

# SEPTEMBER 2008

## Anyone for tennis?

At Leverstock Green, Herts, David Wright was runner-up in the 18 & under Junior Open event. Later, at the Connaught Tennis Club, Chingford, he won the 16 & under Junior Open. In Billericay he won both 16 & under, and the 18 & under at the Essex Open Event. These tournaments are all part of the Summer Grand Prix Circuit, and David still has another year in under 16 events.

## BAPTISM

We are delighted that the family of Beryl Evans are bringing the latest of her family for Baptism at our church on **Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup>**. **Mya Stewart** is the daughter of **Emma Whelan**, Beryl's grand-daughter, which makes her a great-grandma for the third time!. We wish them all a happy day.

## HARVEST LUNCH

A list will be put up on Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> at the back of the church, for you to indicate whether you would like to join in the **church Harvest Lunch**. A collection will be made at the end of the lunch, and all profits will be sent to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. The list will be closed after Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

## HARVEST GIFTS

Please bring your gifts, vegetables and packeted goods etc., to Church on **SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**, between **10.00 am & 12 noon**, where they will be gratefully received.

## JULY BBQ

Thank you to everyone who came to the BBQ, provided food, cooked the food and ate the food! The Quiz had 3 top scorers - Frank, Andrew Taylor and a joint paper from Sue, Corinne and Peter - Well Done!

Thanks also to Michelle and Lorraine for doing a lot of the organising.

A good time was had by all

JO WRIGHT

## News of Ray

It is mid August and Ray has just completed week 3 of 6 weeks intensive course of daily radiotherapy treatment. He is exceptionally tired and although he spends most of his time asleep, his quirky sense of humour prevails and he has informed me that he intends to feature in the medical page of the Daily Mail as the 'miracle man' who was responsible for non-believers flocking back to church after his amazing recovery, which was in part due to the prayers, love and support of the congregation of The Drive Church.

We both wish to thank you all for the many cards, flowers and good wishes that have continued to arrive over the past ten weeks. We have found much comfort from belonging to the family of the church and in the many visits that Stephen has made to our home and Queens Hospital. We wondered how many people had ever taken Communion with their family and friends in the closed hospital cafeteria on a Sunday evening. Thankyou Stephen for being there for us as we faced the uncertainty of the following day.

We also remember in our prayers the surgeon and his team who undertook the immense task of operating on something that was deemed 'in-operable' and will never forget the first words he said afterwards which were, "The Lord God was on his side."

We know **He** continues to be on Ray's side as he copes with the treatment. We are strong in our Faith and pray for all those whom we have met who are also sick and coping with illness. We hope to be in church again soon.

All our love and thanks, from Anne and Ray Dellow.

## News of the Hinds family

We send our good wishes to the Hinds family. Maureen is much better following her fall downstairs and damaging her spine. She is now working in Redbridge and walking 3 miles to work every day as part of her continued recuperation programme. Cameron has spent 2 weeks of his holiday in hospital for an operation to remove the pins from his legs. Jonathan was attacked by a group of youths on a bus in East Ham and suffered a badly bruised face. On the upside, Jonathan is off to Middlesex University to do Business Studies.

## Thanks from Maisie

*Thank you for all the sympathy and prayers which gave me so much comfort on the loss of my sister. Gladys is now where she wanted to be - re-united with her husband and at rest.*

*It was nice to hear familiar choir voices at the service on July 1<sup>st</sup>, which I thought was beautiful and I am sure Gladys herself would have been delighted with the order of service devised by Emma-Louise and Andrew Raby..*

*I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Linda for all that she has done for Gladys and me over many years. The words seem totally inadequate, but all I can say, in utmost sincerity, is Thank you Linda, very much!*

*Maisie*

## REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM

FAITH BUILDING VISITS - OPEN TO ALL

The next visit will be to the **Ilford Synagogue**, Beehive Lane, Ilford  
on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>. September, at 7.45 pm**

*(See page 2 of the Circuit Plan)*

## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

The tea-party took place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup>. July in the Church Parlour. It began at 2.00 pm, the usual starting time of the annual March service. I hardly recognised the regular readers in their summer dresses, as they usually wear black suits and white tops for the formal event.

It was a lovely relaxed afternoon with a chance to chat to people who are usually busy looking after the local dignitaries. It was also a successful fund-raising event. There was a well-stocked stall. Thank you Jan, Nick, Catherine and all who gave us such a pleasant, useful afternoon. Perhaps it will happen again next year - please?  
SUSAN RUCKES

## **FAREWELL SERVICE FOR REV. LINDA McMURRAY**

A packed Seven Kings Methodist Church said farewell to its much-loved minister, Rev. Linda McMurray and her husband Nigel, on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>. July. The service was taken by Linda's local preachers - those she has helped and encouraged during her time in the BDI Circuit. He two ministers present, Revd. Stephen Normanton and Revd. Marie Whitcombe, read the lessons.

John Nicholls, always a welcome preacher at The Drive, began his sermon by exclaiming, "Up the revolution!" His amusing and thought provoking sermon reminded us that Methodism may have saved this country from a French style revolution. Something to ponder on a weekend when the Todbuddle martyrs were commemorated.

Among the many visitors were Revd. Gordon Tarry and his wife, Julia and Revd. Jonathan Evans, vicar of St. John's, Seven Kings.

After the service there was a lovely tea and a chance to chat to the many visitors before they raced away to their evening services. I saw some of them again at Seven Kings station . . .

I'll leave the last words to Nigel - "Always ensure that you help your ministers."

SUSAN RUCKES

## **LINDA'S LAST SERVICE AT SEVEN KINGS CHURCH**

Because Catherine and I were away in Yorkshire, and not able to be present at the Circuit service to mark the end of Linda McMurray's ministry in this circuit, we attended Linda's last service at Seven Kings Church on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was a most inspiring occasion. Linda conducted the service with subtle humour, preaching a challenging and encouraging sermon. The service included Holy Communion during which we all served each other with the Elements. The young people there (known at "The Crowd") presented a 'rap' about the story of Zaccheus in St. Luke's Gospel. It was terrific!

FRANK SAYERS

21 July 2008

Dear Friends,

*I want to say thanks to all of you who were able to share the day with us on Sunday (July 20th). Simply to have your presence in worship was an incredible joy - at times I truly thought the roof would be raised with your powerful praises. I also want to thank all you who were unable to celebrate with us on the day, but whose company and support we have always been grateful to receive as we have journeyed through the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit.*

*Thanks as well for all the thoughtful gifts and cards. The cheque we received was overwhelming in its generosity. There are several things I have wanted to purchase as we set up our new home in The North. One is a very posh replacement for our well used but worn out coffee maker. I had struggled to justify the cost of the one I want and thanks to your generosity I no longer have to do that. The great thing is that we will be able to think of you all every morning with our first cup of the day. Rest assured we will be able to put the rest of your gift to good use.*

*Unfortunately, some gifts became separated from the cards which identified who they were from. So if I fail to thank you directly, please know that it is not from lack of appreciation for you thoughtfulness. But Ginger really does want to thank whoever provided the fantastic new brush!*

*Your love and thoughtfulness will travel with us always.*

*Linda & Nigel (and Ginger, of course)*

## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

We are again going to collect shoe boxes to send out to under-privileged children, often in war torn countries in Eastern Europe. Look out for the posters and leaflets coming out shortly. JO WRIGHT

## GARDEN PARTY and STALLS - postponed from 12<sup>th</sup>. July

This event took place at Beacontree Heath Church from 10.30 am on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July, one of the hottest days of the summer. Some brave souls sat outside in the sun, but I escaped with my salmon sandwiches, cream scone and cups of tea to the tables inside the building.

Because of the heat, school holidays and Fords' "Shutdown", the church grounds were not crowded, but I kept seeing Deacon Margaret Cox walk by with trayloads of strawberry and cream scones, then return a few minutes later with an empty tray! I stayed longer than I had intended, before catching two buses to The Drive to Sharon and Philmore's beautiful wedding. SUSAN RUCKES

## *The ACTION FOR CHILDREN SLIDES' EVENING!*

Catherine and Frank will be presenting another 'viewing' evening in aid of the work of **ACTION FOR CHILDREN** (formerly The National Children's Home), with the help of Mike Seviour and his sister Madeline. This will be on **SATURDAY OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**, beginning at **7.00 pm**.

As before we can promise you a varied selection of places visited and events witnessed, provided by our intrepid band of digital photographers.

If you have digital material to show,  
please contact **Mike** also by **Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup>**.,

This is to help us plan a balanced programme.

If you have holiday photographs that you would like to display,  
please bring them along on the night.

**REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN THE INTERVAL**  
**NO TICKETS - DONATIONS REQUESTED, PLEASE.**

## Celebrations at Horning

The Scouts spent their summer camp at Northrepps, near Cromer in Norfolk at the beginning of the school summer holidays. This is a favourite site for the Troop as they are allowed to swim in the owner's heated outdoor swimming pool besides visiting to the beach at Mundesley, trekking across the fens and spending a day cruising on the River Bure at Horning, courtesy of Peter and Barbara Foster.

This is normal for the Troop but what is not normal is that this was the 40<sup>th</sup> consecutive summer camp that Jeremy had attended, both as boy and leader, and something that Audrey and I thought was worth celebrating. So on the morning of the Horning outing, Audrey, Andrew and I landed unexpectedly on Peter and Barbara's doorstep complete with a celebration cake. We were royally entertained to lunch whilst waiting for the cruisers to return.

When the crew arrived back, we were able to surprise Jeremy with congratulations on this remarkable record and for everyone present to have a slice of the cake with their tea. It is worth noting that on occasions in the past the Troop would not have had a camp had it not been for Jerry so we also owe him a great debt of thanks.



Mike was taking the picture and Diane came up because Matthew had forgotten his flip flops!

And this was the cake. If you can't work out the numbers, Jeremy started with the 9<sup>th</sup> Ilford [Cranbrook Park], moved to the 14<sup>th</sup> [Eastern Avenue], has just received his 30 years service award and the 40 is obvious!



## SAINT BENET'S ABBEY

Situated on the banks of the river Bure close to Ant mouth, St Benet's Abbey is something of a landmark on the Norfolk Broads. However, the most visible feature is not actually part of the original Abbey. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century a wind powered drainage mill was constructed using the remains of the Abbey gatehouse as part of the structure. This has created a strange fusion of architectural styles with an 18<sup>th</sup> century brick mill tower rising up through the medieval stone and flint gatehouse.

St Benet's Abbey was founded in 1020 AD as a monastery for Benedictine monks, however there is evidence for an even earlier Christian presence on the site. St Benet's is believed to have been established on land forming part of the royal estate of King Canute. Certainly he was one of the fifteen listed early benefactors.

Today, apart from the gatehouse and mill, St Benet's is little more than a series of low flint walls and a collection of mounds and hollows in the earth. After the Abbey ceased to function the site quickly became derelict and most of the building materials were reused to build local villages - such as Horning. However, if the size and detail of the gatehouse is used as a benchmark, the Abbey buildings must have been very impressive. The site covered 38 acres and was surrounded by a stone wall and protective ditch which can still be traced. The Abbey community was virtually self sufficient and with the aid of a guide book it is possible to understand the part each mound and hollow played in the life of the Abbey. There are fishponds, swan pits (the monks had a royal privilege to eat swan), the boat dock and its wharves, the vegetable gardens and various buildings.

The monastic community was swept away under Henry VIII's closure of the monasteries in the 1530's. Uniquely, St Benet's was never actually "dissolved" and the site came under the authority of the Bishops of Norwich. The land remains consecrated ground and on the site of the original high altar a cross of oak sourced from the Sandringham estate has been erected. Every year on the first Sunday in August, the Bishop of Norwich conducts an open air service around this cross.

Despite our long association with the area, I had never attended this service. So this year, Diane and I together with Matthew and Louise took the boat down river to St Benet's Abbey and attended the open air service. Like us, many people came by boat, whilst others walked or drove along the rough farm track that is normally closed to vehicles. The Bishop himself arrived by wherry (a traditional Norfolk Broads sailing barge) and I have a photo of the Bishop standing on the front of the wherry with his gown flying in the breeze with one hand holding his crook and the other holding on to his mitre! It was a memorable occasion with some 300 people in the congregation. Given the association with the river I felt that the opening hymn "Love is flowing like a river..." was most apt. The service closed with the Prayer of St Benedict:

"O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen"

JEREMY FOSTER

## FILTH - THE MARY WHITEHOUSE STORY

How many of you saw the BBC2 programme "Who is old enough to recall the events portrayed? Unfortunately I was unable to attend the "Mediawatch UK" AGM in June, but I have received literature since then.

On the whole it was felt that the subject had been treated well. Julie Walters and Alun Armstrong played their parts convincingly. However some important facts were left out. Mary's predictions of a rise in violence were not mentioned. The sexual revolution which took place in the 1960's was almost ignored. The "Viewers & Listeners Association" or VALA, has continued to the present day. A few years ago the name 'mediawatch - UK' was given so that all means of communication could be included.

Mary is still a controversial figure, almost a decade after her death and forty years after the initial campaign. I am very grateful to the BBC for making and showing the programme. Each time I phone the BBC on 03700 100 222 to comment on a programme, I am impressed by the efficiency and courtesy of the staff. Gone are the days of being told to: "Just switch off".

We mustn't become complacent. We must be vigilant. Each one of us can make a difference. The website: [www.mediawatchuk.org](http://www.mediawatchuk.org) - for those who understand such things. SUSAN RUCKES

## CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The first of the Church Fellowship meetings of the 2008/2009 session will take place on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00 pm in the Church Parlour**, when **Susan Ruckes** will present the "eight gramophone records" which she would like to have with her on a desert Island.

Lifts and refreshments will be available as always - do come, and enjoy the fun

## THE TUESDAY MEETINGS

The **TUESDAY MEETING Series** will commence on **Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup>**, when the subject entitled "**Great Events - Deep Meanings**" will be taken from the York series.

Do come and support this thought-provoking and worth-while group.

## CIRCUIT CALENDAR & CIRCUIT NEWS

- |      |                              |  |
|------|------------------------------|--|
| Sat. | September 13 <sup>th</sup>   | from 1.00 pm - Tea & Cake afternoon at 50 Fairlop Road, in aid of Barkingside Hall refurbishment   |
| Sun  | September 14 <sup>th</sup>   | from 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm, the Circuit Youth Group will meet at <b>Goodmayes Methodist Church</b> - All young people across the Circuit are invited.  |
| Mon  | September 15 <sup>th</sup> . | Circuit Meeting at Grange Hill Church.   |
| Sat  | September 20 <sup>th</sup> . | "An Evening of Jazz", with Myrna Hague and friends" at 7.30 pm at Gantshill Methodist Church.<br>Tickets £10 (including light refreshments).<br>All proceeds to Gantshill Church Development Fund. |

We express gratitude to **Cheryl and Jennifer Benfield**, who generally each take a service in our Circuit each quarter, and both of whom travel significant distances to do so. We remember with affection, their father the late Maurice Benfield, who entered glory five years ago. Their mother, Irene Benfield, continues to be very active at Gantshill Methodist Church.

*[Taken from Circuit Plan August - October 2008, which I again urge you to read, as it contains thought-provoking articles, too long to print in our own Newsletter. B.F.]*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Olusola Kufeji**, who was accredited as a Local Preacher in June at Westminster Central Hall. Olusola will now appear on our plan as a visiting preacher.

## DIARY SEPTEMBER 2008

SAT	6	10.00 am	Work Morning
SUN	7	10.45 am	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All-Age-Worship & Learning Baptism of Mya Stewart
		6.30 pm	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON
WED	10	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THUR	11	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	14	10.45 am	Miss JENNIFER BENFIELD
WED	17	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship <i>(to be arranged)</i>
THUR	18	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	21	10.45 am	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - Family Communion - Communion collection for Redbridge Community Care
TUES	23	1.00 pm	Church Lunch
WED	24	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Mr. Frank Sayers
		8.00 pm	Church Life Committee
THUR	25	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	28	10.45 am	H A R V E S T F E S T I V A L Mrs. PHILIPPA NORMANTON
		12.45 pm	Harvest Lunch in the Hall

## OCTOBER

WED	1	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
SUN	5	10.45 am	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All Age Worship & Learning
		6.30 pm	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON
TUES	7	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship - Desert Island Discs with Susan

Please give items for the October Newsletter to  
Barbara Foster by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>. September