

## The Golden Jubilee Festival

The 14th December 2007 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the Consecration of the Church by Bishop Christopher Chavasse. The plan is to celebrate this with a festival beginning on Ss Peter and Paul's Day, 29 June 2007 (coincidentally, also the 25th anniversary of the Vicar's Ordination as a Priest) and culminating on the 14th December with a celebration led by the Bishop. A small group chaired by John Ross-Martin have been looking at ways in which the Festival could be celebrated. The group felt that the Festival should begin and end with celebrations of the Eucharist, with events in between to enable mission, learning and to entertain.

The group came up with a number of ideas:

- Commission a new Mass from a reputable composer for the choir to sing at the opening and closing Eucharists of the Festival.
- A different kind of Advent or Christmas service
- Provide some resources for religious education in local schools such as a series of lectures by significant speakers to which sixth form students might be invited or inviting Primary schools for visits.
- Arranging '50' series; 50 minute services; ask people to give 50 minutes of their time; invite preachers from other Churches celebrating 50th anniversaries; sing 50 hymns chosen by the congregation during the festival period.
- Children's visits which involved singing or art work such as banners to hand from the tower.
- Projecting a logo on to the Church to show the anniversary.
- Offer to do something on the large Primark brick wall facing the Church such as mural.
- A Golden Jubilee Ball instead of the Advent dinner.
- A (walking) pilgrimage to the Rochester Cathedral.
- Events to which various local community people are welcomed, such as Community Police support officers or others who work nearby.
- Services for people who have been baptised or married in the Church in the last 50 years.
- Fireworks on 14 Dec possibly with music.
- Inviting the queen near the anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone (21 October) If she can't come.
- The creation of a cairn made from stones taken from the tower to commemorate all who have worshipped on this site.
- Inviting BBC Songs of Praise and / or Sunday morning Worship to record the service.
- Invitations to other related churches such as Nabburg or parishes from our Link Dioceses.
- A focus on the Biblical notion of Jubilee and social justice.
- A festival logo.
- Planting bulbs in the west lawn in the shape of the logo.
- Exhibitions of art, sculpture or photographs on a theme of Justice or 50 years of Bromley.
- Events to raise money for charity.
- A gala concert with a popular programme.
- Commemorative ties, sweatshirts, mugs or tea towels.

The planning group needs your ideas as to how we can celebrate our Golden Jubilee. Any suggestion large or small, simple or fanciful will be considered and hopefully tailored to fit an enlightening and entertaining six months. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please speak to any of the planning committee; John Ross-Martin, Michael Camp, Deborah Phipps, Margaret Writer, Matthew Proctor, Tom Corns, Alison Hodson, Gill Sammons, Matthew Young, Ernest Yeo or Philip Townsend.

**Matthew Young**