

Editor

Clive Orton

Features Editor

Becky Wallower

Secretary/Advertising

Becky Wallower

Marketing Manager

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Peter Rowsome

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Contact

Dr Jo Udall
Membership Secretary
63 Dinmont House
Pritchard's Road
London E2 9BW

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Front cover

One of two Sacred Heart medals found, with a rosary and crucifix, at the neck of a probably female adult burial at St Mary and St Michael's Roman Catholic burial ground (1843–54), Lukin Street, Tower Hamlets. The copper-alloy medal, a type common in the 19th century, was suspended from a satin ribbon and features a flaming heart, pierced by a spear and surrounded by a crown of thorns. Above is a cross and four angels, with O SACRED HEART OF JESUS GRANT US GRACE TO LOVE THEE round the edge. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus centres on reparation and atonement; the medals were considered protective, especially in death.

This burial ground, with that of Bow Baptist church, Payne Road, and the privately owned Sheen's burial ground, Back Church Lane, are all explored in a new MOLA monograph published in April: *'He being dead yet speaketh': excavations at three post-medieval burial grounds in Tower Hamlets, east London, 2004–10*. Michael Henderson, Adrian Miles, Don Walker, with Brian Connell, Robin Wroe-Brown

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