

# OCTOBER 2008

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to all those kind folk who helped decorate, dismantle and distribute the harvest baskets.  
Their hard work was much appreciated by all the recipients.

## HARVEST SORTING PERIOD at the NIGHT SHELTER

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>. September - Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. October 2008

It's Harvest once again and we are asking if there are any volunteers available to assist with sorting out the Harvest collection which will take place at the Night Shelter from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. October 2008.

Our harvest co-ordinator Audrey Lewis will be available at the Shelter on the following days, during the Harvest sorting period:

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 4.00 pm - 6.00 pm**

**Saturdays 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.**

If you are interested and available to assist during the harvest period

Thank you JOHN HIGGINS

## 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 along, and enjoy the fun.

## THE TUESDAY MEETING - 8 pm in the Church Parlour

The course of six sessions to be followed in October and November is based on some of the great festivals and holy days in the Christian year. The first session **on 14th October** will be led by **Rev Stephen Normanton** and the subject will be 'Christmas'.

*And is it true? And is it true?*

*This most tremendous tale of all...*

*That God was Man in Palestine*

*And lives today in Bread and Wine.* (John Betjeman)

## HYMNBOOK TALK

As you may know a new hymnbook for use in Methodist churches is due to be published in 2010, superseding Hymns & Psalms which was published in 1983. Every newly published hymnbook has its critics who disagree with the selection of hymns and the 2010 book will be no different, I guess.

This year we have been celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of The Drive Church buildings, and 2005 saw the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of Seven Kings Methodist Church, a building very similar in design to our own church. But what has this to do with hymnbooks?

Brian Grinham has in his possession a treasured copy of the "Primitive Methodist Hymnbook" of 1883 which was presented to his mother, then a girl of 10, to commemorate her having unlocked the front door of the new church at Seven Kings in 1905. The hymnbook is inscribed in beautiful copperplate script including the phrase – " . . . and declared it dedicated to public worship".

Brian lent me this hymnbook recently which I found very interesting. Among the thousand or so hymns there are very many which have since disappeared, including quite a few by Charles Wesley, particularly those which speak of us as 'weary pilgrims' 'vile worms' or 'poor ransomed worms' to which his brother John had objected.

Many of the hymns are set to tunes different from those we use today, and which most of us would consider inappropriate. Many of the tunes are set in higher keys than in our present book. For the technically minded, quite a few tunes include top F and some top F sharp. The National Anthem, these days sung in the key of G, is set in the key of B flat with plenty of top F's in the middle of the verses - set this high with choirs in mind, I suppose.

The preface includes these words:

"In compiling this book the aim has been to retain the older hymns which are endeared by many hallowed associations to the hearts and memories of Christians of every name, and to add the choicest productions of our own times." Let us hope that is also the aim of the present hymnbook committee.

FRANK SAYERS

## CIRCUIT YOUTH GROUP

From September 2008 the group will meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month,  
from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm. at **Goodmayes Methodist Church**  
All young people across the Circuit are invited.

At **Barkingside Methodist Church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**,  
During the afternoon there will be an exhibition by the youth organisations  
on the theme of **Climate Change**.  
*Do support these events, if you are able.*

## PROPERTY UPDATE

I can report that our Phase 2 Development project was completed successfully over the summer holidays.

At the time of writing we have not received the final account from the contractors, however I believe that we will finish within budget. The Pre School and the Church now benefit from improved storage in the Hall which means that tables and chairs can be accessed safely, there is proper access to and from the Pre School Play Area, the entrance to the kitchen lobby in the Hall is now level, the Parlour toilets are up to standard and the exterior paintwork is gleaming. The two remaining items of work are to mark out the car park and to lay the resin bonded gravel surface to the new paths. We then just need the grass to re grow!

I wish to record my thanks to Brian T and Mike, both of whom have been on hand throughout the work and have ensured that the numerous queries, that inevitably arise during this type of project, have been resolved quickly.

**So when is Phase 3?** I am not going to say never, but the investment we have made in our premises over the last few years means that our facilities are in good order and Phase 3 is not even a dot on the horizon! That said, the need to maintain the premises goes on and the Property Committee met recently to prepare a proposed maintenance budget for the new financial year. One item of concern is that, during the re painting work, the contractors discovered some rot in the timbers of the Choir vestry roof. Hopefully, the damage will not be as serious as that discovered in the old Ministers vestry roof during the Phase 1 development. We are presently waiting for a specialist surveyors report.

I need to highlight three matters for which I seek everyone's co-operation and support:

Firstly, Mike has designed the plan for marking out the car park. We have been able to widen the bays alongside Castle View Gardens and have incorporated a designated disabled bay. I need to ask everyone to park carefully and within the designated bays and also to respect the priority of the Disabled space which is for Blue Badge holders.

Secondly, there is some concern over the security of the premises, particularly the Church. We are especially vulnerable when the Church foyer door is left unlocked and unattended whilst people are using other parts of the building. There is no easy solution here, but I would ask that, once your activity or meeting has started, you lock the main door. There is a bell available for anyone arriving late.

Finally, the third work morning this year is on Saturday 22 November. The date should already be in your diaries as it is one of the dates we publicised back in February. As ever, there are numerous cleaning, dusting, gardening jobs which will need to be done. These work mornings make a real difference to the premises and I encourage you to support. We will start at 10.00am and all help will be gratefully received.

JEREMY

### REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM

The next **FAITH BUILDING** visit is open to all, on **Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>**.  
from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm  
at Qur'ani Merkuz Trust, 12 - 14 Mulberry Way, South Woodford.

### BEREAVEMENT AFTERCARE & SUPPORT GROUP

This is held every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month,  
at Trinity Hall (Holy Trinity Church), Mossford Green, Barkingside, IG6 2BX.  
1.45 pm - 3.15 pm.

## ***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** 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.**

## **CIRCUIT MEETING - 15th September 2008**

Representatives from all the churches in the Circuit met at Grange Hill Church on Monday 15th September to conduct the business of the Circuit and to be informed about Circuit, District and Connexional developments. In the opening devotions it was pointed out that business meetings need not be a time to be endured but can be a time of rejoicing and learning - and it was!

Some members of The Open Door Project were present to show their photographs of the world through their eyes and to answer questions about Powershot 2008.

Two appointments were announced: Philippa Normanton as Circuit Religious Education Resources Project Key Worker and Church Worker, and Diane Lilley as Circuit Administrator. The post of Circuit Pastoral Worker remains unfilled. There was a long and complex explanation of the funding of all staff salaries and expenses; some from church assessments, to be agreed by Treasurers, and some from the Circuit Advance Fund.

'Street Pastors' are working successfully in several London boroughs including Barking and Dagenham with the full support of all local churches and preparations are being made for the initiative to be extended to Redbridge.

Gift Aid allows income tax to be reclaimed on our giving to the church but the amount was expected to fall when the basic rate of tax was reduced to 20p in the last budget. However, it has been announced that the former higher rate of 22p will continue to be applied for the next three years. All churches will need to register individually as charities.

The next Circuit Meeting will be held at Gantshill Church on Wednesday 4th March 2009. Further dates were set for 17th June 2009 and 14th September 2009.

## **OPERATION COFFEE STOP**

This year we are trying a new venture for the Christmas season – ‘Operation Coffee Stop’. We will be offering people waiting at the bus stop on Saturday mornings a gift from The Drive Methodist Church – a cup of coffee and a mince pie together with a leaflet inviting them to our Christmas services. The aim is to raise awareness of our Christian presence in the area. If you would like to help please sign the list at the back of the church or speak to a steward.

Anne Warden

### **OPERATION COFFEE STOP**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**

**10.00-12.00**



**Help serve a gift from  
The Drive Methodist Church  
Coffee & Mince Pies at the bus stop**

**Sign the list at the back of  
the church if you can help**

# Operation Christmas Child

## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest children's Christmas project. Since 1990 the project has brought the joy of Christmas to more than 47 million boys and girls throughout the world. Last year we sent 1.24 million shoe boxes from the UK to children in hospitals, orphanages, Internally Displaced Persons camps, homeless shelters and impoverished neighbourhoods. With your help we want to reach even more children in the poorest parts of the world in 2008. We would like to send as many boxes as we can. This will involve collecting the items listed and either putting them in the box provided at the back of the church or wrapping and filling your own box.

Here is what we have to do. -

Wrap a shoe box no bigger than 18x30x13cm, wrap the lid separately.

Decide what age group you would like to send to either 2-4, 5-9, 10-14, boy or girl.

Donate items plus £2.50 per shoe box. Please don't feel you have to make this donation but it would help with posting costs.

### **Items that you can donate for the boxes are:-**

#### **✓ TOYS - something to love**

Bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument, (for boys – trucks and cars, for girls – doll, clip-on earrings, make-up or hair accessories) etc.

#### **✓ EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES – something to do**

Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, rubber, colouring book, notepad, picture/puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers etc.

#### **✓ HYGIENE ITEMS – something to use**

Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of wrapped soap, flannel etc.

#### **✓ OTHER ITEMS – something to eat or wear**

Sweets (sell-by date to be at least March of following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

### **Items that cannot be sent are:-**

**✗FOOD** Chocolate, crisps, biscuits, tinned food or cakes (or any other food)

**✗MEDICINE** Medicines or vitamins of any kind

**✗WAR RELATED ITEMS** toy guns, soldiers or knives

**✗CLOTHING** (other than listed above)

**✗FRAGILE ITEMS** Glass contain

**✗LIQUIDS** of any kind including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols

**✖DANGEROUS ITEMS** Marbles or sharp objects – scissors or razors

**✖NOVELS**

**✖ANYTHING OF A POLITICAL OR RACIAL NATURE**

If you would like to make a monetary donation instead then this would also be gratefully received and would go towards posting costs and buying items to fill the boxes (cheques made payable to Samaritan's Purse)

Look out for posters and leaflets coming shortly. All the information is on the leaflets, but if you have any questions then please contact JO WRIGHT

## **A PRAYER:**

Lord Jesus, take me this day and use me.  
Take my lips and speak through them.  
Take my mind and think through it.  
Take my will and act through it,  
And fill my heart with love for you.

## DIARY OCTOBER 2008

WED	1	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
SUN	5	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Rev. Stephen NORMANTON - All-Age Worship & Learning Rev. Stephen NORMANTON
MON	6	8.00 pm	Finance Committee
TUES	7	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship - "Desert Island Discs" with Susan Ruckes
WED	8	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Miss Janet Tweedale
THUR	9	8.00 pm	Church Council
SUN	12	10.45 am	Mrs. Grace SMITH
TUES	14	8.00 pm	Tuesday Meeting - "Great Events - Deep Meanings" Session 1. Christmas led by Rev. Stephen Normanton
WED	15	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>(to be arranged)</i>
THUR	16	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	19	10.45 am	Rev. Charles WATSON - Family Communion <i>Collection at Communion for Redbridge Samaritans</i>
TUES	21	8.00 pm	Tuesday Meeting - "Great Events - Deep Meanings" Session 2.. Ash Wednesday - led by Brian Taylor
WED	22	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Miss Jean Fryer
THUR	23	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SAT	25	<u>7.00 pm</u>	'Slides' Evening for 'Action for Children'
SUN	26	10.45 am	Mr. Albert GRANT
TUES	28	1.00 pm 8.00 pm	Church Lunch Tuesday Meeting - "Great Events - Deep Meanings" Session 3 - Palm Sunday - led by Frank Sayers
WED	29	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>(to be arranged)</i>

## NOVEMBER

SUN	2	10.45 am	Morning Worship
TUES	4	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship - Rev. John Enever talks about his chaplaincy work at Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children
WED	5	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton

WOULD YOU PLEASE HAND ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER  
NEWSLETTER TO BARBARA FOSTER, BY SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup>. OCTOBER,  
OR PLACE THEM IN THE APPROPRIATE ENVELOPE IN THE MINISTER'S VESTRY.