



## Julia's new church job

New role – the Rev Julia Porter-Pryce at St Peter De Beauvoir church

HACKNEY has become the only borough in London to have a woman as the head of its Church of England flock.

The Rev Julia Porter-Pryce, the vicar of St Peter De Beauvoir church, has taken over the role of Hackney's area dean.

"It's a great privilege to have this position because Hackney is a place I've known and loved for many years," she told the *Gazette*.

She has worked and lived in the borough for 25 years and has been the vicar of St Peter's in De Beauvoir Road for seven years.

Previously, she was a curate in Stoke Newington at St Michael and All Angels in Fountain Road.

Before entering the clergy, she worked as a deputy director at the Geffrye Museum in Kingsland Road, Shoreditch.

Her husband, Rob Pryce, has been a criminal solicitor in Hackney for 20 years.

The Rev Porter-Pryce, 52, has succeeded the Rev Ian Harper, vicar of St Luke's in Homerton Terrace, who is standing down after reaching the end of his five-year term as area dean.

As the "new girl", she will be charged with providing pastoral care and support to the clergy in Hackney.

She is the Church of England's senior representative across the borough and joins the the Bishop of Stepney's staff team. The role involves developing the church's borough strategy and working with other faiths.

The Rev Porter-Pryce and her husband have three children – Evan, 21, Ben, 19, and Ceinwen, 14.

# MP's blast for 'telly' parents

by RUSS LAWRENCE

**OUTSPOKEN MP Diane Abbott has claimed uncaring parents are to blame for spiralling gang and knife violence.**

In a House of Commons debate on knife crime last week, she said some parents in inner-city communities spent more time "watching television or listening to their iPods than caring for their children".

The MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington urged the government to axe plans to force single parents to work – and instead teach them to raise children.

She also warned that many boys took gangsters and drug dealers as their role models because they had no others in their lives.

Ms Abbott, a single parent herself, blamed poor parenting and absent

## Focus on getting mums to work is wrong, says Abbott

fathers for causing an increase in knife crime. "Where do the young men swaggering around our estates with a knife up their sleeve, thinking that they can demand respect at the point of a blade or a gun, come from?" she said.

"They come from families, many thousands of them on estates that I represent in Hackney, where young boys are growing up not just in female-headed households – I would be the last person to say a single parent cannot be a good parent – but in households where they have never seen a man getting up and going out to work and meeting their responsibilities as men. Nor have their friends seen that."

She added that "social dislocation", which leads young people into gangs, guns and knives", started with young women, who although they might love their children did not know how to parent them.

"When the children whom I am talking about go to school, increasingly teachers are finding that some have not been spoken to," said Ms Abbott. "In some communities that I am talking about the mothers are watching television or else listening to their iPods."

"I take the view, I'm afraid, that the government's emphasis on putting single-parent mothers to work is wrong," she added.

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## Minister's boost for artists

THREATENED Hackney artists received a morale-boosting visit from government minister Barbara Follett.

The minister from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport talked to artists at Mother Studios in White Post Lane, Hackney Wick, whose space is coming under increasing pressure from developers ahead of the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Naomi Dines, chairwoman of the National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers, said: "The artists' future has always been threatened by regeneration and the resulting increases in land property and value, but the Olympic project appears to be making things worse."

"There needs to be a concerted effort by all agencies – those responsible for culture, planning, regeneration and the Olympic project itself – to include artists' studios as a vital ingredient in their vision for the Olympic boroughs and beyond after 2012," she added.



Yes minister – Barbara Follett with artist Rossen Daskalov

## Appeal judges dismiss daughter's bid for flat

A DEVOTED daughter is facing eviction from the flat where she cared for her dying father following an Appeal Court ruling last week.

Linda Freeman was hit with a possession order in September last year on the flat where she looked after her dad, Richard, in the 12 months leading up to his death in 2005.

She began staying with her father up to three nights a week in 2002 after his health deteriorated and started living with him seven days a week in June, 2004.

Islington Council, faced with a dwindling stock of housing and ever-increasing demand, said the flat in Myddleton Passage was not Ms Freeman's primary place of residence and she had "greater links" to a flat she

had owned in Lordship Park, Stoke Newington, since 1989.

She has been fighting to inherit the secure tenancy on her father's flat, which has been in the family for 30 years, but her legal campaign hit the buffers at London's Civil Appeal Court.

Lord Justice Jacob said that, in order to qualify to keep her father's flat, she had to be "residing" there for at least 12 months before he died.

"One is looking for something which can fairly be called 'homemaking'," said the judge, sitting with Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Longmore.

"There is nothing to show that Ms Freeman, at least until she let her (Hackney) flat, was doing more than fulfilling her natural duty to her father," he concluded before dismissing her appeal.

## Awards chance

TOWN hall transport chiefs have been recognised for their work on road safety. *Transport Times* has shortlisted Hackney Council as local authority of the year in its national awards. The prize-giving ceremony takes place on Wednesday, July 22.

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