

fursey pilgrims

Burgh Castle Annual Pilgrimage

Saturday 5th October 2013

A brief Profile of our Speaker, the Revd Jack Burton

The Revd Jack Burton is a retired Methodist minister who has lived '[Over the Water](#)' in the Colegate area of Norwich in Norfolk for over 40 years. Born in Norwich, he is a regular member of the Cathedral congregation. After serving from 1963-1968 in the Glasgow (Paisley Road) and the Ely circuits, Jack was given permission to implement a worker-priest pattern of ministry. He spent the next 35 years as a Norwich bus driver and for the first 6 years, in the days of the [Anglican/Methodist Unity Conversations](#), was attached by [Bishop Lancelot Fleming](#) to the church of [St George, Colegate](#).

In the 1970s Jack, along many others, formed the first group to fight for Norwich Over the Water. They campaigned against council redevelopment threats to the area and, after achieving quite a bit of influence, managed to moderate some of the council's plans.

Jack had always loved the church of [St Clement](#) in Colegate and had long been inspired by its beauty and ambience. In 1977 he took the rather unusual step of approaching the [Norwich Historic Churches Trust](#) to ask if he could personally rent the church. He took over the tenancy in 1978 and used it as a base for his ministry. Since that time Jack has opened the church daily for private prayer and meditation. It is now the only church open for this purpose between Fye Bridge and Magdalen Street Gates. Over the time he has been its custodian he has been able to offer people the opportunity to sit and reflect within the peace and quiet of St Clement.

The [2011 Lent Lectures](#) in [Norwich Cathedral](#) were given by Jack on the overall theme 'Enthusiasm, Faith and Vocation'. In each Lecture he addressed a different aspect of the subject.

Jack has had a number of books published, including the prize-winning '[Transport of Delight](#)' (1976) and '[The Gap](#)' (1991). He has contributed to the [Eastern Daily Press's](#) 'Freechurch' Viewpoint column for 18 years and has recently published a discussion of enthusiasm entitled '[The Wonder of Buses and Trams](#)'.

Some of us will be familiar with the title 'Transport of Delight' from the comic song by Flanders and Swann which you can listen to (after the advertisement) if you click [here](#).

A [Customer Review](#) of his book 'Transport of Delight' on Amazon reads:

"This is without a doubt one of the best books that I have ever read. It is unashamedly religious, but still inspiring even to an agnostic like myself. I was privileged to have worked alongside the author, which perhaps gives me a greater insight into his celebration of the richness of life in an ordinary setting. A fine journal by a fine man, set in a fine city."