

FEBRUARY 2007

JUNIOR CHURCH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who took part in our "Whole Church Nativity".
Lots of people have commented on how much they enjoyed being part of it.

NEW BEGINNINGS

We had our first session of our once a month meetings on Jan 7th. It was great to see our young people all together sharing their thoughts and ideas for 2007. We ended by placing a wish for the world on a world map. This is at the back of the church and anyone who would like to add a wish for the world is very welcome to do so.

When little Rochelle first came into the hall where we had various areas set up for the Junior Church to use she said, "This is fantastical!" Let's hope it is a **fantastical** year for all our young people at The Drive in 2007.

JUNIOR CHURCH

These are the dates and the proposed themes for the Junior Church
and church "**All Age Worship**" over the next six months.

February 4th CREATION

March 4th NOAH

April 1st ABRAHAM, ISAAC & JACOB

May 6th

June 3rd

July 1st

JOSEPH

MOSES

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

To all parents and carers of young people and of course, young people themselves, please put these dates in your diary and join us on these sessions.
JO WRIGHT

EASTER CELEBRATION

We are having a "**Whole Church Easter Celebration**" on **SATURDAY 7TH APRIL** in the hall.

Please come and join us for **CRAFTS, REFRESHMENTS, BRIC-A-BRAC and a RAFFLE.**

Put the date in your diary and more information will be in the March Newsletter.

As you know, last year our Easter celebration was in memory of Pat. We will be purchasing a bench in memory of Pat with the money we raised, but will wait until the new development of the path and garden around the side of the church has been finished. Then the bench will be placed in a special area.
JO WRIGHT

FLOWERS

Thankyou to all the generous folk who give the flowers for so many weeks of the year to decorate our Church. Thankyou too to the flower arrangers, somewhat depleted in number, who give of their time to arrange the flowers every weekend. We are hoping to run a workshop sometime in March to which people (men or women) interested in joining the team would be most welcome. Please continue to put your name on the list in the porch and also to give us the names of anyone who would appreciate the gift of flowers from the Church. CATHERINE SAYERS

"I WISH I KNEW"

I have often wondered how the world began, or where does the rainbow actually end, but above all I often wonder as to why every one who is a tax payer does not Gift Aid their giving to the Church. I have thought a lot about this, but in all these years I have never come to a logical conclusion. I have decided therefore to appeal to readers to give me a genuine reason for not gift-aiding, and to offer a small prize to anyone who comes up with a satisfactory explanation.

When VAT was introduced a lot of charities argued that it should not apply to them but the government referred them to the notional tax rebate on all giving, whereby a gift of £10 would generate a return of almost another £3 from the taxation department and consequently the charity receive £13 from a gift of £10.

In my budget for the year 2007 I had forecast a reduction in the amount of Gift Aid monies received by the Church from the tax authorities, but it now looks likely that it will be less than I had anticipated. This is a big blow to the Church so if you are not already gift aiding and are able to please start now. PETER FOSTER

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING & LUNCH

This will take place on **Sunday 11th March**, immediately after the morning service.

A lunch will then be served at **12.45 pm in the Church Hall**.

A list will go up at the back of the church on **Sunday 18th February**, for you to indicate if you would like to have the lunch. This list will be taken down on **Sunday 4th March**.

THE TUESDAY MEETING

8pm in the Church Parlour

On the first two evenings, Stephen Normanton will attempt to set out chronologically the major characters, stories, themes and events of each of the Bible Testaments in an exiting and interesting way.

23rd January

"Tell me the old, old story"

An overview of the Old Testament

30th January

"New every morning"

An overview of the New Testament

6th February

Church Fellowship – Susan Ruckes

13th February

Visit by members of the Muslim community

20th February

(No meeting)

21st February

Ash Wednesday Service

L E N T E N S T U D I E S

Weekly Meetings leading up to Easter

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO THESE INFORMAL MEETINGS

MUSLIM VISIT TO OUR TUESDAY MEETING - FEB 13TH.

Some months ago, the Tuesday Meeting visited the Muslim Community on Eastern Avenue. We were most hospitably welcomed, enjoyed refreshments and learned a lot about the Muslim Faith.

We have invited the Community back to our meeting on **Tuesday 13th February**. We would like to return their hospitality, and talk about our Christian Faith. Do come along and support this special visit, in the Parlour at 8.00 pm.

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CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday February 6th at 8.00 pm** and will be arranged by Susan Ruckes. She will be showing slides of various places and asking us to guess where they are (no prizes as far as I know!). Lifts and refreshments will be available as always. Please come and join in the fun. C.E.S.

BARN DANCE and SUPPER

Saturday 10th February 2007

As usual, this popular event will take place at The Drive Church Hall
between 7.00 pm & 10.30 pm

Tickets are available from John Higgins or Brian Taylor

Adults £6, Children £4. Family (2+2) £18

(including Potato Bake Supper)

Please get your tickets in good time to avoid disappointment.

CELEBRATING WOMEN and FAITH

The Redbridge Faith Forum are holding an event to mark International
Women's Day

on 8th March 2007. Inspirational speakers and readings from heart-
warming poetry and prose will be read. Issues affecting women in today's
modern world will be discussed.

6.45 pm to 9.00 pm

Gloucester Room, Ilford Central Library.

Thursday 8th March, 2007

L E N T 2 0 0 7

This year, we are invited to **CRANBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH, Wellesley Road**, for all the Lent
meetings, apart from **Ash Wednesday 21st February**, when a service will be held **at 8.00 pm** at **St.
Andrew's Church**, and **Maundy Thursday 5th April at 8.00 pm**, when a service will be held at **The
Drive Church**.

All the Lent meetings will be at 8.00 pm.

Do join us for this interesting course.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Friday 2nd March

The service this year has been prepared by the Christian Women of Paraguay - and is entitled
"Under God's Tent!" The service will be held at 2.00 pm at St. Mary & St. Erconwald RC Church in
Ilford Lane. It is open to men, women and children, all are welcome - Paraguay is a land-locked
country in South America, bordered by Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia. There's a large gap between
rich and poor and it is one of the most impoverished countries in the world, but there are many
attractive features, steep hills, forests and waterfalls. Do come and join with the women of Ilford in
this inspiring and informative service. C.E.S.

B E E T L E D R I V E

This will take place on **SATURDAY 17th MARCH** -

So please book the date now!

More details will be available from **Diane**, very soon.

300TH. ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES WESLEY'S BIRTH

Andrew, Brian Taylor and Frank are preparing a presentation to be part of our own Anniversary celebrations, during the evening service on **Sunday 1st. July 2007, at 6.30 pm.** Do book the date now, as it will be a very special occasion.

Another date to book is **Saturday 6th October 2007** when an event to mark this Anniversary is being organised at The Hospital Chapel, Ilford Hill. This will be a Circuit event, so do try to be part of it.

CHARLES WESLEY'S 300TH BIRTHDAY

Coach trip to Bristol to visit John Wesley's Chapel and Charles Wesley's House.

Saturday 29th September 2007.

Approx £25 including entrance fees

To book or request further information contact Peter Sharp

SING TO THE LORD, ALL THE WORLD!

I was very impressed by Andrew's piece in the December 06 Newsletter, about his love of music, and his tips on how we could improve the sound which we make together in church!

We re-read this piece in the Women's Fellowship recently, and each member reminisced about the music which had influenced them down the years.

Those of us who have been invited to share the music which we would like to have on a desert island, will know what a difficult but rewarding exercise this can be. I had the privilege a few years ago and I remember going back to my early childhood, when my friend and I visited my Grandad and Grandma. We were allowed to play in the front room, full of plushy furniture and a wonderful gramophone which we wound up and sat entranced, listening to Dame Nellie Melba and Caruso.

Later, my Uncle Albert, who was Band Leader on the Queen Mary, often stayed with us between trips, and gave my sister and me lessons on the violin. My brother played the cello and the piano, so there was always music in our house.

Later, during the war years, I knew all the songs of the day, and sang along with the wireless, doing my homework! Then it was dance-music – Victor Sylvester and strict tempo! I became more serious when I worked in the Library and a group of us started a "Gramophone Club" and became appreciative of classical music. This appreciation was nurtured later by my visits to the opera with Peter and the Proms with Nicholas and our acquisition of a radiogram with '78' Records, and, later a Stereo system.

Perhaps the real influence on me has been singing in the choir since I was in my 20's, with little breaks to have the children. I have particularly enjoyed the choir over the last 11 or so years, while Andrew has been choirmaster. We practise hard and happily, and are encouraged to aim for a high standard [which I hope we achieve!]

Last, but not least, I have really appreciated Frank's visits to the Women's Fellowship every couple of months over many years, when he has introduced us to much lovely music, sacred and secular. We often use this prayer on our musical afternoons. **BARBARA FOSTER**

Generous God, Creator Spirit,
in the making of music
you have given us a delight for the mind and a solace for the heart.
By the harmonies of your grace
resolve the discord of our lives,
that we may sound forth your praise
in all we do and all we are,
to the glory of your great and wonderful name. Amen

Peter Baelz, Dean Emeritus of Durham Cathedral

CHURCH WORK MORNING

There is to be a Work Morning at church on **Saturday February 24th** at 10.00 am

Please come along and help, even for a little while.

There are the usual tidying up jobs needing to be done.

The more there are of us – the lighter the work!

A L O N G S I D E

A Bereavement Care Group

If you have been bereaved, lost a loved one - a partner, a parent, a child, a close friend, call in for a cup of tea and some friendly chat in the Wilson Room of St. Andrew's Church Hall, The Drive, Ilford.

This is open to anyone, of any age, in the community.

The first meeting was held on Monday January 8th from 2.30/4.00 pm.

Subsequent meetings on the first Monday in each month, apart from May.

In April there will be meetings on 2nd and 30th.

For further details contact

Marion Lander or Rosemary Enever (see notice in foyer for phone numbers)

Letter received from Loughton Family Centre

"Dear Friends and Supporters,

We were overwhelmed to receive the toys, games, activities and the donation of £730, given by you to help us to further our work with vulnerable families. This year has been an even more challenging time than usual for Loughton Family Centre as we had many management changes to overcome. One of our main concerns was whether people would still see fit to help us to provide the added extras that make such a difference to the families we support.

"Aware that our friends at The Drive have always been generous, we could not take for granted that this would continue, but you have once again shown your generosity and compassion for our work with young needy families and for this we offer our sincere thanks. It seems that this year a special donation was made so we will keep you informed of how we will use this gift.

Yours sincerely,

LORRAINE BENDON"

Letter received from Redbridge Night Shelter, following Harvest 2006

"I would like to take this opportunity to send you our heartfelt thanks for the recent generous donation from your parishioners.

"These donations are much appreciated by our guests (and our volunteer cooks!) and enable us to use our funds to provide them with other items which we might otherwise not be able to afford and which can help to make their situation a little more bearable.

"As well as accepting goods, we have also introduced a voucher scheme, which you might consider as an alternative for next year. Some organizations used these this year and found they were easier to deal with than lots of tins!

"Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved and we are so grateful that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers."

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Whilst I appreciate some of the reasons behind the "Christmas Card Board" in the foyer of the Church, I feel, and I know of others who feel the same. There are several downsides to this arrangement.

- 1) One card on a board is very impersonal.
- 2) Having given cards to many members of the congregation for many years, does one just stop and perhaps leave the feeling of "I am not thought of so much after all" for those who no longer receive a personal card.
- 3) There are many to whom I would not dream of omitting to send or give a personal card. But where does one draw the line? How does one decide whether to continue or not? It can be a very worrying time.
- 4) The trouble with the old "Post Box" system was largely a problem that causes so many new rules and regulations and even laws in society generally. That is abuse of the system. People not sticking to the rules i.e. fully addressed envelopes, posted by the required date (I have seen cards being added to piles at the Carol Service after many have already been collected), and only for those who are almost certain to attend Church to collect their cards - not those who are housebound, moved away or seldom attend.
- 5) If you place a card on the board for the "whole Church", and continue to give cards to individuals, you are, in effect, giving two greetings to those who receive individual cards
- 6) If we are to continue with the new system, then would it not be a good idea if the money saved on purchasing the extra cards were donated to a charity relevant to the Christmas Season.
- 7) It appears that many others in the congregation may feel the same, as when I looked at the board when I returned after Christmas, there were only about 28 cards displayed.

What do other members of the congregation think? Perhaps you could let your views be known in the next edition of the Newsletter. BRIAN GRINHAM

COLLECTIONS FOR CHARITY AT CHRISTMAS SERVICES

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| The National Charity Shelter | £182.86 |
| National Children's Home | £122.37 |
| Redbridge Night Shelter | £59.22 |
| The Welcome Centre | £158.04 |

CIRCUIT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------|---|
| Saturday 17 th | Evening | Barking | Church Anniversary Celebration – dinner & concert |
| Tuesday 20 th | 7.30 pm | Seven Kings | Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – details in Circuit Plan |
| Wed 21 st & every Wed till April 4 th | 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm | Seven Kings | Lenten Prayer Walk in Seven Kings Methodist Church |

***WILL YOU PLEASE LET BARBARA FOSTER HAVE ITEMS FOR
THE MARCH NEWSLETTER BY SUNDAY FEBRUARY 11TH.***

DIARY 2007

JANUARY

| | | | |
|------|----|---------|--|
| TUES | 30 | 8.00 pm | Tuesday Meeting - "New Every Morning" - An overview of the New Testament |
| WED | 31 | 2.30 pm | Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton |

FEBRUARY

| | | | |
|------|----|--------------------|---|
| THUR | 1 | 8.30 pm | Choir Practice |
| SUN | 4 | 10.45 am | Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All Age Worship (No evening service) |
| TUES | 6 | 8.00 pm | Church Fellowship - Susan Ruckes "Do you know this place?" |
| WED | 7 | 2.30 pm | Women's Fellowship - Frank Sayers - Musical anagram |
| THUR | 8 | 8.30 pm | Choir Practice |
| SAT | 10 | 7.00 pm – 10.30 pm | BARN DANCE - <i>see page 5</i> |
| SUN | 11 | 10.45 am | Miss CHERYL BENFIELD |
| TUES | 13 | 8.00 pm | Tuesday Meeting - Visit by members of the Muslim Community <i>see page 4</i> |
| WED | 14 | 2.30 pm | Women's Fellowship - Sister Vera Nicholls |
| SUN | 18 | 10.45 am | Mr. GEOFFREY FREEMAN |
| WED | 21 | | ASH WEDNESDAY |
| | | 2.30 pm | Women's Fellowship - Frank Sayers with music for Lent |
| | | 8.00 pm | Ash Wednesday service at St. Andrew's Church |
| THUR | 22 | 8.30 pm | Choir Practice |
| SAT | 24 | 10.00 am | Church Work Morning - <i>see page 7</i> |
| SUN | 25 | | FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT |
| | | 10.45 am | Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - Family Communion <i>Collection at Communion for Open Door Project</i> |
| TUES | 27 | 1.00 pm | Church Lunch |
| | | 8.00 pm | Lenten Meeting at Cranbrook Baptist Church <i>see page 5</i> |
| WED | 28 | 2.30 pm | Women's Fellowship - Members' Afternoon |

MARCH

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|------|---|----------|---|
| THUR | 1 | 8.00 pm | Church Council |
| FRI | 2 | 2.00 pm | Women's World Day of Prayer service at St. Mary & St Erconwald, Ilford Lane - <i>see page 5</i> |
| SUN | 4 | | SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT |
| | | 10.45 am | Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All Age Worship |
| | | 6.30 pm | Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON |
| TUES | 6 | 8.00 pm | Lenten Meeting at Cranbrook Baptist Church - <i>see page 5</i> |
| WED | 7 | 2.30 pm | Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton |
| | | 7.30 pm | Circuit Meeting at Becontree |