

MAY 2008

INDUCTION OF STEPHEN FROGGATT AS A LOCAL PREACHER

The Drive Church was delighted to host the service for Stephen Froggatt's induction as a Local Preacher on the evening of 6th April and to celebrate the presentation of a Long Service Award to Mr. Geoffrey Freeman marking his fifty years' service as a Local Preacher. The church was full as friends, family, work colleagues, local preachers and members of the Circuit came to support Stephen who first began his training in the year 2000.

The Drive Choir augmented by singers from several churches within the Circuit, began the service with an introit based on Psalm 150 (HP 502], and later sang the anthem "O sing to the Lord". One of the hymns was "The cloud of witnesses" with both words and music written by Stephen. Guest preacher, the Rev. David Hinchcliffe of Woking and Walton-on-Thames Circuit, spoke of the example of the Rev. Martin Luther King who dreamt of a better world for all.

Acting Superintendent, the Rev. Stephen Poole welcomed Stephen as a Local Preacher. presenting him with a Bible, and he thanked and congratulated Geoffrey Freeman on his service as a Local Preacher as he gave him his Long Service Award. The collection in aid of The Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust raised £361.

Following the service the congregation shared in refreshments and good conversation in the Church Hall.
ANNE WARDEN

EASTER CELEBRATION

It was great to see so many people on Easter Saturday. Everyone enjoyed the fun and games, including "Beat the goalie"! I think it was the first Easter Egg Hunt we have had in the snow!

Thanks again to everyone who took part. The proceeds of £84.40 will be given to the Re-Development Fund.
JO WRIGHT

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday May 6th at 8.00 pm** when our guest speaker will be **Martin Fairhurst**, whose talk about the history of some of the Methodist Churches of Ilford is entitled "**The Lamp Still Burns**". Do come along and join us for an interesting evening. Refreshments and lifts are available as usual.

TUESDAY MEETINGS

THE LORD'S PRAYER - Praying it - Meaning it - Living it

So far Meetings have been led by members and introduced on C.D, by distinguished contributors from a wide range of churches and traditions.

"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul - - it is better in prayer to have a heart without words, than words without a heart."
Mahatma Gandhi

You are warmly invited to join us for the last meeting of the series on Prayer which will take place on **Tuesday May 13th at 8.00 pm** in the Church Parlour. This is entitled "As we forgive", as we think of The Lord's Prayer.

The remainder of the series is devoted to thinking about **Membership Preparation**. The first one is on **Tuesday 20* May**, when **the Rev. Marie Whitcombe** will talk about "*What Membership means to me*".

On **Tuesday 17* June**, the Rev. Stephen Normanton will talk about "*What the Sacraments mean to me*".

The meeting on **Tuesday 24* June**, will give an opportunity to draw conclusions, and make plans for when meetings will resume in September.

ALL ARE WELCOME

"Hello, Good Morning and Welcome"!

A small group met recently to continue the work started during our training with Paul Kybird in March. We have decided that we would like to create a team of people to be responsible for welcoming people into our church, especially new people. If you would be interested in joining this team please speak to Anne or Ian Warden as soon as possible. Once the team has been formed we will hold a short meeting so that the team can decide how best to welcome people on a Sunday morning based on some of the ideas from the Paul Kybird training.

There are a number of other initiatives which we will be developing in the coming months;

- Improvements to the outdoor notice boards
- The development of a Community brochure to be issued to all the groups which use our premises.
- Developing closer links with the groups using the premises.
- Improving publicity, especially with the Community groups, for major festivals and other church events.
- Focusing on the major festivals as these are times when more people attend services.

These are exciting times for us at The Drive as we seek to serve God by developing our role as a Christian presence within our community. There will be details in future newsletters and on the website of events for Harvest and Christmas in which the whole congregation can participate. ANNE WARDEN

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 11TM to 17TM MAY

Our Christian Aid Service will be held on **Sunday May 11*** and will be led by **Mrs. M. Small-Byam**.

Envelopes will be available for your contributions to the special and valuable work of Christian

Aid-Lord Jesus, you were anointed to bring good news to those who fete no good news, to proclaim freedom to those imprisoned by injustice, and recover health and wholeness to all the world. You took up the cause of the oppressed. You proclaimed the year of the Lord's favour. At the heart of your ministry was action.

Remind us of the unlikely group of people you gathered around you to perform your work of love,

and empower us to bring your good news so your kingdom will come and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

"LUMPS OF DEFORMITY!"

That was the view of modern art held by the 20th century artist Frank Salisbury (1874 - 1962) and lifelong Methodist, who specialized in portraits, and murals of ceremonial and historical events. His sitters included members of our royal family, including the Queen, 5 Presidents of the United States of America and many internationally known people. Not surprisingly, his strongly held views of modern art caused him to be 'out of tune' with the establishment of the art world of his day.

Frank Salisbury was the subject of our speaker at the meeting of the Church Fellowship last June, when Nigel McMurray spoke with great humour of Frank Salisbury's life and showed us slides of many of the portraits. Through the kindness of Leslie Griffiths (minister of Wesley's Chapel, or the Rev. the Lord Dr. Leslie Griffiths to give him his full title), a group of us from the Church Fellowship on one evening last month, were able to see some of Salisbury's large scale canvasses hanging in the Palace of Westminster.

Because Parliament was in recess and no committees were sitting, Leslie showed us the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the Members' Lobby, with just a few friendly and helpful security staff about and some cleaners. In the Members' Lobby I was very impressed with statues of former prime ministers and stood with Margaret Thatcher looming over me as I looked at some busts of other politicians including John Major, Denis Healey, Clement Attlee and James Callaghan.

We took the long walk from the House of Lords to the Commons which Black Rod takes to summon the Commons to come to the Lords to hear the Queen's speech at the State Opening of Parliament each autumn. Both chambers seem much smaller and more intimate than the view one gets from television. Nigel gave us background details of the vast paintings we looked at. Most impressive to me were the Burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey 1920 and the Coronation of King George VI 1937. In both these crowded canvasses, members of the royal family were instantly recognisable. A memorable evening and thank you to Leslie and Nigel.

FRANK SAVERS

IS ANYONE STILL INTERESTED ?

Catherine and I, would like to know whether there is enough interest to make it worth our while, with the technical expertise of Mike and Madeline Seviour, to organize yet another of those "Slides" Evenings on a Saturday at the end of October. Please let us know what you think.

FRANK SAVERS

QUIZ AID

WHERE?

Goodmayes Methodist Church Hall, Percy

Road

WHEN?

Saturday 17th May at 7.00 pm

COST?

£4.00 including Ploughman's Supper

ILFORD TOWN CHURCHES will be holding a week of accompanied prayer from 18th

May to 24th May 2008 at The Hospital Chapel on Ilford Hill.

A week of Accompanied Prayer is like a retreat in daily life.

If you decide to take part, you will be encouraged to spend up to half an hour in prayer each day, on a suggested piece of scripture. If this is new to you, you will be helped to try different ways of praying.

The opening service of the week is at 4.00 pm on Sunday 18th May, The closing Service of Thanksgiving is at 9.30 am on Saturday 24th May,

followed by refreshments.

Please ask one of the Stewards for a form for you to fill in, if you wish to take part in this event.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

I reported at the Annual Church Meeting that the Church Council have authorised the Property Committee to proceed to Tender with a view to completing the proposed development work this summer.

In summary the work will:

- Permanently close the redundant entrance to the Hall building thereby creating vital additional storage space
- Upgrade the Kitchen entrance and the Cranbrook room fire exit so that they are DDA compliant
- Complete redecoration of the Hall
Refurbish the two Church Parlour toilets
- Widen and upgrade the paths from the new Church entrance round and across the front of the Church
Renew the chain link fence Complete external redecoration of both buildings
- Resurface and re mark the Car Park

Our fund raising is going well and including a very generous pledge of £5000 from our Pre School and £25000 from the Circuit we have now identified £68700 towards the total estimated cost of £88,000. We are therefore some £19700 short. We still have a number of appeals to external Trusts pending and our Development Fund remains very much open, should people wish to make a donation or a pledge or to organise a fund raising event.

We are of course still dependent on finding a contractor who is available to undertake the work and at a price within our budget. However, I am reasonably confident that this will be achieved and that the final "few" thousand pounds will be identified. We are therefore planning for the Hall building to be out of action for the whole of the School summer holidays. Access to the Church will be via the new entrance only as the area from the new entrance round and across the front will have to be closed off whilst the work on the paths is completed.

JEREMY

CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER & PREACHING PLAN - MAY TO JULY 2008

Once again, I urge you to take a copy of the Circuit Plan, which has some interesting articles, which are well worth reading. You will find a pile of these on the table at the back of the church.

SO WHICH STATION DO YOU GO FROM?

When I told people that Diane and I planned to visit Russia by train they often asked "so which station do you go from?" My answer of course was "Goodmayes"! With Louise studying in Moscow for five months this year Diane and I knew that this was an opportunity to visit a country that would not be on our usual summer itinerary. Yes it would have been quicker to fly, but the train sounded more of an adventure and you see so much more of the country travelling by land (it is also true that we both dislike flying, but the benefits of land travel remain valid).

We caught the late afternoon Eurostar service from the new St Pancras International. The nation should rightly be grateful to Sir John Betjeman for saving this magnificent building, but it has needed the commercial function of the station and hotel to actually bring the redundant shell back to life (I fear that the lack of a commercial function is the flaw in the scheme for Valentines Mansion, but that is another topic). Two hours later we were in Brussels and five hours later in Cologne. Our train had started at Amsterdam and our coach was the only one destined for Moscow. During the journey coaches were detached and added to other trains going to places as far afield as Copenhagen and Zagreb. Similarly incoming coaches were added to our train from places such as Munich and Gdansk. If not luxurious, our sleeper compartment was functional and cosy and we were pleased to be truly on our way. We awoke to the flat snow covered Polish countryside stretching for miles and miles. It reminded me of the many Second World War escape stories I have read where the prisoners escaped from their "Camps" dotted across Poland and travelled on foot or by train in their bid for freedom.

Lunchtime on day two saw us at Brest on the Polish/Belarus border. Because of the change in the track gauge it was necessary to change the bogies (wheels) on each coach. Whilst we remained on the train, the coaches were shunted into sheds and jacked up so that the bogies could be removed and replaced with the narrower gauge bogies necessary for Russian railways. The process took around 45 minutes which was somewhat less time than the Russian Passport and Customs control took at each of the borders! Diane and I spent our time reading, playing cribbage (Diane will be pleased for me to tell you that she is 2 games up), chatting and looking out of the window. Following our second night on the train, Diane and I awoke in eager anticipation of our arrival in Moscow. The weather was cold, but bright and we arrived at 10.59 - dead on time! In contrast, Matthew's flight from Heathrow the night before had been delayed by over 3 hours so he had arrived in the early hours of that morning. Louise and Matthew met us at the station from where we needed to get a taxi to our hotel. In Moscow, official taxis are few and far between, however you can hail a *chastniki* which is any private car where the driver is willing to carry passengers for a negotiated fare. Diane and I were impressed (and proud) when Louise hailed one of these cars and without hesitation launched into a negotiation of the fare in her almost fluent Russian. One aspect of the Russian language which we had not fully appreciated was that it is written in the 33 letter Cyrillic alphabet which means that words such as street names and signs were not only unrecognizable, but completely indecipherable. Matthew tasked himself to learn the Cyrillic alphabet during his visit.

We had three days to "do" Moscow and the itinerary had been meticulously planned and agreed with Louise in advance! That afternoon we rode on the Moscow Metro, visited Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral. The Metro was built in the 1930's by members of the Red Army and 13,000 members of the Communist Youth League (I am not sure this would pass today's Health and Safety rules). Oversight of the project was entrusted to a young communist - Nikita Khrushchev. The stations are built like cathedrals and it is said that Gants Hill underground station with its great vaulted concourse was modeled on a typical Russian metro station. St Basil's is a riot of gables, tented roofs and twisting multi coloured onion domes. It was

commissioned by Ivan the Terrible and according to legend, Ivan was so amazed at the beauty of the architect's creation that he had him blinded so that he could not design anything to compete.

Day two saw us at the Tretyakov art gallery which houses over 100,000 Russian works of art from before the Revolution. This was a fascinating morning and we learnt a lot about Russian history and culture. Louise had spied out a good restaurant for lunch serving Ukrainian food. I had lamb Shashlyk (a type of kebab) and red cabbage. Later, we took in the famous views of the Kremlin from across the river and then visited the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. The original Cathedral was built in 1817, but it was destroyed in 1931 on the orders of Stalin. He planned to build a gigantic Palace of Councils with a colossal statue of Lenin on the top making it the tallest structure in the world. Many elements of the Palace were devised as counter symbols to the Christian elements in the original cathedral. For example the statue of Lenin in place of the cross and extracts from the Stalin constitution carved in the walls in place of Biblical texts. As our guide book states "the Communist's attempts to erect the Palace of Councils in place of the Cathedral revealed the struggle between God who had become man to save humanity and man who was trying to become God". Fortunately this "Tower of Babylon" was never built and the "hole in the ground" became the world's largest swimming pool (fact)! However, in 1990 the cornerstone of a new cathedral was laid on the same site and in 1995 the new Cathedral, constructed to an almost identical design to the original, opened for worship.

Day three saw us at the Kremlin (the word means fortress) where we visited the Armoury which contains some of the most exquisite art and religious icons accumulated by the Russian Princes and Tsars. This included a Faberge egg which contained a model of a six carriage train - the first to run on the Trans Siberian Railway - made in solid gold. The Kremlin also contains at least five churches. Russian Orthodox churches feature an Iconostasis which separates the sanctuary from the body of the church. Each Iconostasis has twenty or more panels painted with representations of the Saints, the Virgin Mary and Old Testament prophets, built up to create a wall. The principle Icons are then overlaid with beautifully worked gold or silver cases so that only the Icon's face appears. We were struck by the many Russian people visiting these churches, not as tourists, but as acts of worship. It is as if the Russian people have realised the value of faith as a result of being denied their faith during the long Communist years. I wonder if people in our country would value faith more if it was not so readily available?

My abiding memories of Moscow will be the grandeur and beauty of the pre Revolution history, architecture and culture. But it will also be of a country which, despite Glasnost and Perestroika, remains caught by petty bureaucracy, decaying infrastructure and a somewhat down trodden people often coping with a poor standard of living. That said, both the journey and the destination were fascinating.

Jeremy

Scout & Guide News

Peter Foster has been recognized by the Scout Association for his long service to the Group both as Chairman and for the last 39 years as our Treasurer. He has been awarded the Chief Scout's Long Service Decoration for 40 years service which it is hoped will be presented to Peter by our new District Commissioner, Stuart Grierson, at our AGM later this year.

Congratulations, Peter and many thanks for all your work for us.

Manji Garni a member of our Executive Committee, entered this year's London Marathon to raise money for Children with Leukaemia. Having just recovered from a heavy cold he thought that a top 10 place was out of the question this year! His appeal for sponsorship said

"I hope that you can help me raise lots of money for this worthy cause and at the same time know that I will endure a set-back amount of grief, pain and suffering (much like a day in the office but with shorts on) while running the 26.2 miles"

In the end he completed the run in a time of just under 5 hours.

Well done, Manji.

Andrew Marriott, our Secretary (for those of you who know the Marriott family he is Barry and Pat's son] recently graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree from the Open University. He is relieved that his studying days are now over.

We send him our heartiest congratulations.

My friend Margaret

Margaret Close lived in Ilford from 1974 until 1991 with husband Colin and two sons Robert and Michael. Margaret and the boys attended church, Robert is the same age as Owen Reed-Beadle and they were part of the group of young boys who were members of Junior Church in the later 80's. Michael was a little younger.

Margaret and Colin and the boys moved to Wilstead near Bedford in June 1991. In 1997 Margaret had surgery for Breast cancer and for the next 11 years she coped with the disease in a positive way and was an inspiration to all who met her.

Sadly Margaret died suddenly in February of this year. Margaret was one of my closest friends she was an inspiration to anyone undergoing long term medical treatment as she was always so positive trying to live life to the full despite the illness. Colin was a great support to Margaret as were Robert and Michael. Please remember them in your prayers. I still find it hard to think that Margaret is no longer on the end of the phone, or e-mail, she was 54 when she died and that is no age these days.

In her memory I will be walking the Playtex Moonwalk on 17th May this year. This is a marathon (26.2 miles) round the streets of London together with 14000 women and 1000 men, to raise money and awareness for Breast Cancer. The walk begins at midnight and we walk through the night.

All the walkers have to;

a) walk

b) wear a decorated bra. Last year I supported my daughter and her friend as they did the walk and 15000 people wearing decorated bras is quite a sight heading out of Hyde Park.

c) raise at least £100.

I will be walking with two friends from work—with Victoria providing the support this time. The three of us are over 150 years old and the training is hard but we are determined to complete the walk in Margaret's memory. I would like to ask you if you would consider sponsoring us on our walk Our online donation address is;

<http://www.justgiving.com/elizabethreedbeadle>

But you could also give donations to Frank and Catherine Sayers. Please add Julie, Susie and myself to your prayers as we make our walk. Thank you

Elizabeth Reed-Beadle

DIARY MAY 2008

SUN 4 10.45 am Mr. STEPHEN FROGGATT - All Age Worship & Learning - on the theme of Christian Aid - Junior Church will meet

TUES 6 8.00 pm Church Fellowship - 'The Lamp Still Burns' - a talk by Martin Fairhurst

WED 7 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Mrs. Stella Alien

THUR 8 8.00 pm Choir Practice

SUN 11 PENTECOST & CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10.45am Mrs. MATHILDA SMALL-BYAM Junior Church will meet

TLJES 13 8.00pm Tuesday Meeting - *The Lord's Prayer* (4) As we forgive

WED 14 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Members' Afternoon

THUR 15 8.00 pm Choir Practice

SAT 17 10.00am Work Morning

10.30 am - 1.00 pm SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP PLANT SALE

SUN 18 10.45am Rev. MICHAEL MOON

TUES 20 1.00pm Church Lunch

8.00pm Tuesday Meeting - *Church Membership preparation*[1]

What membership means to me - Rev. Marie Whitcombe

WED 21 2.30pm Women's Fellowship Rev. Jenny Sweet

THUR 22 8.00pm Choir Practice

**SUN 25 10.45am Rev. CHARLES WATSON - Family Communion
Collection at Communion For Christian Aid**

JUNE 2008

SUN 1 10.45 am Sister VERA NICHOLLS - All Age Worship & Learning - Junior Church will meet

6.30 pm Rev. MICHAEL MOON

TUES 3 8.00 pm Church Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Poole

WED 4 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Poole

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday July 5th Strawberry Tea to celebrate **80 YEARS AT THE DRIVE**
Sunday July 6th **10.45 am CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE** led by Dr. Joy Leitch
6.30 pm **Rev. MARIE WHITCOMBE**
Sunday July 13* Picnic at THE RODINGS after morning service

CIRCUIT CALENDAR

Saturday May 3rd 10.00am - 12 noon MAY MORNING MARKET at GANTSHILL CHURCH
Saturday May 17* 7.00 pm Quiz for CHRISTIAN AID WORK at GOODMAYES -

***Will you please let Barbara Foster have items for the
June Newsletter by Sunday May 11th***