

MARCH 2007

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.

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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 went 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**.

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 was held 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.

LENTEN PRAYER WALK

This will be held in Seven Kings Methodist Church on Wednesday 7th March and every Wednesday till 4th April between 4.00 and 5.00 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the walk.

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Watch Out!....There's a Beetle About! *(Yes, it's almost that time of year again!)*

JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA
SATURDAY 17TH MARCH 2007
2.30 pm FOR 3 pm START
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL

A New Challenge

Last year the money raised from the JMA Beetle Drive went to support the work of the Church in Pakistan helping to build a medical centre in the earthquake region. £15,000 was sent from JMA in Britain to the Diocese of Raiwind. The project is now well under way and doctors and nurses have already started work.

JMA have taken up a new challenge for 2007. The Church of Bangladesh has been running a project for over 20 years in Jessore. It is a training centre where for a small payment, young men go to learn a skill like repairing motorbikes or how to do electrical work. After a two-year course every single one of them gets a job or starts their own business. The JMA challenge for 2007 is to help with starting new centres in other villages especially for people who cannot afford to pay anything. Here young men and women will learn a skill for 6 months and then be given the tools and materials to help them start work on their own. It will cost £80 per student to pay for teachers, tools, meals etc.

We will support this new challenge at this year's Beetle Drive.

Tickets: **Adult: £4 Child: £2 Family ticket: £10**

Tickets are available from me now so please tell all your family and friends.

With thanks

Diane Foster

QUIZ! QUIZ! QUIZ!

IN 2007 WE CELEBRATE SCOUTING'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

The Group are holding a QUIZ on **Saturday 3rd March, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm** in the Hall. Tickets are now available at £6 a head including what is generally recognised as the best supper around. Tables of 6 or 8.

Speak to Peter Bendon, John Taylor or any leader

JUNIOR CHURCH

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

March 4 th	NOAH	April 1 st	ABRAHAM, ISAAC & JACOB
May 6 th	JOSEPH	June 3 rd	MOSES
July 1 st	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**

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CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

After an enjoyable evening in February with Susan Ruckes, we now have a break on Tuesdays in order to encourage folk to attend the Lenten Services to be held on Tuesdays at Cranbrook Baptist Church. The Church Fellowship starts again on May 1st with a visit from Pam and Peter Hall from our Gantshill Church, who will talk about that exotic plant, the orchid. CES

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MAYOR'S CHARITY - BARNABAS WORKSHOPS

This is the chosen charity to support, with the collection at the March Communion Service. Barnabas Workshops is dedicated to helping young people to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed in their futures. The Communion Service will be held on Sunday 18th March, so do come prepared to give generously to this important Charity. It is also Mothering Sunday, so we should have a good congregation!

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WHAT IS THE REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM?

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM (RFF) aims to give faith communities in the borough a collective voice. The group has a management committee of 16 faith practitioners and people of differing religious groups that include Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, a Baha'i, Jews, Hindus and a Zoroastrian representative. RFF holds regular public meetings to discuss social issues affecting faith communities such as education, health and regeneration.

The purpose of RFF is to recognise the important contribution that religion and spirituality makes to the life and culture of Redbridge residents, and to bring together people from different faith communities.

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

THEY WALKED ACROSS THE ROAD ON FEBRUARY 13TH!

WHO? WHY?, - our friends the Muslims who worship across the Eastern Avenue opposite our church, who came at our invitation. We had visited their mosque one evening in January last year. As last time, we had a most informative and enjoyable evening together. About thirty men and women came from the Mosque together with friends from Ilford Methodist Church.

Our visitors were given a guided tour of our premises finishing in the Church, which they much admired, expressing great surprise that there are no images or pictures or

symbols, apart from the plain cross on the Communion Table. Stephen gave a clear and concise history of the beginnings of Methodism in the eighteenth century. During the question and answer session which followed topics raised included:

Why bread and wine are consumed at some of our services and what this custom means to us.

How many branches of the Christian Faith there are.

What activities could Muslims and Christian do together in this area?

Imam Surkheel Sharif spoke about the nature of the Islamic faith and we heard a quotation from the Qur'an, chapter 2 about Adam, a passage which was familiar to the Christians present.

When we visited the Mosque last year we were each given some literature about Islam. This time we gave the Muslims a presentation edition of The Revised Standard Bible and a carving of a dove of peace, together with copies of the prayer card for February 2007 issued by the Methodist Church, a copy of which can be seen on the noticeboard in the vestibule.

[See 'Prayer for the month']

After this we returned to the Parlour for refreshments and conversation which ended a most worthwhile occasion.

FRANK SAYERS

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

IN FEBRUARY 2007, METHODISTS ARE ASKED TO:

Pray for better relationships between people of different faiths.

Do something to encourage inter faith understanding in their locality.

God, creator of this world, one yet divided,
forgive us that we allow divisions
between ourselves and people of other faiths
and so add to instability in our world.

Teach us that it is the responsibility of us all
to reach out with the hands of friendship
and build safer communities.
Help us, God of all, to work for peace. Amen

FLOWER ARRANGING

In the hopes of recruiting more people to join our present flower arrangers, we are holding a demonstration session on **Saturday 24th March from 10.00 am to 12 noon** in the Parlour. We have invited Miss Marion Jacobs to join us, to demonstrate her method of arranging a pedestal for use in the Church. Miss Jacobs advised the group at St. Andrew's Flower Festival last year. If people are interested in this demonstration, we would hope to have a follow-up later on when any one interested in joining our group would be able to try their hand. The cost of the initial meeting would be £3, including tea or coffee and biscuits. Please see Catherine Sayers to book your place.

BACH - ST. MATTHEW PASSION

If you have never heard Bach's beautiful and moving setting of the Passion according to St. Matthew, there is a rare opportunity to hear a performance locally on **Saturday 31st March at All Saints' Church, Woodford Wells**, given by the **Valentine Singers**.

Bach's setting of the Passion Story covers the whole narrative contained in chapters 26 and 26 of the Gospel of Matthew. The story is told by the Evangelist, a tenor solo, with the words of Jesus sung by a bass. The choir takes on the role of disciples, crowds, soldiers,

onlookers etc., as well as commenting on the action through many chorale settings. These would have been well known in Bach's time and the congregation would have joined in the singing. Two of the chorale tunes used in the St. Matthew Passion have made it into our hymn book (HP 164 and 176) There are also arias by other soloists which highlight the emotions of various characters throughout the story.

The whole piece is inevitably rather long, but well worth the effort, especially as All Saints' Church has some very comfortable chairs for the audience! Coming as it does at the beginning of Holy Week, this would make an excellent start to your Easter devotions.

More details and a map can be found on the internet - www.valentinesingers.org
- and tickets can be obtained from Andrew Taylor (£12, £10 seniors, £6 students/benefits).
ANDREW

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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.** at **7.00 pm** This will be a Circuit event, so do try to be part of it.

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CHARLES WESLEY'S 300TH BIRTHDAY

Coach trip to Bristol to visit "The New Room" Chapel and Charles Wesley's House.
Saturday 29th September 2007.

Approx £25 including entrance fees
To book or request further information contact Peter Sharp.

"A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER"

Mary Daniels read the following prayer during the memorial service in memory of Alex Daniels, which was held in our church on Sunday November 5th at 6.30 pm.

I asked God to take away my habit.

God said "No. It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up."

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

God said "No. His spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience.

God said "No. Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned."

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said "No. I give you blessings; happiness is up to you".

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you close to me".

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said "No. You must grow on your own! But I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life.

God said "No. I give you life, so that you may enjoy all things".

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me.

God said . . . "Ahhhhh, finally you have the idea".

EASTER FLOWERS

Any small gifts towards the flowers for **EASTER DAY** would be very gratefully received.
C.E.S.

EASTER SATURDAY **APRIL 7TH**

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

We are having a "**Whole Church Easter Celebration** on **Saturday 7th April** in the Hall.
Please come and join us for

CRAFTS, BRIC-A-BRAC, RAFFLE & EASTER EGG HUNT

TEA, COFFEE & HOT CROSS BUNS TOO!

EASTER DAY - APRIL 8th

As in previous years we shall dress the **EASTER CROSS** outside the Church
on **EASTER DAY** at 10.30 am.

If you would like to take part in this, please bring a few spring flowers with you.

THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH

As part of our work for our new Church website we would like to have a section on the history of our Church . (The Drive Methodist Church, Eastern Avenue Methodist Church and Cranbrook Park Methodist Church.) In addition, in 2008 it will be eighty years since worship began in our current premises, so perhaps now is the time for us to seriously begin to gather our collective memories of our church history. This is something in which we can all participate whether our memories of the church are long or short.

I have divided our history into six periods on prepared sheets with some 'crib' questions which might prompt your memory of a particular period or periods. If you would like to be involved in contributing to the history of our church please make use of the sheets to jot down a few notes. (Just complete the sheets which are relevant to you.)

It would be lovely to gather together a collection of photographs and other archives (e.g. programmes for events, orders of services etc.) With the advent of modern technology it is possible for us to copy your photographs and souvenirs and return them to you quickly.

The sheets will be available in church. If you are willing to let us copy your pictures and souvenirs please pass them to me. Thank you.

ANNE WARDEN

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CHRISTMAS 2006 - TO SEND OR NOT TO SEND

I supported the idea of having a 'Christmas Card Board' as soon as it was suggested.

- 1 Unlike Brian, I consider that 28 cards represent a fair proportion of the congregation as some cards are from couples and families.
- 2 I agree with Brian that it should be EITHER a card on the board OR individual cards.
- 3 Perhaps a small section of the December 2007 Newsletter could include names of those not sending individual cards - e.g. "Mr. & Mrs. S. Claus are not sending cards this year but are giving a donation to . . . [their chosen charity]. This could avoid embarrassment.
- 4 I think that the joint card from the three individual local churches was an excellent idea.
- 5 My family and I decided not to give each other Christmas presents this year. The Sussex folks gave a donation to their Church Building Fund and I gave a donation to Whitechapel Mission. I'd be happy to contribute to a charity relevant to the Christmas Season.
- 6 The foyer was best viewed from a bus travelling towards Ilford Station. I thought the Christmas tree and display of cards looked lovely.

SUSAN RUCKES

DIARY 2007

MARCH

THUR	1	8.00 pm	Church Council
FRI	2	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer <i>see page 2</i>
SAT	3	7.00 pm for 7.30 pm	Scout & Guide Quiz Evening - <i>see page 3</i>
SUN	4		SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
		10.45 am	Rev STEPHEN NORMANTON - All Age Worship Theme: NOAH
		6.30 pm	Rev STEPHEN NORMANTON
TUES	6	8.00 pm	Lenten Meeting at Cranbrook Baptist Church
WED	7	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
		7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Beacontree Heath Church
THUR	8	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	11		THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
		10.45 am	Mr. STEPHEN FROGGATT - followed by Annual Church Meeting
		12.45 pm	Lunch - see page 2
TUES	13	8.00 pm	Lenten Meeting at Cranbrook Baptist Church
WED	14	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Members' Afternoon
THUR	15	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SAT	17	3.00 pm	J.M.A. BEETLE DRIVE - see page 3
SUN	18		MOTHERING SUNDAY
		10.45 am	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - Family Communion
			Collection at Communion for Mayor's Charity - see page 4
TUES	20	8.00 pm	Lenten Meeting at Cranbrook Baptist church
WED	21	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Miss Janet Tweedale
THUR	22	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SAT	24	10.00 am – 12 noon	Flower Arranging Workshop - <i>see page 5</i>
SUN	25		PASSION SUNDAY
		10.45 am	Mr. TIMOTHY NICHOLLS
TUES	27	1.00 pm	Church Lunch
		8.00 pm	Lenten Meeting at Cranbrook Baptist Church
WED	28	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Members' Afternoon
THUR	29	8.00 pm	Church Life Committee
APRIL			
SUN	1		PALM SUNDAY
		10.45 am	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All Age Worship – Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
		6.30 pm	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON
			<i>Will you please let Barbara Foster have items for the April Newsletter by March 18th</i>