

# MARCH 2008

## BARN DANCE

This was a very successful event, once again, and £229 was raised for our Development Fund. Thanks to all who cooked and organised everything.

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship would warmly welcome members of our congregation who would like to join us on a Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 pm, in the Parlour, particularly when we have a speaker.

**Stephen** will be with us on **March 5<sup>th</sup>** (the last one until after his Sabbatical). **Sister Vera Nicholls** will be with us on 12<sup>th</sup> March, and the **Rev. Jenny Sweet** at a later date. It really would be nice to welcome friends, for these special afternoons.

BARBARA

## FLOWERS

Easter will be with us before the end of March and any small gifts towards the Easter flowers to beautify our church will be gratefully received. We had hoped that a few more people would become arrangers and to that end, I invite anyone interested to come on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** and try their hand at a small arrangement, perhaps for the window – sills. Will anyone wishing to participate please tell me beforehand.

CATHERINE SAYERS

## JUNIOR CHURCH NEWS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – JUNIOR CHURCH WILL MEET ON

February 24 <sup>th</sup>	April 6	May 11	July 6
March 2	April 20	June 1	July 13
March 16	May 4	June 22	

## **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Saturday 22<sup>ND</sup> March "WHOLE CHURCH EASTER CELEBRATION"**

10.30 am - 12.30 pm in the Church Hall  
*Crafts Raffle Egg hunt Refreshments*  
**ALL WELCOME** Proceeds to the Redevelopment Fund

**Saturday 5<sup>TH</sup> July STRAWBERRY TEA to CELEBRATE 80 YEARS at THE DRIVE**

**Sunday 6<sup>TH</sup> July 10.45 am CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**

**Sunday 13<sup>TH</sup> July - PICNIC at THE RODINGS** after morning service

JO WRIGHT

## ***CONTINUING THE LENT SERIES -***

### **"THE GROWTH OF LOVE"**

A series of 5 studies led by the Revd. Dr.Keith White in Lent 2008

Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup> March	at	7.45 pm	<i>Community</i>
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> March	at	7.45 pm	<i>Creativity</i>

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm *"Three Churches' Communion at St. Andrews Church"*

## **CHAIRS WALK TO THE DRIVE!**

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February the three Chairs of the new London District, Rev. Jenny Impey, Rev. Stuart Jordan and Rev. Ermal Kirby, walked from Seven Kings Methodist Church to The Drive Methodist Church as part of their Lenten Walks throughout the District as they seek to 'Listen to London'. Their day began early with a walk from Romford to Seven Kings where they had lunch before walking through Valentines Park to The Drive.

Throughout Lent the three Chairs intend to walk in every circuit within the new London District where they will have an opportunity to meet Methodists from all areas of London. At The Drive they were able to spend some time with the children of the Pre-School and have a tour of the church building seeing for themselves the improvements made following the re-development. Members of the congregation were joined by representatives from Barkingside and Barking churches. Following tea a short discussion took place where we were able to share news of some of our plans for the future and to discuss issues relevant to our churches. There was particular interest in our All Age Worship and Learning services and in the community use of our premises. Our own minister, Rev. Stephen Normanton, joined the three chairs walking with them to Wanstead on the final leg of their walk to Walthamstow. ANNE WARDEN

## REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM

"Dear Faith Forum Friend,

On Wednesday 5th March the Redbridge Faith Forum is holding a public forum entitled "Women and Faith", to mark International Women's Day.

We warmly invite you to attend our public forum to explore the role of women from the viewpoint of three faiths; Christian, Jewish and Sikh. Marcia Samuels Chief Officer of Redbridge Community and Voluntary Sector, Mitzi Cutler – Jewish Joint Burial Society, Jasper Kaur Panesar - Women's Sikh Alliance and Interim Chair of Sikhs in England.

Each speaker is allocated a 15-minute slot. The event takes place at Gloucester Room, Ilford Central Library, Clements Road, Ilford from 6.30 pm (for 6.45 start ) to 8.30 pm.

Refreshments will be provided."

*This is a free event - open to all.*

Regards,

Aslam El-Soudani. *(Faith Forum Manager)*

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year the service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Guyana, the only English-speaking country in South America. St. Mary's in the High Road, Ilford is to be the Host Church and we hope to have a good attendance to hear about this beautiful country and to join our prayers with all the women around the world who will be using this service. Please try to come at 2.00 pm on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup>. March. The No. 86 bus stops opposite the church.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

I have received a letter from the Samaritan's Purse charity saying **A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who donated boxes, gifts, time and money to the Christmas box appeal. I have put the letter and leaflet explaining more about where our boxes were sent, on the board in the front entrance. It has apparently been the most successful year for the project with over 1.3 million boxes being donated. They were sent to 13 countries throughout Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Africa.

It asks us to continue to remember the recipients of the boxes and their families in our prayers.

If you want to find out more then look on their website at [WWW.SAMARITANSPURSE.UK.COM](http://WWW.SAMARITANSPURSE.UK.COM).

JO WRIGHT

## CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited for representatives to the Church Council.

If you would like to nominate someone, please collect a nomination form from **Kathleen Taylor** or a steward. Nominations close on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>. March.**

## **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING**

This will be held immediately after the Morning Worship on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March**.  
Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.

## **ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING LUNCH**

This will take place on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March, at 12.45 pm** in the Hall after the A.C.M.

There will be a choice of hot dishes, including a vegetarian one.

There is no charge for the meal, but a collection will be made, and after expenses have been deducted the 'profit' will be sent to Christian Aid.

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you would like to have lunch.

The list will close on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March**.

**JOIN US on Sunday March 9th**



## **HOW TO BECOME A MORE WELCOMING CHURCH**

An afternoon of thought provoking discussion and practical suggestions led by Paul Kybird – London District Training and Development Officer

A light lunch will be served after the morning service.

The activity will follow and finish by 4.00pm

### **How to become a more welcoming Church.**

The Tuesday Meeting recently held a series of discussions called 'Making It Work' which looked at the way in which our church welcomes new people who attend services. To look at this area in more detail we have invited Mr Paul Kybird, the London District Training and Development Officer to lead a session on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March. I do hope that as many members of the congregation as possible will be able to join us for what will be a thought provoking afternoon as we seek to become a place of Christian worship and fellowship within the community.

ANNE WARDEN

## **WELCOME!**

Please sign the list at the back of the church, if you would like to have the light lunch, which will be served in the Parlour after the Morning Worship.

## PROPERTY MATTERS

Our Saturday mornings are essential for the ongoing maintenance of our premises and I have previously written in the Newsletter appealing for help. This year, to give everyone plenty of notice the Property Committee have scheduled the dates for work mornings for the whole of this year. The good news is that there are only four!

The dates are:

Saturday 15 March	General tidying up so that the grounds and premises look good for Easter.
Saturday 17 May	The garden will need attention.
Saturday 13 September	Start clearing the garden.
Saturday 22 November	Final clear of the garden ready for the winter.

Please try to support these mornings - everyone is welcome for some light gardening, or general cleaning and tidying around the premises. Start at 10.00 am - coffee at 11.00 am

## IN YOUR POCKET!

Over the past year the Methodist Church has produced a series of three booklets

**"Peace in your Pocket"; "Prayer in your Pocket"; and the latest one "Joy in your Pocket"**

These beautifully illustrated 16- page booklets hold prayers, reflections and Bible texts and are small enough for you to carry anywhere. The booklets are a gift from the Church, so make sure to pick up your copies available at the back of the church.

DIANE FOSTER

## FLOWERS FOR THE EMPTY CROSS

As we have done for several years now, we invite you each to bring a few flowers to the new entrance, on Easter Day, to cover the empty Easter Cross, which will then remain outside for a few days, for all passers-by in cars or buses to see.

Please come at 10.30 am on Easter Day to join in the short service we have, before joining together in the church.

## COMMUNION COLLECTION, EASTER DAY, SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>. MARCH

The collection this month will be given to **The Barnabas Workshops** - helping young people to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed in their futures.

## EASTER AT THE DRIVE

March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday	8.00 pm	"3 Churches" Communion at St. Andrew's Church
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Good Friday	10.00 am	Meditation on the Death of Jesus
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter Saturday	10.30 am	Whole Church Easter Celebration
March 23 <sup>rd</sup> .	Easter Day	10.30 am	Dressing the empty Cross with flowers
		10.45 am	Family Worship with Communion - led by the Revd. Charles Watson.

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

A hundred years ago an American minister, Paul Wattson, chose the week of 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January to pray for Christian Unity - 18<sup>th</sup> for the Conversion of St. Peter and 25<sup>th</sup> for the conversion of St. Paul.

This year the first service took place in St. Mary's Church, Ilford High Road on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January. From 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January, services took place in the Hospital Chapel. Each day a different church took the half hour service. On the Thursday it was the turn of The Hospital Chapel. The twelve o'clock service was followed by the regular 12.35 pm Communion service.

During his sermon, Canon John Barnes recounted the history of the chapel focussing on dis-unity, first between church and state and then between denominations. Two significant events were the murder of Abbess Mary's brother, Thomas à Becket and later the destruction of Barking Abbey.

Two members of Seven Kings Methodist Church were also present on the Thursday. They regularly attend the Thursday Eucharist.

SUSAN RUCKES

Frank Sayers writes:

Several of us from The Drive and fellow Christians from other churches attended the Friday service when Ivan King led the mid-day service.

## **LORNA WRIGHT writes !**

In summer 2009 I'm going to India for a month, in a group from my school (Wanstead). We will be working with the local community on a project renovating and redecorating a school. I'll also be climbing the Himalayas! A key part of the trip is planning and fundraising. I am willing to do any odd jobs to help raise money for the trip. Please contact me if you would like me to do any jobs.

## **ALED JONES AND THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH**

About three weeks before St. Pauls' Shipwreck Sunday, I sent Aled a request for "Eternal Father strong to save". At about ten past seven on the morning of February 10<sup>th</sup>, Aled read out the request from "Susan Ruckes, Corinne Smith and Peter Sharp for St. Paul's Shipwreck Chapel, St. Paul's Bay, Malta", as it is Malta's special day. The Mariners' Hymn was sung by Westminster Abbey Choir to the tune Melita, the old name for Malta. "Snail mail" sometimes works . . .

SUSAN RUCKES

## **VALENTINE'S DAY AT WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL**

I arranged to meet a former colleague at Westminster Central Hall on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February because we were free that day. We discovered that the Wesley Café was serving a special Valentine's Lunch - £9 for two courses and £11 for three. There was no need to book. The food and service were excellent. The conservatory is an ideal place to relax and unwind. We could have been dining at The Ritz - without the expense. Look out for the "Return of the Cream Teas"!

SUSAN RUCKES

## **It's not the menu but the meal**

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to Church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I've heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

That started a real controversy in the letters column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher –

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this ..... they all nourished me and gave me the strength that I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to Church for nourishment I would be spiritually dead by now"

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

*(Seen in an old copy of the Roding Lane Free Church Magazine and reproduced with their permission.)*

## **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP**

The next meeting of the Church Fellowship is on April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 8.00 pm and to mark the occasion the theme of the evening will be **SPOOFS & PARODIES**.

The Collins dictionary of 1994 defines **spoof** as "*mildly satirical parody*", and defines **parody** as "*exaggerated and amusing imitation of someone else's style*".

My Oxford University Press dictionary of 1950 does not list the word **spoof**. Do come along on April 1<sup>st</sup> and see if the assembled material fits those criteria.

Lifts and refreshments – *real not spoof* – will be available as usual. FS

## **CIRCUIT CALENDAR**

The only two services which do not clash with any at The Drive in March are –

Good Friday March 21<sup>st</sup> at Seven Kings A Tenebrae Service of Shadows at 7.30 pm

Led by the Revd. Linda McMurray

Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> at Goodmayes Youth Service at 6.30 pm

## **CIRCUIT SERVICE SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

We are delighted that the service for the Admission of

**Mr. Stephen Froggatt** as a Local Preacher

will take place at **The Drive Church** on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April** at **6-30 pm**.

**Parish of St Margaret of Antioch and St Clement, Ilford**

**Ilford Town Centre Churches : 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service Sunday 30 March  
4.00pm at St Margaret's Church, Balfour Road.**

As this Sunday falls one week after Easter Day I thought it would be a good idea to make the theme of the service a thanksgiving for the resurrection of our Lord. I will find some suitable readings - biblical and non-biblical - to hear again and reflect on the Easter story.

I would very much like it though if each church in our Town Centre Group would choose a 'favourite' Easter hymn that we could sing as part of the service. This seemed to work very well when we did something similar for the Harvest Songs of Praise at the Hospital Chapel last year. As well as selecting a hymn I would like a person from each church to 'introduce' their choice - just to say in a couple of sentences about why they have chosen that particular hymn. I would be very grateful if you could let me have your hymn choice by Sunday 9 March (or sooner if possible) to allow me time to compile and print the order of service.

Thank you. I look forward to seeing you on 30 March.

Stephen Pugh

*Please see a Steward **before 9<sup>th</sup> March** if you would like to  
introduce a favourite hymn for this joyful service.*

***Will you please let Barbara Foster have items for the  
April Newsletter by March 16th***



## DIARY MARCH 2008

SAT	1	2.30 pm for 3.00 pm start	JMA BEETLE DRIVE & TEA. <i>See separate poster</i>
SUN	2	10.45 am 6.30 pm	<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b> All-Age Worship & Learning with Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON
TUES	4	<u>7.45 pm</u>	Joint Lenten Meeting at The Drive – “Community”
WED	5	2.30 pm	Women’s Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THUR	6	8.00 pm	Church Council
FRI	7	2.00 pm	Women’s World Day of Prayer – at St. Mary’s Church, High Rd.
SUN	9	10.45 am	<b>PASSION SUNDAY</b> Miss JEAN FRYER Followed by a light lunch and interesting discussion, finishing at 4.00 pm.
TUES	11	<u>7.45 pm</u>	Joint Lenten Meeting at The Drive – “Creativity”
WED	12	2.30 pm	Women’s Fellowship - Sister Vera Nicholls
THUR	13	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SAT	15	10.00 am	Church Gardening morning - <i>see page 5</i>
SUN	16	10.45 am	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> Mr. IAN SHEACH The service will be followed by The Annual Church Meeting & Lunch
WED	19	2.30 pm	Women’s Fellowship - <i>to be arranged</i>
THUR	20	8.00 pm	Three Churches’ MAUNDY COMMUNION SERVICE at St. Andrew’s
FRI	21	<u>10.00 am</u>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> One Hour Meditation on the Death of Jesus - led by Frank Sayers
SAT	22	10.30 am	<b>EASTER SATURDAY</b> Junior Church Event <i>see page 3</i>
SUN	23	10.30 am 10.45 am	<b>EASTER DAY</b> The Easter Cross will be decorated with Spring flowers Rev. CHARLES WATSON - with Family Communion
TUES	25	1.00 pm	Church Lunch
WED	26	2.30 pm	Women’s Fellowship - Members’ Afternoon
THUR	27	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	30	10.45 am	Mrs. BERYL VAUGHAN
<b>APRIL 2008</b>			
TUES	1	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship - Spoofs & Parodies
WED	2	2.30 pm 8.00 pm	Women’s Fellowship - Church Life Committee
THUR	3	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	6	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Mr. TIMOTHY NICHOLLS Circuit Service for the Admission of Mr. STEPHEN FROGGATT as a Local Preacher