

# ...press release

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009



## Up, Up and Away!

A special service was recently held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of St Martins Church, West Hull.

On Saturday, 13th June, the people of Hull were challenged to keep their eyes on the sky as St Martins Church and the Archbishop of York (John Sentamu) released hundreds of balloons as part of their birthday celebrations.

Jane Shaw, a reader from the church, explains, "We had a fun but traditional service were friends, past and present, were among those who attended to celebrate what God has done and is going to do in the future. Afterwards, we also brought different ages and the uniform groups together to have a BBQ and balloon release."

The helium was donated by Energas (Engineering and Welding Supplies Limited) of Westmorland Street, Hull. All the Balloons have been sponsored for a minimum of one pound each and all the profits raised will be shared between the Guides and Scouts. The Guides are using the funds to help one member travel to India next year to work with the Deep Griha (meaning Light House). The charity works towards better lives for the people in the slums of Pune, providing a range of family welfare programmes encompassing Education and Health Awareness campaigns.

The Scouts will be taking part in their biggest ever adventure in July 2010 by taking both the Cubs and Scouts on their first ever group visit abroad to Kanderstag in Switzerland. Kanderstag is the International Scout Centre of the world and is visited by over ten-thousand people from many different countries each year. Gary McCune, one of the Cub Scout leaders said, "This once in a lifetime opportunity will allow the young people to experience International Scouting, meet others from all over the world and take part in activities that they may not otherwise have the chance to try."

Joe Hunter, a Scout Leader added, "Scouting gives young people from all backgrounds and faiths the opportunity for fun and adventure. St Martins Church has been very supportive and without them we wouldn't be able to offer such a safe and fun environment at our weekly group meetings to the local youth. Everyone was really excited and enjoyed the party! Seeing the all the different colours in the sky was pretty impressive."

Albi, a church member aged 8 will never forget the celebrations, "I was able to see my friends and have lots of fun. It's great for people to meet with Christ." Ian aged 40 agrees, "It's nice to see what the church used to be like and meet people that have been married or christened here over the years."

It all kicked off from 2pm on Saturday and the mass crowd from the community filled the church. It just goes to show the relevance of the church's motto 'making friends – moving forward'. And although it was built in 1939, they've only just began!

**-ENDS-**

**Further Information:**

- For further information please contact myself, Joe Hunter, via email ([joehunter14@yahoo.com](mailto:joehunter14@yahoo.com)) or by giving me a call on 07903195772.

**About Scouting:**

- The Scout Association was founded on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1907.
- Adventure is at the core of Scouting, and the Association passionately believes in helping their members fulfil their full physical, intellectual social and spiritual potentials by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves.
- Scouting in the UK today has Buddhist, Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Christian members.
- Over 200 activities are offered by Scouting around the UK, made possible by the efforts of 100,000 voluntary adult leaders. This has helped make Scouting the largest co-educational youth Movement in the country (half a million young people are involved) and no other organisation offers such a range of challenging or exciting activities.
- One of the challenges that the Scout Movement faces is finding more volunteers to plug the current gap. At present there are around 33,000 young people on waiting lists.
- Worldwide, Scouting has over 28 million members (both boys and girls) across 216 countries and territories.

**About St Martins Church:**

- We are an Anglican Church aiming to meet the daily demands of our parish situated to the west of the City of Hull.
- We offer a wide range of activities as we strive to serve the spiritual and practical needs of the diverse community around us.
- We aim to bring Jesus Christ into the community in which we live and work.
- We currently hold two services on Sunday mornings - a traditional Eucharist Service at 9.30am and our more contemporary cafe-style Crosswise Service at 11am.

Photos

