have to be determined if the church is not available.

## Parish priest to retire

**Father Christopher Hardy is to retire as the incumbent of All Saints' Church in Durham Road, N2, after nearly 24 years there. He was inducted on 6 July 1995 and will be retiring at the end of this month due to ill health.**



Retiring: Fr Christopher Hardy

On behalf of those at All Saints', churchwarden Alan Toms expressed his thanks to Fr Christopher for his ministry there and wished him and his wife Regan well in retirement.

Regular Sunday services are to continue as normal with the support of honorary assistant Fr Richard Buckingham and mid-week services as advertised on the notice board and on the church website.



Social experiment: No2Plastic campaigners raise awareness with shoppers in the High Road. From left to right, No2Plastics founder Ann Inglis, and Street Champions Ruth Anders (with arm round a local supporter), Joanne Westgate and Maxine Klein.

## Plastics campaigners spread the word with shoppers

By Maxine Klein

**On a cold but sunny Saturday morning in early May some of the No2Plastics team set up a stall outside Amy's in the High Road to promote the message "Say no to single use plastics in N2".**

Our table displayed information about the damage caused by plastic waste and carried examples of products, many available from Amy's, which can be used as alternatives.

We invited/accosted(depending on how they felt about us) passers-by to sign our pledge to cut down on The Big Four single use items: plastic water bottles, straws, bags and coffee cups.

## Making contact

It was an interesting social experiment. We recognised potential supporters: those carrying their own shopping bags and, better still, their own reusable cups, were definitely on side and would sign to support.

Shoppers exiting Budgens with two almost empty new plastic bags were hardly worth approaching. People hurrying by clutching their phones to their ears were impossible to stop and there was a lot of eye contact avoidance from others.

## Seeds of concern

At the end of three chilly hours we felt we had fired up the converted and hope that they will influence others. We certainly sowed the seeds of concern amongst others who had not considered plastic waste.

We don't believe we achieved anything with the man who said he believed in Donald Trump's assertion that climate change is a hoax! However, by contrast, another said "Great work, well done. One small step always leads to another."

We plan to run the stall as often as possible to catch new people and chat to them about our cause. So, look out for us and come and talk to us about your ideas. Find us on Facebook @No2PlasticsN2

## RICKY SAVAGE ...

*"The voice of social irresponsibility"*

## Name of Thrones

Here we go, the weird and wonderful world of Game of Thrones has come back for the last batch of sex, blood and dragons and that means playing the name game. Since the first half-naked dragon queen cropped up about five minutes into the first series the question of what do you call your child has changed.

Once upon a time it was cool to call your kid after a car. Out there somewhere are a couple of Cortinas, a few dozen Sierras and a whole garage full of Mercedes. Now GoT gives us options like Arya, Sansa or Daenerys for a girl, and Davos, Tyrion or Tormund for a boy. With names like that the child will certainly stand out at school.

Meanwhile in the real world there's the rival Name of Thrones. I'm talking about the weird Windsors. What could a duke and duchess who want to get seriously modern do? They could have gone traditional, they could have gone American, or they could have gone seriously hipster.

But no, they went with Archie and followed it with Harrison, probably after Ford. I guess that's as off the wall as they could get. Maybe they went for that combo to get the full Hollywood-meets-London experience in just the same way that Archie Leach changed his name to Cary Grant somewhere between London and La La Land.

Either way, at least they didn't stay boringly safe, or go completely mad and call him after a GoT battle warrior. But I still think Ricky's a good name for a boy.

## A friendly welcome awaits you

### EAST FINCHLEY METHODIST CHURCH

197 High Road, London N2 8AJ (opp. Creighton Ave.)

tel: 0208 346 1700

[www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)

## Sunday service at 10.30 a.m. with Crèche

Worship    Music    Social events    Wheelchair friendly  
e-mail: [info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:info@eastfinchleymethodist.org.uk)    Room hire tel: 020 8444 9887

## Welcome to Probus!

Convivial Probus Lunch Club with talks for semi- or fully-retired PROfessional & BUSINESS men and women on third Wednesday each month at Stephens House East End Road N3. Next meeting 19 June **Malcolm Godfrey**, General Manager, talks about and illustrates Stephens House in WW1 when it was a hospital for army and RFC/RAF officers, including Godfrey's grandfather.

Contact Eveleen (8455 6431)

Co-ordinator Pauline Syddell said at one point it looked like a teddy bear's