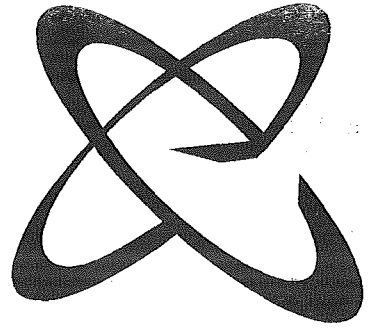


t h e
epicentre
network
newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the epicentre network newsletter. We hope that this will be a way to communicate what is happening within the network in terms of events and also provide a format for people to write about issues that they would like to bring to the attention of others.

Epicentre was formed about 2 years ago by a group of people from St Marks. The first event was an alternative evening service that took place in the crypt and was entitled 'Freedom'. What that means for people today was explored by using drama, music and an array of visuals. There followed similar services that looked at Light, Chaos and London Life.

From its inception epicentre has always been closely associated to St Marks. Guidance and support has come from Paul Perkin and those who have coordinated epicentre, Ian Mobsby, Richard Jackson and Gareth Downes, have always been accountable to him. Much support now comes from Andrew Bourne and John Hayns from the staff team. Epicentre has always been about building relationships between Christians and those who would not call themselves Christians, particularly in Battersea through events such as alternative services, discussion groups known as gos-sesh, cabarets and workshops. It's also about supporting Christians through prayer and creative worship.

Now having grown to encompass different activities and involvement from more local churches the word network has recently been added to the word epicentre. Essentially this is what it is, a network of Christians endeavouring to discover a freedom in knowing that God exists and finding ways to communicate what that means to others in society.

To aid communication and provide a place for decision making a steering group has recently been set up. The group comprises of people who have responsibilities for the various events and is chaired by Richard Jackson.

The epicentre network has no formal entry requirements! In many ways just by reading this newsletter you have become part of the network. Hopefully as you read on and read other contributions in further newsletters you will begin to decide what role, if any, you would like to play in the epicentre network.

The Gos-sesh

We live in an age where everything goes, there are few absolutes and truth can be a dirty word. An age where the freedom to choose is everyone's aim without the cost of taking others into account. The pursuit of fulfilment and individual expression invariably ends in disillusion when reality sets in and it's then that the questions are asked.

Wednesday evenings from 8.30pm to about 10pm at Jake's bar, Battersea rise provides an opportunity to ask the questions and look for answers by discussing relevant issues. We can look at fulfilment - is it achievable? What is individual expression? What is true freedom?

It's an open informal time for anyone who is interested to come along, have a chat, ask questions, simply listen or get to meet others who are also questioning....

Next meeting 14 February
Contact Lucy Walker
0171 737-0803 (h)
0171 498-1011 (w)

The Cabaret

In the past the cabarets have been relaxed and often hilarious evenings, a good opportunity to have a drink and be entertained without going into the West End. The acts have varied from being poignant to purely farcical and often involve live music and juggling.

There is a pool of performers that have contributed in the past but there is always room for more. So if any of you feel confident enough to jump in with them sharpen up your act and be prepared for the auditions at the end of March.

For the rest of us who have always got embarrassed when we go swimming then look out for the Cabaret publicity and come along in June with a bottle of wine prepared for anything.

You can be assured that in keeping with current circus ethics there will be no live animals used in the acts at this cabaret.

The Socials

Happening about once a month the socials are a time to get together and catch up with one another. Everyone involved or interested in the epicentre network are welcome. We usually meet in someone's home, spend a lot of time chatting and hoping that the next person to arrive has brought some food to eat.

Although it's an informal evening there's opportunity to find out how epicentre events are developing and pray for them and ourselves. The next meeting is on 26 February, 8.30pm at Lucy Walker's, 54b Stockwell Green, 0171 737-0803.

The Ascension
A Creative Service about Community

The focus for this service was a painting by Andrew Rublez entitled the Icon of the Trinity depicting three angels seated around the communion table. Three images of the picture were projected onto a screen at the front of the church. An explanation of this painting was narrated and we were encouraged to explore its significance in revealing to us the nature of what the Christian church calls the Trinity. Each angel represents one element of the Trinity - God, his son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The gestures of the angels show that they are unified, their gaze is toward the communion wine and in this way they are in community with one another.

Our attention was then thrown towards more contemporary images as the Rublez paintings were replaced by video clips showing familiar scenes in our lives. People crossing the road to Balham tube station, shopping in the supermarket, driving through busy traffic and carrying our shopping home. The video was bordered by black and white photographs of post war Balham showing trams and streets scenes.

We responded to the message of the painting and the images by joining together and sharing communion by drinking wine representative of the blood of Jesus and eating bread representative of the body of Jesus. By participating in a single act together we became unified and were able to show this by praying together for people we knew and in particular for Balham.

A Celtic prayer that was used in the service,

May the love of the three
Give birth to a new community

May the togetherness of the three
Give birth to a new unity

May the yielding of the three
Give birth to a new humanity

May the glory of the three
Give birth to a new life.

May the life of the three
Give birth to a new creativity

re:kreation
nightclub

moored on the
south bank near
chelsea bridge
the barge is the
venue for the
epicentre
network's entry
into clubland ec
presents
re:kreation a
late night event
for those who
enjoy dancing to
fast music more
funk than foxtrot
happening on
saturday march
2 tickets on the
door 7 pounds, 5
pounds
concessions
music by dj's
steve baker,
arne alea and
'triple g gareth'
on bongos with
a mix of happy
house and
gospel garage
10pm to 4am

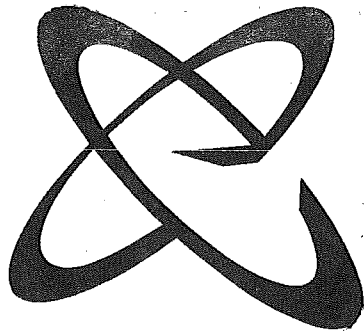
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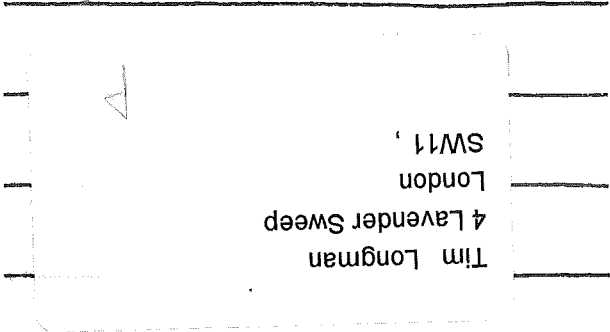
How this newsletter develops depends largely on those who read it and how willing people are to contribute to it. I see it as a way of helping to solve epicentre's age old problem of poor communication. This can become a key place to inform others of what is going on and also by our comments look at our roles in the epicentre network. In doing so it will also enable others to define what the epicentre network is.

As is probably very evident, at the moment there is no particular structure to how or what is written here so this is a good opportunity to make a contribution and 'give it some character'

Sim Barne

0171 978-962





dates

- gos-sesh 14 february - jakes bar, lavender hill, 8.30pm
- study days 24 february - city, law and politics
- 23 march - science, war, peace, ecology, 10am to 3.30pm
- the ascension, contact john bartley 0171 207-4321
- social 26 february - lucy's place, 54b stockwell green, 8.30pm
- re:kreation 2 march - the barge, chelsea bridge southside, 10pm-4am
- graham cray 14 march - gospel and culture, st marks, 7.30pm
- cabaret end of march - auditions & mid june - the event