

SATURDAY 12TH JUNE 10.30 a.m.-12.30 + lunch

at St. Barnabas, Manor Park, London E12

## URBAN CHURCH BUILDINGS AS LITURGICAL AND COMMUNITY SPACE

### *Presentation and discussion*

What theological assumptions lie behind the different ways Anglican parishes order and maintain their buildings? How does the holy - the sacred, the numinous - relate to mission and community engagement? How do theology and the pastoral, liturgical, management and financial realities of parish experience bear on each other?

The approach will be contextual: brief presentations from four East London parishes, and a short overview of how church buildings have been adapted for community use in the Borough of Newham. It is hoped that this will lead to a sharing of views and experiences among the group as a whole.

From this discussion common theological issues will be drawn out, to be explored in further events as people feel appropriate.

At this event the four presenters are clergy, but it is recognised that discussion and follow-up must be informed by the views of laity as well as clergy, and we hope that both clergy and laity will be interested.

The presenters are:

JOHN BROWN - St. Luke's, Great Ilford (early 20th-century church, community centre on site). Currently researching for MPhil in 'the changing role of the Church of England as seen through the use of its community buildings'.

STENNETT KIRBY - All Saints, West Ham (large Norman church, construction of community facilities in progress).

JAMES RAMSAY - St. Barnabas, Manor Park (large church designed by Sir Ninian Comper, used by community groups throughout the week - currently embarking on major restoration and consultation for internal alterations).

NEIL WALSH - St. Michael & All Angels, Manor Park (1980s purpose-built church and community centre, original large Victorian church demolished).

Though each distinct in character, these are all ethnically and culturally diverse parishes with significant (in some cases majority) non-Christian communities, and high levels of social deprivation.

*FURTHER DETAILS* from James Ramsay, St. Barnabas Vicarage, Browning Road, London E12 6PB. Email: [ramsay.jas@gmail.com](mailto:ramsay.jas@gmail.com) Tel: 020 8472 2777

*The event is free - part of our patronal celebration - no need to book - but for catering it would be helpful to know roughly how many people are coming, and any dietary requirements.*

*DIRECTIONS* Address St. Barnabas Church, Browning Road, London E12 6PB. Nearest tube East Ham (District line). Mainline stations Manor Park or Woodgrange Park. Local bus 147 (Ilford > Canning Town). The church is located opposite the junction of Browning Road and Shelley Avenue.