

# NOVEMBER 2007

This is an edited version of the November 2007 Church Newsletter. A printed copy of the full newsletter is available in Church throughout the period.

\* \* \*

## Junior Church Dates

- November 4<sup>th</sup>** All Age Worship – “ The Parable of the Good Samaritan”
- November 11<sup>th</sup>** Remembrance Day Service
- November 18<sup>th</sup>** J.M.A service [ All staying in the service]
- December 9<sup>th</sup>** All Age Worship and Toy Service [Please bring a toy unwrapped and some wrapping paper]. **We will also be giving children their Nativity costumes.**
- December 23<sup>rd</sup>** Nativity Service – Everyone is needed for this service both young and old!

**Please make every effort to come.**

\* \* \*

## ***TUESDAY MEETINGS***

The **TUESDAY MEETINGS** in November are geared to the 5 – Year Plan, and are described as ***“Making It Happen”***.  
The meetings are concerning CHILDREN, COMMUNICATION and INCLUDING OTHERS..  
Please do your utmost to join in these sessions during November, which will be interesting and thought provoking.  
Do ask for transport if you need it.

There is no meeting on Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup>, because of the All Saints’ Day service at Barkingside Methodist Church on Thursday at 8.00 pm

Meetings on Tuesdays in December:  
Dec 11 Devotions for Advent - led by Rev. Stephen Normanton  
Dec 18 Carol singing at Sainsbury’s, Ilford.

## WAS IT CHANCE OR WAS I LED?

This was the underlying theme of the fascinating talk which Mr. Allan Ramsden, who preaches from time to time in our church, gave to the first well attended meeting of the new season of the Church Fellowship on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Allan told us about his life, how he came to work in London in the Police Service, and how, because of lack of police accommodation, he came to live at the East End Mission in Commercial Road. This brought him into contact with people who encouraged him eventually to become a local preacher. 'The rest is history', as they say. By the way, we all felt that Allan was led.

We shall have another stimulating evening on Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup>, when Canon John Barnes of the Hospital Chapel, Ilford Hill will talk to us. The title he has chosen is "Then and Now". Those of us who know him are sure that we shall have a lively evening. If you have never come to one of these evenings please give it a whirl on November 6<sup>th</sup> at 8.00 pm in the church parlour. Refreshments are served afterwards. Lifts can be arranged.

The programme for the 2007 – 2008 season is available in the church.

### **CORRECTION:**

The December Meeting (which is a Christmas programme) is on **Tuesday December 4<sup>th</sup>**.

The date in the Church Fellowship Programme is incorrect. More details next month.

\* \* \*

## ***GARDENING MORNING***

The Property Committee is organising a gardening and general tidying up morning for **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>. November**. Please try to support for one or two hours, from 10.00 am

JEREMY FOSTER

\* \* \*

**THE BEAVERS** have planted some crocuses on the slope between Dorothy and Bert's trees ready to bloom in the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of both the Church and the Scout Group.

## **CHARLES WESLEY HYMNS at the HOSPITAL CHAPEL, ILFORD HILL**

When Charles Wesley was born in 1707, the Chapel of St. Mary and St. Thomas was already 500 years old. Plans for the special service on 6<sup>th</sup> October had already been made over a year ago. There was quite a large congregation in spite of several rival events. The service at The Drive on July 1<sup>st</sup> had been a kind of "dress rehearsal". We were very grateful to visitors from the Valentine singers who joined us this time as many of the July choir members had other engagements. Duncan Paterson's organ playing was again superb. It was a delight to hear again the interview with Sarah and Charles Wesley. I hope that we do not have to wait ten years before seeing them again.

SUSAN RUCKES

**The CHRISTIAN DRAMA RESOURCES CENTRE** is a treasure trove of costume and when Frank and I visited the house on Church Hill in Loughton, we were truly amazed. We had gone to get a costume for me to wear at the Charles Wesley celebration at the Hospital Chapel in Ilford. We had telephoned in advance to make enquiries and the 'curators of costume' had obviously taken a great interest in our request. They had consulted books and produced two outfits for me to try. The cream two piece was perhaps too fine for an itinerant Methodist preacher's wife (the other one didn't fit!) but it worked well. They even produced a hat!

We were grateful for their help and gave a donation (as requested) to help keep the work going. The Centre (whose patron is Heather, Lady Murray) is supported by Loughton Methodist Church, Loughton Town Council and many others. They offer a service to schools, and are used by almost 100 Churches and Christian groups. If you are interested in further details, please ask Frank or me.

CATHERINE

\* \* \*

## **MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING**

Thanks to all who supported the Biggest Coffee Morning in the World. The event at the Redbridge Social Centre was well attended and we enjoyed a sociable morning. The total raised was £377.

**CHURCH KEYS** The register of holders of electronic key fobs is being checked. If yours has not been checked, then please contact Mike Seviour or Brian Taylor. Keys that have not been checked will be cancelled at the end of November.

## **THANKS FROM DIANE**

A belated thank you to everyone who very kindly sponsored me for the Women's Hydro Active 5k Challenge in Hyde Park in September. It was a beautiful sunny day and a wonderful atmosphere with over 15,000 females taking part! And in case I haven't told you yet, I was really pleased to have managed to run the whole course in 38 minutes. That's a whole 7 minutes faster than my time last year (and only 23 minutes slower than the winner!). I just knew that all my training during the summer, huffing and puffing around Regents Park in my lunch hour, would pay off!

You may also like to know that, with your help, I was able to send a cheque for £257 (that's over £300 with Gift Aid) to Kidney Research UK.

So once again, many thanks for your generous support.

DIANE FOSTER

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Church Council met on 11th October, with sixteen people present.

The Guides have now ceased to meet, and the Brownies will be encouraged to go to St. Andrew's at the appropriate age to join the Guides there.

There was a good Circuit Mission and Social Responsibility event on people trafficking, and this year the focus will be on the work of Mildmay Hospital in Hackney, dealing with Aids.

Our Minister has been invited to extend his time in the Circuit until 2010. From the first week in March Stephen will begin a three-month sabbatical for a time of renewal, study and reflection.

Our Treasurer, Peter Foster circulated the Accounts. The envelope scheme shows a substantial reduction. At one time the cash contributions increased, but have now decreased. Peter was thanked for his diligent work in taking care of the finances.

For the Property Committee, Jeremy Foster reported that the Lottery Community Buildings Fund have refused our application, so the Development Plan Phase 2 will be the original scheme. It will cost £75,000. We will need to raise £25,000 as a church. It will include maintenance, e.g. the painting of the hall. A further £25,000 will come from outside sources, and we hope to raise 10% from the Circuit. Roy Hillman is to raise money from various trusts. The 2006 Budget is within £15,000. It includes routine maintenance, though sometimes things crop up, such as rodents chewing through cables (since identified as being a squirrel). The biggest job is the Church lights. There is a technical fault on the pendant lights, which needs to be put right. It will be costly, as scaffolding will be needed. The Property Committee have decided to upgrade the lights with modern, efficient lighting, costing £5,300. The Church Council agreed to adopt the budget. Jeremy will advertise the work mornings well in advance - he wishes to encourage more people to come, as our property is large, and we need more helpers. Jeremy was thanked for all his work.

Brian Taylor reported that two religious groups are using our premises on Sunday, one in the Church Parlour from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and the other in the Hall, and this group also holds a prayer meeting on Fridays, and a choir practice on Saturdays.

The Church Life Committee continues to overview the life of the church. The Rev. Stephen Poole is to take the next Anniversary Service. The website is very successful. The all-age worship went well, and will continue this year on the Parables. A meeting at the Manse was arranged to discuss what to do next year.

The Stewards, with Stephen, had produced a Five-year Plan, copies of which were circulated and duly adopted by the meeting. It was suggested that we should set challenging but realistic targets. There will be a series of three Tuesday evening meetings in November under the heading "Making it Happen" to consider Our Work with Children, Communication, and Including Others. The Plan is published in this Newsletter.

We shall liaise with St. Andrew's and St. John's once again to distribute Christmas cards advertising the Christmas activities of each church. Our own Christmas cards for all will again be displayed on a board in the vestibule, but if people wished to give personal cards they could do so.

Concerning the Pre-School, Stephen read to the meeting the revised Constitution, which was ratified by the Church Council, and an up-to-date Agreement between the Church and the Pre-school was signed.

Stephen reported that the Pre-School had a good Ofsted report in July, and the secretary was asked to write to congratulate them on their success.

KATHLEEN TAYLOR

## **THE NEW ESSEX CHORAL SOCIETY**

Will be presenting a performance of FAURÉ'S REQUIEM on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>  
at BARNARDO'S CHURCH, Tanners Lane, Barkingside.  
Full details are given on a poster in the church vestibule

## **FAVOURITE WESLEY HYMN VOTE.**

Thank you to those who participated in our 'Favourite Wesley Hymn Vote' which celebrated the Charles Wesley Tercentenary and the launch of our church website.

There were 30 hymns on our list with people being allowed to vote for five hymns. Of the 30 hymns on the list 7 received no votes at all. The top five places were as follows;

1 <sup>st</sup> place – 267 – 'Love divine, all loves excelling' –	41 votes
2 <sup>nd</sup> place – 745 – 'O thou who camest from above' –	22 votes
3 <sup>rd</sup> place – 788 – 'Behold the servant of the Lord!' –	21 votes
4 <sup>th</sup> place – 744 – 'O for a thousand tongues to sing' –	19 votes
5 <sup>th</sup> place – 216 – 'And can it be that I should gain' –	17 votes
753 – 'All praise to our redeeming Lord' –	17 votes

'Love divine, all loves excelling' was chosen by many people because it was one of their wedding hymns, but also because of its association with the much-loved tune 'Blaenwern'. Similarly 'Behold the servant of the Lord!' was chosen by more than one person because of the tune from Mozart's 'The Magic Flute'. I was pleased to see that my personal choice, 'O thou who camest from above' was in second place. I was a student at Westminster College, Oxford, which in those days was a Methodist college, and this was our college hymn. For nearly four years I probably sang this hymn at least once a week, but we always sang it to the tune 'Wilton' which has a wonderful alto line. Sadly, I have never sung it to that tune since, but I have come to love the tune we use, 'Hereford', equally as well. 'O for a thousand tongues to sing' was chosen because it is so uplifting when sung heartily and 'And can it be that I should gain' was chosen as the Methodist anthem !

The full results can be found on the church website.

ANNE WARDEN

## **Day Trip to Bristol on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

The coach left The Drive Church at 8.30 am, having already picked up people from Barking and Seven Kings Methodist churches. The weather was warm but overcast but everyone was in good spirits as we set off. Everyone was given a map of central Bristol, a tourist brochure and an information leaflet about the New Room, during the journey

Light refreshments plus tea and coffee were served in the New Room, which is situated directly on Horse Fair and you can go either through the actual church building (as it has doors at both ends) into the shopping precinct or you can go round the side of the church past the stable and into the precinct that way. Many people use the New Room to get from the traffic free shopping area into Horse Fair without realising what the building is and its history. John Wesley had realised that 'new rooms' were urgently needed. This is how the church became known as 'The New Room'

John was ahead of his time when it came to building use. From the beginning the building has always been more than a place of worship. There were rooms above the actual church for study and bedrooms for preachers to use as they travelled around the countryside. John Wesley often stayed there when in Bristol.

As there was a lot of bad feeling towards the Methodists at this time, the New Room had no floor level windows. This was an excellent security measure and the preacher's pulpit was only reached by climbing stairs and going along the upper rows of seats and then going down a small flight of steps into the pulpit. This had a second important use as the preacher could easily see if any of the congregation had fallen asleep during the sermon!

There is a lantern window in the centre of the roof which provides most of the natural light for the central section of the building. There is also a small window in the side of the wall supporting the lantern window, which means that people upstairs can see what is happening in the church below.

At 2.00 pm we all assembled in the church and the Warden gave us a brief talk about the history of the New Room and the Wesleys. After this we split into two groups, one group remained and went to see the room upstairs and visit the small shop as well.

The other group was taken by a guide to Charles Wesley's house at 4 Charles Street. This is a five storey Georgian town house which is now being restored back to its original. Unfortunately, the house is in the middle of a building site as new developments are being built right next to the house.

Charles Wesley was very happily married and had several children. One of his sons and his grandson were very musical and composed many anthems. Charles himself composed between 8 and 9 thousand hymns some say, during his life.

After the tour of the house we returned with a guide to the New Room and visited the rooms upstairs and the shop. There was just time for a quick cup of tea in Debenhams before getting on the coach at 5.00 pm to return to London. We arrived back at The Drive Church at about 8.30 pm having enjoyed an excellent outing to Bristol. CORINNE SMITH

*Thanks are due to Peter Sharp (and his assistants Corinne and Susan) for organising the trip - lots of people have said how much they enjoyed it, and without Peter's efforts, it would not have happened.. Editor*

\* \* \*

## **The Drive Methodist Church Five Year Plan - 2007**

Between 2003-2004 the Drive Methodist Church Development Scheme was completed. The purpose of the scheme was to improve the design of the building in order to increase its presence within the community and to make the building open and welcoming to all who use it. The alterations to the buildings and the improvement to the grounds also sought to comply with the Disability Act and to allow access for all.

Following the completion of the scheme community use of the premises has increased significantly. There has also been an influx of new faces at worship on Sundays. The Drive Methodist Church wishes to continue to be a focal point in the area around The Drive and to be a place of Christian fellowship and witness. In 2006 the church embarked on a period of reflection in preparation for the development of its Five Year Plan. All members of the church were invited to participate in the discussions. Following a series of meetings four key areas were identified as being those upon which the church should focus its work in the next five years;

Work with children and young people.

- ❑ 'Spiritual Charging Up'
- ❑ Publicity
- ❑ Getting people involved.

### **Work with children and young people**

1. In January 2007 monthly Junior Church was introduced. A series of sessions based around the theme of the beginning of the Old Testament has been developed for the period up to the school summer holidays. The staff of the Junior Church are more able to focus on producing high quality, stimulating lessons each month, as well as, being able to send invitations to all the children who meet on our premises.
2. This provision will be reviewed by the Junior Church staff in the autumn of 2007 with a view to further developing our work with the children.
3. All Age Worship and Learning was also introduced in January 2007 with activities based around the same theme as the children. The start of each service is planned to be particularly appropriate to children and at the end of the service the children return to share a flavour of their activities with the congregation. The adult congregation is involved in a variety of activities such as Bible Study, topical discussion, crafts and drama.
4. During the first few months of this change in practice there have been some new children and adults in attendance.
5. The provision of All Age Worship and Learning will also be reviewed in the autumn of 2007.

6. Following these initial changes a key priority in the next two years will continue to be our work with children and young people. The Drive would welcome support from the Circuit in the form of access to a part-time Child and Family Worker.
7. The Drive would also welcome more Circuit based youth activities.
8. As part of its community work the church will seek to develop more activities which will appeal to all the children who meet on our premises, especially members of the Pre-School and uniformed organisations.
9. The development of internet access on the premises and the use of digital technology will be explored in order to increase the range of activities for children and young people.

#### Spiritual Charging Up/Getting People Involved

1. The introduction of All Age Worship and Learning in January 2007 was part of our response to the need to be 'spiritually charged up.' This will be reviewed in the autumn.
2. The Drive will develop All Age Worship and Learning by seeking to plan a year of themes and activities which could be used on All Age Worship Sundays and also linked to the Tuesday Meeting. Such activities might involve Bible Study, worship and prayer time, topical discussion and action, whole church projects and creative activities.
3. In Year 1 a review of all existing Church meetings will be undertaken to evaluate the purpose of each committee.
4. Succession planning will be introduced to ensure that the church is continually developing people to become stewards or chairs of committees thus ensuring a smooth transition as others complete their term of office.
5. A Worship Consultation will be formed to develop the themes for All Age Worship and the Tuesday Meeting.
6. Participation in a Worship Leaders Course will be encouraged.
7. The Church will seek to develop the fellowship of the church through the introduction of a variety of activities e.g. a monthly simple lunch followed by activities, coffee mornings.

#### Publicity

1. The Drive Church website was officially launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007. It is still being developed and the church is being encouraged to be actively involved in this process. Since the official launch there have already been communications via the website.
2. The newsletter continues to be the main source of information for those who attend regularly, those who are unable to attend services through illness or other commitments, occasional visitors and those who have moved away and is, therefore, a very valuable means of communication.
3. A Community Brochure is being developed to publicise the activities of the Church and all of the Community Groups who use the premises. A member of the congregation has agreed to collate the information gathered and to prepare the brochure for publication.

#### Property

1. The Drive is seeking to secure the funding for its Phase II Development.
2. Phase II will further improve disabled access to the premises, upgrade the paths around the premises thus making them more open and safe and increase the energy efficiency and environmental impact of the hall block through the use of double glazing.

Rev. S. Normanton, Mr. B. Taylor & Mrs A. Warden – June 2007

### **PRE-SCHOOL OFSTED REPORT**

Congratulations to Kay Whiddon, the staff and children of The Drive Pre-School who received a 'good' report following a two day Ofsted inspection in July.

Inspectors assess Pre-Schools in five areas grading each one using a system of four judgements. The Pre-School achieved a 'good' grade in all five areas which means that in each category *'the provision is strong'*. This, then, resulted in the award of a 'good' for the whole inspection.

The Pre-School caters for a maximum of 35 children at any one time offering both morning and afternoon sessions. It currently supports a number of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and also who speak English as an additional language. Eight staff are employed.

### Helping children to be healthy.

The report states that the children are *'clearly learning ways they can keep themselves healthy'*. They are praised for the fact that they are able to select their drinks and healthy snacks independently. The inspectors commented on the fact that the children *'regularly gain from the benefits of active play indoors and outside'*. Space is provided for them to take part in different physical activities each day.

### Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe.

The inspectors found that the Pre-School provides the children with three rooms which they can use *'freely and safely'*. The resources were *'well maintained and stimulating, developmentally appropriate and suitable for the ages, stages of development and abilities of the children'*. The staff were complimented for the *'high level of supervision'* they provide.

### Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do.

Ofsted found that the children have the opportunity to play creatively and that their imaginations are nurtured by the staff. The report states *that 'the quality of teaching and learning is good'* and that all staff have undertaken the necessary training. Staff discuss each individual child's progress and plan suitable activities to help them to move on.

### Helping children make a positive contribution.

The children learn about themselves and diversity in the world around them. The annual international lunch held for children and parents was praised, as was the celebration of other faiths and cultures. Ofsted believes that, *'this positive approach fosters the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development'*.

### Organisation.

The children are cared for in *'an extremely well organised setting'*. The leadership and management of the Pre-School was found to be good.

The Pre-School are justifiably proud of this excellent report which enhances the good reputation that they enjoy within the community.

If you would like to read the full report it can be found on the Ofsted website. ANNE WARDEN

**THE DRIVE PRE-SCHOOL** will be holding a **FAMILY FUN DAY on Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>**, **& A CHRISTMAS FETE on Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Full details are given on posters in the church vestibule.

### **CHARLES WESLEY'S ACTUAL BIRTHDAY ON DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>.**

The 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event will be celebrated on this very day by local Churches in Brentwood and arranged by John Woodbridge.

John is already asking people to sing, recite or act and would welcome offers of help from friends in Ilford. Please see me if you are interested and I will put you in touch with John. BARBARA.

Another celebration of the tercentenary of the birth of **Charles Wesley** takes place on **December 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Marylebone Parish Church**. Full details are given on a notice in the church vestibule.

### **THE LONDON METHODIST LUNCHEON CLUB**

The Club, which has an all male membership (the Ladies have their own Club) meets monthly, from October to May, at the Lancaster Hall Hotel, which is near Paddington and Lancaster Gate Stations. The members enjoy a good three course lunch, excellent Christian fellowship and talks on a variety of subjects. The speakers for the coming session, starting in October 2007, will include:

"The Times" Religious Affairs' Correspondent.

A Christian dramatist and director

A retired Plumber on the light side of his job

A speaker from the Royal School of Church Music

(and at our Christmas Lunch, when members are invited to bring a lady guest:-)

A lady Rotarian who will talk about Rotary from a Woman's standpoint

The annual subscription is £9.00 and each lunch costs (except for Supernumerary Ministers) £12.00, which includes gratuity to the hotel staff. If you are a little unsure about joining, why not come as a guest for a couple of meetings to sample the fare. To find out more about the Club,

telephone BOB BRIDGES, the secretary on 020 8942 7536

\* \* \*

## A PRAYER

When I rise and meet the dawn  
bless my rising, gracious God.  
When I work and when I play  
bless my doing, gracious God.  
When all is said and all is done  
less my rest, gracious God

*From "Making the Colours Sing" Michaela Youngson*

## DIARY NOVEMBER 2007

THUR	1		<b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b>
		8.00 pm	United Service at Barkingside Methodist Church
SAT	3	10.00 am	Work Morning - <i>see page 3</i>
SUN	4	10.45 am	<b>ALL-AGE WORSHIP</b> led by Mrs. PHILIPPA NORMANTON - Parable of the Good Samaritan
		6.30 pm	Evening Service
TUES	6	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship - Speaker Canon J.B. Barnes of the Hospital Chapel - <i>page 3</i>
WED	7	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THUR	8	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	11		<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>
		10.45 am	Rev. CHARLES WATSON with Family Communion <i>Collection at Communion for St. Joseph's Hospice</i>
TUES	13	8.00 pm	TUESDAY MEETING - "Making It Happen" <i>see page 2</i>
WED	14	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Susan Ruckes "Musical Journeys"
THUR	15	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	18	10.45 am	<b>"JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL" - led by Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON</b>
TUES	20	8.00 pm	TUESDAY MEETING - "Making It Happen" - <i>see page 2</i>
WED	21	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Frank Sayers
THUR	22	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	25	10.45 am	<b>Mr. ALLAN RAMSDEN</b>
TUES	27	1.00 pm	Church Lunch
		8.00 pm	TUESDAY MEETING - "Making It Happen" - <i>see page 2</i>
WED	28	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>to be arranged</i>



THUR 29 8.00 pm Choir Practice

## DECEMBER 2007

SUN 2 10.45 am ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

6.30 pm

TUES 4 8.00 pm Church Fellowship - *"A CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY"* -

compiled by Anne & Ray Dellow

WILL YOU PLEASE HAND ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER/ JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER TO BARBARA FOSTER, **BY SUNDAY 18th NOVEMBER**,  
OR PLACE THEM IN THE APPROPRIATE ENVELOPE IN THE MINISTER'S VESTRY.