

JUNE 2008

TUESDAY MEETING

There are just three more discussion in the series,
when we shall think about **Membership Preparation**

On **Tuesday 10th June**, led by **Rev. Stephen Normanton**

On **Tuesday 17th June**, led by **Rev. Stephen Normanton**

On **Tuesday 24th June** There will be an opportunity to draw conclusions,
and make plans for when the meetings will resume in September.

ALL ARE WELCOME

CELEBRATIONS FOR 80 YEARS AT THE DRIVE

On **Saturday 5th July** there will be a **STRAWBERRY TEA**

to celebrate 80 years at The Drive

Time: 3.30 pm for 4.00 pm

On **Sunday 6th July** the Church Anniversary Services will be led at 10.45 am

by **Dr. Joy Leitch** – (member of Staff at Wesley's Chapel)

and at 6.30 pm by **Rev. Marie Whitcombe**.

On **Sunday 13th July**, there will be a **Picnic at The Rodings**,

after the morning service

ALL ARE WELCOME

Do come and enjoy these special events!

REDBRIDGE NIGHT SHELTER

The Night Shelter has been given an opportunity to develop their premises and service, far more rapidly than they would have dreamed possible! They have been approached by the Housing Strategy Unit of Redbridge Council, to join in a partnership with the Welcome Centre and to share with the Centre in an unbelievable grant of over £4 million!

Already plans are being drawn up to extend the Night Shelter with new accommodation and workshop facility around a beautiful landscaped garden courtyard. These plans can be seen in **The Shelter News** to be found at the back of the church. Do read the news and join with the staff, volunteers, guests and supporters, in appreciation of this wonderful opportunity. EDITOR

P.S. Please read the letter from the Night Shelter in the foyer appealing for household goods for an unfurnished property available for 2 of their residents.

WHAT WAS IT BEFORE?

After an excellent lunch, thanks to The Prince of Wales, I made my way to the Goodmayes Gurdwara, a telephone exchange in its former life. This was the Redbridge Faith Forum visit on Sunday 6th April. Most visits are planned for weekdays, when many are working. Our small group consisted of Senior Citizens

We were given a warm welcome and taken to the Prayer Hall, where our hosts went to great lengths to explain the beliefs and traditions of the Sikh religion. It had been a busy day, as a wedding had taken place earlier in a hall above the Prayer Hall.

From the Gurdwara we crossed the road to St. Cedd's R.C. Church, Goodmayes Methodist Church in its former life. When travelling on the No. 86 bus, I had noticed that the exterior of the building had been restored. I was unprepared for the beauty of the interior and for the similarity to the Ilford High Road Methodist Church where I grew up. This had stood opposite the present entrance to the Exchange Mall and should be appearing on the screen during Martin Fairhurst's talk at the church Fellowship on Tuesday 6th May. (Am I allowed to advertise?)

St. Cedd's has retained the gallery on three sides of the church and most of the pews. There are a few changes, such as the addition of the Stations of the Cross, but everything has been tastefully done. Father Adam, the Polish priest, explained that in the 1960's, St. Cedd's served the then local Irish population. Now there is a large Polish congregation.

In 1961 when the High Road church was replaced by the present Ilford Methodist Church, I did not appreciate the older building. In 2008 I am very grateful to the Roman Catholic Church for restoring and preserving such a beautiful edifice. I look forward to attending a service there, preferably in English

SUSAN RUCKES 14th April 2008

A Letter to the Editor.

It was with interest that I read the article in the April Newsletter headed "SCOUT NEWS" Congratulations to the Foster Clan for their ninth member of the Group. However I think that the Grinham Clan can beat that.

Both my sisters, Jean and Enid, were in the Brownies and Guides and later became leaders. Jean's children, Annette and David, were in the Brownies and Cubs respectively and went on to the older sections.

I was in the Cubs, Scouts and then progressed into Leadership and Group Chairman. My wife, Pat, was a Brownie, Guide and then a Brownie Leader and a Cub Scout Leader.

Of our four children, Susan was a Brownie and then joined the Guides at her School but later joined the Venture Scouts, whilst Janet was a Brownie, an Assistant Beaver Leader and also a Venture Scout. Mary was also a Brownie, Guide, Assistant Beaver Leader and a Venture Scout. Peter was a Cub Scout, Scout and Venture Scout. By my calculations that makes 10 and, I think, gives the Grinham's the record - unless you know better!

BRIAN GRINHAM

LOOK AROUND YOU

It is good to see the first two mosaics, created in the All-Age Worship sessions, displayed on the Church wall opposite The Drive entrance. However, did you know that there is another mosaic I the building? Turn your back on the Church mosaics and go through the double doors - cross the foyer and open the door on the right opposite and there on the wall is a lovely little mosaic picture done by Pat Palmer. Thank you Pat. I don't know how long it has been there but I only discovered it a week ago!

This made me wonder how many other people know where they can find St. George in the Church building. I took a photo recently for the St. George's Day event I was involved in. Watch the notice board for those who haven't found the answer.

A.T.

♪ BAA, BAA, BLACK SHEEP ♪

Maisie writes:

"I have been very busy knitting baby blankets for grand children and great-grand children of people in Birchwood and also, together with larger blankets, for Christian Hope International. However, I am now running out of materials -

HAVE YOU ANY WOOL?

I should be very grateful for double-knit wool in any colour but not white, which is the colour of mourning in some areas. Even small amounts of wool can be knitted into the gaily striped blankets which are very popular overseas. Thank you."

VISIT TO A GURDWARA

A couple of weeks ago we had a staff training day at school. A group of us were sent to the Gurdwara which is the Sikh Temple along Ilford High Road. You can't miss it as it is a salmon pink coloured building.

A Sikh lady showed us around the beautiful Temple. It was the women's day of prayer, but the two men in our group were allowed to enter the room too. The thing that struck me most was how light, bright and calm the room was. The women were chanting a special prayer that was to last two and a half hours.

We had to sit crossed legged with our heads covered and face the front at all times so as not to show disrespect to their god. After a short while we were taken into the food hall which is open for much of the day serving hot food to anyone who enters the building. They gave us wonderful food and drinks. We were told it was disrespectful to leave any, so we all ploughed through it!

We were then taken to see the 'Holy Man'. He blessed us and told us that this house was our house and we were welcome to visit at any time. I thought this day at the temple had been most welcoming to us. Many of the people there spent all day every day cleaning, cooking, praying and welcoming people. If you haven't been it's well worth a visit. JO WRIGHT

APRIL VISIT TO THREE CHURCHES

The tour began at St. John the Baptist RC Church in Wanstead Park Road. If you have only seen this church from near Highlands School or from the A 406, you might be surprised by the beautiful modern interior.

Jackie Grieve and Father John gave us a talk and then we made our way to St. Andrew's. Three of us travelled in the mini bus whilst others brought their cars.

On our arrival at St. Andrew's Rosemary gave us a short talk, showed us some vestments and invited us to look around, especially at the stained glass windows. After a welcome soft drink, we made our way to The Drive Methodist, where we all sat down with a cup of tea.

A question and answer session followed. Unfortunately there was little time to explore the church. One visitor was very impressed with our chapel. Three churches in one afternoon. All built in the 20th Century but in different decades and to different designs. There were two features common to all. Answer in the July Newsletter. SUSAN RUCKES

Jackie Grieve has written to us at The Drive thanking us for making the visitors from the Redbridge Faith Forum so welcome. Jackie says that she and the other visitors had learned a great deal and appreciated being able to talk to Christians from different denominations. Editor

VISIT OF THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

The Islamic Centre in Albert Road was packed with mostly Christians and Muslims for the visit of Dr. Michael Nazir Ali, the Bishop of Rochester. Many questions were asked and answered. A full report was given in the Ilford Recorder of 24th April 2008.

"FIVER FAYRE"

This will be held at **Gantshill Methodist Church** on **Saturday 7th June, 6.30pm for 7.30 pm.**

Everything donated must be worth a fiver or more.

Everything will be sold for a fiver!

Tickets are a fiver and includes a fish 'n' chip or chicken 'n' chip supper.

All proceeds will go to the Gantshill Development Fund.

CIRCUIT MISSION & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY EVENT AND SERVICE

This will be held at **Becontree Heath Methodist Church** on **Sunday 15th June at 4.00 pm**

The theme of the event is the incredible spread of HIV and Aids in Africa, and the work of the Mildmay Hospital, based in East London. This is a Christian Charity that was first set up as a Christian response to the spread of HIV in this country in the 1980's and is now operating centres in Africa as well. The offering will be towards the work of Mildmay, so please come along and support this event.
(Stephen Poole, writing in the Circuit Newsletter)

The Rev. Linda McMurray

Linda's farewell service will be held at **Seven Kings Methodist Church**

On **Sunday 20th July** at 3.00 pm followed by tea.

Do come along and enjoy the service and give Linda and Nigel a really good send off, as Linda takes up her new appointment in Newcastle West.

CIRCUIT EVENTS

Saturday June 7	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Summer Fayre at Goodmayes
Saturday June 7	6.30pm for 7.00 pm	"Fiver Fayre" at Gantshill – see separate notice
Saturday June 14	10.30 am	"Table Sale" at Becontree Heath
Sunday June 15	4.00 pm	Mission & Social Responsibility Service at Becontree Heath
Saturday June 28	7.30 pm	Church Anniversary Weekend – visiting choir at Old Dagenham
Saturday July 12	2.00 pm	Garden Party and Stalls at Becontree Heath
Sunday July 20	3.00 pm	Rev. Linda's McMurray's Farewell Service at Seven Kings – <i>see separate note</i>

WILL YOU PLEASE HAND ITEMS FOR THE COMBINED JULY / AUGUST
NEWSLETTER TO BARBARA FOSTER BY **SUNDAY JUNE 22nd.**

Strawberry Tea – July 5th Reply slip to be returned to a Church Steward by June 29th.

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I/We wish to come to the Strawberry Tea on Saturday July 5th 3.30 pm for 4.00 pm

TEMPLE CLEANSING

Sometimes the only right response is
Anger. Not dull resentment,
Poisoning all it touches, or
Bitterness that taints the memory,
But a clean cutting edge, that
Lances festering grievances,
Releasing energy to fight;
The fuel of passion that
Challenges evils,
Outwardly observed
Or known within.

Such anger is not a sin.

From "Watching for the Kingfisher" By Ann Lewin

DIARY JUNE 2008

SUN	1	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Sister VERA NICHOLLS - All-Age Worship & Learning – Junior Church meets Rev. MICHAEL MOON
TUES	3	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship - talk by Rev. Stephen Poole
WED	4	2.30 pm 8.00 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>to be arranged</i> Property Committee
SUN	8	10.45 am	METHODIST HOMES' SUNDAY Miss JANET TWEEDALE
TUES	10	8.00 pm	Tuesday Meeting - Membership Preparation (2) - Rev. Stephen Normanton
WED	11	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - "100 – NOT OUT!" with Frank Sayers
THUR	12	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	15	10.45 am 3.00 pm	Mr. ALLAN RAMSDEN Circuit service at Becontree Heath - <i>see page 4</i>
TUES	17	8.00 pm	Tuesday Meeting - Membership Preparation (3) – Rev. Stephen Normanton
WED	18	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship – <i>to be arranged</i>
THUR	19	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	22	10.45 am	YOUTH SUNDAY Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - Family Communion & Membership Service Collection at Communion for Church Benevolent Fund
TUES	24	1.00 pm 8.00 pm	Church Lunch Tuesday Meeting – Conclusions and Planning - <i>see page 1</i>
WED	25	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>to be arranged</i>
THUR	26	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
JUN	29	10.45 am	Mrs. PHILIPPA NORMANTON

JULY

TUES	1	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship - talk by Mrs. Stella Allen
WED	2	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
SAT	5		Church Anniversary Strawberry Tea 3.30 pm for 4.00 pm <i>see page 1</i>
SUN	6	10.45 am 6.30 pm	CHURCH ANNIVERSARY Dr. JOY LEITCH Rev. MARIE WHITCOMBE