

# ST MARY'S & HARTLEY BROOK, BECONTREE, DAGENHAM

## THE LYMINGTON PROJECT

**Making Jesus Known**



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# INTRODUCTION:

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The Lymington Estate is a new building development in the Dagenham area which falls within the parish boundaries of St Mary's & Hartley Brook (St. Mary's) Becontree. The Vicar of St Mary's & Hartley Brook, Rev. Julie Fleming, had the vision of meeting householders within the parish boundaries. This new development provided the perfect opportunity for St Mary's Becontree to "take the church out to the people". And so the Lymington Mission Outreach (LMO) began.

## Aim:

The aims of the LMO were two-fold:

- As a pilot for future "meet and greet" events
  - ☺ Taking the church out into the community
- To welcome the new residents into the area by way of
  - ☺ Extending our friendship to them
  - ☺ Getting to know them and them us
  - ☺ Establishing opportunities for future out reach

# THE PLANNING STAGE

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Following approval by the Parochial Church Council (PCC), a meeting / prayer session was organised with the Regeneration Officer (RO), Carol Richards, who gave us an overview of how to go about the mission. From the outset, this Outreach was planned so that the end would coincide with St Mary's annual "Church in the Park" events. The planning stage was used to design the strategy and execution of the Outreach. Parish members were invited to attend two planning meetings after Sunday services in June and July.

- It was decided that two (2) Prayer Walks will be done in June 2011 around the Lymington Estate area before the start of the meet and greet events. The aim being to "claim" the area for Christ – the Scripture taken **Luke 10: 1-12**.
- It was agreed that four (4) meet and greet days will be used for the Outreach in July 2011.

# WHAT DO WE NEED?

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- Tools needed for the meet and greet sessions (e.g. pens, ID badges, paper, clipboards, survey / questionnaire)
  - ☺ Survey / Questionnaire
    - Investigate any potential Data Protection issues in advance in order to avoid any legal issues.
    - The information obtained will help us for future outreach especially if we wanted to invite Lymington residents to future church events. For example the age range of children in families could help us to target households appropriately for future children's events.
- Prayers
- Volunteers to be identified
- Training requirements for volunteers

# WHAT WE DID STEP BY STEP

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- Meeting with church members

Two meetings were arranged with St Mary's parishioners on 26 June 2011 and 3 July respectively and volunteers were selected from these groups. The designs and contents of the leaflets<sup>1</sup> were discussed and donations of paper and ID Badges were made to the mission.

- PCC Approval

St Mary's PCC approved the next stages of the mission at their meeting on 11 July 2011

- Prayer Walks

Two small teams did separate prayer walks events around the Lymington Estate on 17 and 24 July 2011 respectively.

- Meet and Greet Events

- ☺ On the first day of the meet and greet sessions, volunteers congregated in the church to prepare spiritually before going out.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix A – Sample of leaflets

We equipped ourselves by reading a scripture before worshipping and praising God. This continued on all outreach days.

- ☺ The scripture chosen to be reflected upon for the meet and greet sessions was **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 2:12-3:1-6**. Verses 14-15 of chapter 2 and verses 4-6 of chapter 3 were especially great sources of encouragement to us all as we used these scriptures throughout the outreach period.
  
- ☺ **27-07-11**: First day for knocking on doors. It was really exciting to note the level of reception volunteers received from the residents.
  
- ☺ **03-08-11**: Second day for knocking on doors. The RO joined volunteers and did the outreach with the team. A group picture<sup>2</sup> was taken and the evening went well. Residents were open and happy to see us; however most Muslim families were preparing their meals or eating after the day's fasting. One lady was especially keen to bring her family and neighbours to church. We will continue to pray for her and the new born baby who was just a day old on the day of our visit.
  
- ☺ **10-08-11**: Third day for knocking on doors and we were blessed as usual. People were open and happy to see us. Many appreciated our visit. We had opportunity to pray for two families.
  
- ☺ **17-08-11**: Fourth and final knock on doors. It was a great evening that was confirmed by great signs and wonders from heaven. God heard our prayers and He cleared the heaven of the rain for us to reach out to His people that evening. We completed the new estate.

We also knocked on some old homes along Lymington Road. This allowed us to find out how it had been for them with regards to the construction work and moving in of their new neighbours.

We had very good responses from them and had friendly chats with some families. Prayers were offered and greatly received by one home - A Christian family.

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<sup>2</sup> "Some of the visiting team"

# SURVEY ANALYSIS

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In total there were 24 questionnaires completed to varying degrees with approximately 70% of respondents answering 10 or more questions. Of those that responded, 4 in five are interested in day time children's activities.

74% have been to a church service before, however only 30% knew where St Mary's is. 4 in five believed in some kind of god and 73% of those who do think that knowing God is personal. Finally, almost 2 in three believes that Jesus is the only Son of God.

## SUMMARY

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In summary, the Lymington Mission Outreach was a great success. A lot of families were receptive to us and others welcomed this initiative. We offered prayers for those families who agreed to it in their homes whilst for others quiet prayers were offered before or after speaking to them. We also had a handful of families that were not willing or interested in talking to us.

There were also many empty properties where families are yet to move in.

## COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THE GROUP

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A) **THE GROUP LEADER:** Revd. C.C Asinugo.

I thank God for the opportunity given to me to serve my parish in this area of ministry. It was a great privilege for me to pilot and lead this outreach.

My Parish vision is to make Jesus Known and for us to take Jesus outside the four walls of the church. It has always been an exciting experience for me to be involved in an outreach. Being a lead person for this project was an exciting experience.

I thank the committed group of people who worked with me under rain and sunshine. Without them it would not have been possible.

The warm reception from the residents was encouraging.

The opportunity to pray with and for people and to share the love of God was a great privilege.

It was great to observe the rise in confidence of the 6 members from week to week. I would like to thank everybody who supported this mission by praying for us during this time. I believe that this project has opened up a big door for future missions in other parts of the parish.

## B) **VOLUNTEER:** Rose Opara

Yes, it was a big spiritual curve for me, going out for the very first time to speak to people about God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I was inspired by Luke 10: 1-12 which we read and prayed on before setting out. It felt like I was being spoken to by Christ himself and away I went with that zeal.

I was paired up with Lisa on three separate occasions. Over the three days, we spoke to a good number of families (about fifteen). Some of them were Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus or have no faith at all yet they all confessed to knowing that Christ came to the world. Some said he was a great prophet others said he was like the other prophets but don't believe he is a saviour or the Son of God. We invited them to St. Mary's where they can find out more if they wished. We also gave them information packs for Church in the Park and other activities for their young ones. All of them showed interest in bringing their children to the activities.

Apart from the families we spoke to, we put in information leaflets into sixteen flats letter boxes because of lack of access.

We shared with two Christian families who have their own places of worship but would like to explore the possibility of finding a place closer to their new home. We prayed on each door step before we knocked and after we came through the door on our way out.

I have continuously prayed for the families that opened their doors to us

and the others at the Lymington Estate. I am trusting God for a word of testimony.

**C) VOLUNTEER: Wilhelmina Crown**

Despite the Lymington Outreach taking me outside my “comfort zone”, I was very eager to contribute to the mission as best as I can. Foremost in my mind during this time was the fact that “this was after all not about me”, but doing what God has called us to do as a church.

Other commitments meant that I could not participate in the first meet and greet session. On the second week, however, after the Scripture reading and praise and worship in the church, I was paired up with the Regeneration Officer (RO) for knocking on doors. This was all new to me so I initially helped by completing questionnaires whilst the RO conversed with families. Before too long and by the third house however, despite my initial protests, she had me talking to people. It was great fun talking to people and spreading the good news of Christ.

Although not everyone welcomed us, people were generally cordial and friendly. This mission has been a great and rewarding experience for me personally. I continue to pray for all the families that we met and believe that God Almighty has made this the foundation on which St Mary’s could build upon.

**D) VOLUNTEER: Elisabeth Harding**

“I greet you in the name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ!

I thank God Almighty and Christiana for giving me the privilege to be part of the Lymington Outreach Programme. It was a great pleasure doing it each week.

At first I was very nervous but when we did the first week, I found out that people were very receptive and welcoming. It felt so great! There and then I decided that this was something I really wanted to do. I was so passionate about it that I was thinking about it all the time.



It felt so wonderful to serve God in that way. I was so excited, always looking forward to another Wednesday to go out there to make Jesus known and to tell them about His love for us.

I definitely think that we have made the people in Lymington that we met feel very welcomed and we have let them know that our parish (St Mary's) is there to help whenever they need it and also to pray for them always.

Over all I want so say that it's been a huge success and we give God all the Glory and Praise.

**E) VOLUNTEER: Henrietta Johnson**

Indeed God is GOOD all the time, therefore one need to give time for His Glory. I appreciated the time and experience gained during the Lymington visits. Despite attending one, I was able to see that there are people out there waiting for such a fellowship; knowing there are people who care. Some people were receptive whilst others are still struggling to have a ground in Jesus. We need to continue committing them in our prayers that the Holy Spirit will minister to them and that they will come to understand and know that with God, ALL things are possible.

# APPENDIX

## A) INFORMATION PACK

### 1. Church in the Park Leaflet



### 2. Lymington Survey Form

#### COMMUNITY SURVEY

##### (A)

1. How long have you lived here?  
.....  
.....
2. Where were you living before?  
.....  
.....
3. We have day time activities for children and retired people. Will you be interested?  
.....  
.....
4. How many adults are in your household? What are the age ranges?  
.....  
.....
5. What age range are the children?  
.....  
.....
6. Which schools are the children attending?  
.....  
.....
7. What do you think is good about this area?  
.....  
.....
8. Have you experienced any problems so far?  
.....  
.....
9. Have you been to church before for:  
a. Wedding b. Christening c. Funeral or  
d. Sunday Service?

- .....  
.....  
10. Do you know where St Mary's Becontree is?  
.....  
.....

##### (B)

1. Do you believe in some kind of God?  
Yes / No / Not sure  
[If they answer "yes"/"not sure"] What do you think God is like?  
a. A force? c. Personal?  
b. Distant? d. Something else?
2. What do you believe happens at the end of our lives?  
We die and that's it  
We return to earth in another form or as another person  
We all go to heaven  
Some people go to heaven but others to hell  
I am not sure  
Something else  
.....
3. What do you believe about Jesus?  
He didn't exist at all  
He was an ordinary man and nothing more  
He was a prophet or messenger from God  
He is the only Son of God  
Other

### 3. Information about St Mary's Becontree & Detachable Prayer request

**St Mary's church is praying for your street this week**

If you have any prayer request for

- yourself
- your friend and family
- your street or neighbourhood

Please send them to us by email at [stmarysbecontree@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbecontree@gmail.com) OR by telephone on **0208 592 2822**

Visit our website for more information <http://www.stmarysbecontree.org.uk/>

The Parish of St Mary's and Hartley Brook Becontree  
**MAKING JESUS KNOWN**

"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full"  
*Jn 10:10*

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|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>  | <b>SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES</b> |
| ST. MARYS :<br>Grafton Road, Dagenham, Essex, S16B   | St Mary's 11:00am           |
| HARTLEY BROOK:<br>Roslyn Avenue, Dagenham, Essex, S16B                                       | Hartley Brook 9:30am        |
| Website: <a href="http://www.stmarysbecontree.org.uk">http://www.stmarysbecontree.org.uk</a> | (Closed for Christmas)      |
| Tel: 0208 592 2822   |                             |
| EE Email: <a href="mailto:stmarysbecontree@gmail.com">stmarysbecontree@gmail.com</a>         |                             |

**My prayer Requests are:**

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### 4. St Mary's & Hartley Brook Activities

We would like to wish you a warm welcome to St Mary's Church, BECONTREE.

We would also like to make this opportunity of inviting you to any of our Sunday SERVICES (Details on back page).

In addition to our Sunday services, we offer a variety of activities for all ages as detailed in this leaflet.

We are on our website or contact us via our e-mail (link on front page) to find out more about who we are.

We hope to see you soon.

Revd. Julia Fleming  
Tel: 0202 8592 2822

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| <p><b>"SMARTIES"</b><br/>St. Mary's Active Bakery &amp; Treatery, for those aged 55+ and still active... meet once a week based on home regular trips out. For more information or contact: Run @ Julie Brook on 020 8127 9926</p> | <p><b>OPEN SCOR</b><br/>Why not come along to our free to assist at St Mary's Church Hall on Wednesday afternoon 10pm to 3pm. Pop along for coffee, tea and "spice to be". For more information contact: Revd. Julia Fleming on 020 592 2822</p> | <p><b>LITTLE HANDS TOLLER GROUP</b><br/>St Mary's Church Hall<br/>For parents/careers with pre-2 school children Tuesday &amp; Friday 9.30am to 11.00am (term time only). For more information contact: Soly Bivort 37889 219 517 (www.stmarysbecontree.org.uk)</p> |
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| <p><b>Beavers</b><br/>Fridays 6.30pm to 7.45pm<br/>Aged 4-6 yrs<br/>Contact: Mary McLeod on 020 8227 6154</p> | <p><b>Scouts</b><br/>Mondays 8pm to 9.30pm<br/>Ages 7-14 yrs<br/>Contact: Mike or Beeking on 01706 458 912</p> | <p><b>Old Scouts</b><br/>Mondays 6.30pm to 8pm<br/>Ages 18-25 yrs<br/>Contact: Cliff Jackson on 020 8220 6158</p> | <p><b>Explorers</b><br/>Tuesdays 8pm to 9.45pm<br/>Ages 14-16 yrs<br/>Contact: Shirley Swainson on 080 2252 1473</p> |
|---|--|---|--|

All scouting groups meet in St Mary's Church Hall. Please note the opening arrangements apply to each club and send a message.

E-mail: [scouts@stmarysbecontree.org.uk](mailto:scouts@stmarysbecontree.org.uk)

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| <p><b>Robocon &amp; Brainiacs</b><br/>Tuesdays 6pm to 7.30pm<br/>Ages 5-12 yrs<br/>Contact: Dawn Wallace on 020 8262 2944</p> | <p><b>Girls</b><br/>Tuesdays 7pm to 8.30pm<br/>Ages 11-14 yrs<br/>Contact: Dawn Wallace on 020 8262 2944</p> |
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Robocon, Brainiacs & Girls meet at Hartley Brook Church.

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**Sunday Services**

St Mary's Church  
Grafton Road

11am Family Service with Spirit 5th Worship for 4-12 yrs  
Holy Communion on First Sunday of each month  
All Age Liturgy Service on Third Sunday of each month  
Big Voice on Fourth Sunday of each month

Hartley Brook Church  
Roslyn Avenue

9:30am Traditional Service  
Holy Communion on second Sunday of each month

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| <p><b>MESSY CHURCH</b><br/>Creative fun, games and fun-filled activities for little people (toddlers &amp; primary age). Parents stay with children. Second Wednesday of each month at Hartley Brook Church 4.30pm to 5pm (term time only).</p> | <p><b>NEW</b><br/>Tuesdays 10am to 11.30am<br/>Thursday 10am to 11.30am (term time only) at St Mary's church<br/>For more information contact: Soly Bivort 020 8592 7948</p> |
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**The Zone**  
Open Heart Club for 10-17 yrs  
Friday 8pm to 9.30pm (term time only) at St Mary's Church Hall

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**WELCOME TO**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH**



St Mary's Church  
Grafton Road  
And  
Hartley Brook Church  
Roslyn Avenue

[www.stmarysbecontree.org.uk](http://www.stmarysbecontree.org.uk)  
[stmarysbecontree@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysbecontree@gmail.com)

**B)"SOME OF THE OUTREACH VISITING TEAM"**



**C)"OTHER OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS"**

