

FEBRUARY 2009

THOUGHTS FROM ANNE

I believe life is a journey and the paths we take are learning curves and the people we meet along the way are instrumental in taking us forward. I met Ray after a particularly sad time in my life and one of the first things he asked me was whether I believed in God and did I pray.

I answered "Yes" to both questions but told him that I found some things difficult to understand. Ray told me that he believed in God and that he prayed knowing that God listened to him. During Ray's illness we both prayed for strength to cope with the difficult time ahead and also for our family and friends.

We found much comfort from being able to sit in the church, be it on our own or sharing the Sunday service. Ray and I were deeply touched by the tremendous support given to us by all of you at The Drive. Your prayers, cards, letters, poems, flowers and visits gave us so much comfort over the past months. Ray's faith never faltered and he said to me "Trust in God, Anne", This I continued to do as my journey through life now takes a different path.

Our heartfelt thanks to Stephen and everyone at The Drive for all the love and kindness you have shown us as we went through our own journey last year.

God bless you, Anne Dellow and family

*Thankyou for the many donations given in memory of Ray. Including those people who sent direct, over £1,700 was sent to Cancer Research UK.

*How lovely that **Anne** and her family have the joy of a new baby in their midst! **James Ray** was born on November 26th. to **Joanne and Terry**. **Charlotte** is delighted with her baby brother. We wish them all the happiness that a new baby brings!* EDITOR

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The collection at the February Holy Communion service will be for the Open Door Project.

A PARTY AT VALENTINES HIGH SCHOOL!

Josie has told me about a lovely party which was arranged by some of the older pupils in the New Year. Josie and Leslie were invited, and had a really good time. They were treated like Royalty, with nice refreshments and a show put on by the pupils.

Josie said how nice it was, that our Susannah and Florence came over especially to chat with them. Everyone was so kind and friendly and they had a lift home. EDITOR

THANKS FROM PETER

Peter Sharp asked me last Autumn, to put a little note in the Newsletter, thanking his friends George and Christine Brown for bringing fresh vegetables straight from their allotment, to add to our Harvest Festival display. I'm afraid that I omitted to put the note in back in October, but do so now. We are always pleased to have things to distribute to elderly and needy friends around our locality.

EDITOR

CHRISTMAS CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Our December meeting last year took a slightly different form. Earlier on, Andrew, our choirmaster and organist, had felt the urge to round up some young singers from around the Circuit Churches to perform a short musical Nativity Play, which was to fill the first part of our programme.

This was well received and much enjoyed by the audience, and we owe many thanks to Andrew and the young choir. Readings, carols and items from our own Choir made up the second half, after everyone had consumed mince pies, cake, sweets and drinks. An entertaining evening was had by all. Our next meeting will be on February 3rd. and we invite you all to come along to the Parlour at 8.00 pm.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday February 3rd. Lorna Wright will be speaking about her experiences at a Jamboree Camp in Kent in July 2008. She also hopes to speak about a forthcoming trip to the Himalayas, which will take place in July and August 2009. Do come along to hear about this exciting project.

LET'S HELP LORNA TO FUND HER TRIP

I will be giving out Smartie tubes to those who wish to help in the hope that you will give them back to me filled with coins. These donations will be passed on to Lorna to assist her in the worthwhile work she will be carrying out in India.

LORRAINE BENDON

BARN DANCE AND SUPPER

Saturday 14th. February 7.00 pm - 10.30 pm Church Hall

Bring your friends for an evening of gentle exercise and fun.

Tickets from Brian Taylor or John Higgins

Adults £7, Children £4, Family (2+2) £20 *(Proceeds to Development Fund)*

LENT 2009

Once again we will join with St. Andrew's Church & Cranbrook Baptist Church,
in following a series of studies during Lent. The details are:-

Ash Wednesday February 25 Service at The Drive Methodist Church

Tuesdays March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at St. Andrew's Church

Maundy Thursday April 9 Service at Cranbrook Baptist Church

All events begin at 8.00 pm

The theme: 5 Psalms (as yet unchosen!)

The Bishop of Barking will speak at the first of the Tuesday groups.

PROPERTY MATTERS

The Property Committee organised a number of successful work mornings last year. These mornings are an essential part of the maintenance of our premises and we are grateful for the support received. This year, we are again giving advance notice of the dates so that everyone is aware of what is planned. For those of you who have not supported these mornings previously, we start at 10.00 (although you are welcome at any time) and break for coffee at 11.30 with people departing before lunch. Jobs include light gardening and cleaning.

We very much hope that you will make a note to support these mornings. The dates are as follows:
Saturday 14 March Saturday 16 May Saturday 5 September Saturday 14 November

JEREMY

We have received the following letter from **REDBRIDGE NIGHT SHELTER**
January 6th.

Dear Supporter,

First of all, thank you for all your on going support, Christmas was an amazing success and this is mainly due to your generosity!

2009 is set to be an exciting and dynamic time for the Shelter - and not only because of the impending refurbishment. As some of you may already be aware, at the end of last year we introduced the Life Skills programme which is aimed at preparing guests for move on. Now we're looking to expand this with the addition of the Circle of Support and Mentoring programmes which will provide extra support and guidance to the guests as they undergo their transition.

However, in order for this to be a success we need volunteers! Therefore enclosed are a couple of posters which we would be grateful if you could display in order to publicise this exciting new development.

Thank you and a Happy New Year!

Yours faithfully,

KITTY CRESSWELL RIOL

COLLECTIONS FOR CHARITY AT CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The National Charity Shelter	£215.59
Action For Children (formerly National Children's Home)	£104.18
Loughton Family Centre	£200.00

Watch Out!....There's a Beetle About!
(Yes, it's almost that time of year again!)

Our annual JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA will be held on:
SATURDAY 7th MARCH 2009
2.30 pm for 3 pm START
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL
Adult: £4; Child: £2; Family (2 adults, 2 children under 18): £10

All profits go to JMA (Junior Mission for All), raising funds for projects both at home and abroad so come along and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun.

Tickets are available from me now so please tell all your family and friends.

With thanks
Diane Foster

P R A Y E R S

An updated list of monthly prayer topics has been added to the Church website. This year, in addition to the monthly topic, a different country has been suggested as a focus for our prayers each month. Prayers written by members of the congregation would be welcome. Please hand contributions to Anne Warden

SCOUT and GUIDE NEWS

You may have read in the December Newsletter that I have taken over as Acting Group Scout Leader, following John Taylor's 'retirement'. Behind this simple statement hides a remarkable record of service to Scouting at The Drive which deserves to be acknowledged.

John has held a number of uniformed appointments in our Group for well over 50 years. Under his leadership, the Group has flourished and for a time, we achieved record levels of membership while other local groups were closing their doors.

I am delighted that John has agreed to take up the vacant position of Group Chairman. This is an important role and one which I'm sure he will find rewarding, though (I hope) less onerous than his previous role! It will also help to ensure continuity and the Group will continue to be able to draw on his vast knowledge of Scouting.

On behalf of everyone in the Group, past and present, thank you John for all you have done and continue to do for Scouting at The Drive.

MIKE SEVIOUR

OPERATION COFFEE STOP – DECEMBER 2008

Members of the church took part in '**Operation Coffee Stop**' on three consecutive Saturdays during Advent. As people waited to the board buses into Ilford at the bus stop outside the church they received a mince pie or an apple pie as a gift to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Cups of tea or coffee were also offered. The event was well supported by members of the congregation.

As well as the gift and a drink people also received a card from the church giving details of our Christmas services. The purpose of '**Operation Coffee Stop**' was to show our presence in the community during the season of Advent. It provided us with an opportunity to send Christmas greetings to those passing by and in cases to explain the significance of Advent to Christians as they prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Photographs of the event and of the Carol Service can be seen on the website.

ANNE WARDEN

On January 11th, our morning service took the form of celebrating the Feast of The Epiphany.
This poem was read during that service.

WHAT KING IS THIS?

WHAT KING IS THIS?

His throne, a mother's lap,
His crown, a woollen cap,
His realm, the house in Bethlehem,
His subjects, the family and magi.

WHAT KING IS THIS?

His throne, a hillside rock,
His crown, a leathern phylactery,
His realm, the Galilee,
His subjects, the poor and outcast!

WHAT KING IS THIS?

His throne a naked tree,
His crown, a wreath of thorns,
His realm, the Hill of a Skull,
His subjects, the soldiers and women!

WHAT KING IS THIS?

His throne, a people's prayer,
His crown, a church's mission,
His realm, the Domination-free Order,
His subjects, you and I.

By John Freeman Lohr

DIARY FEBRUARY 2009

SUN	1	10.45 am	Rev STEPHEN NORMANTON with ALL-AGE-WORSHIP & LEARNING <i>(no evening service)</i>
TUES	3	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship – Lorna Wright talks about the Jamboree - <i>see page 3</i>
WED	4	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THUR	5	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	8	10.45 am	Rev. CHARLES WATSON - Family Communion <i>Collection at Communion for Open Door Project</i>
WED	11	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Mr Frank Sayers
THUR	12	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SAT	14	7.00 pm – 10.30 pm	Barn Dance - <i>see page 3</i>
SUN	15	10.45 am	Mr. IAN SHEACH <i>(Material for March Newsletter due in today)</i>
WED	18	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>to be arranged</i>
SUN	22	10.45 am	Mr. JOHN NICHOLLS
TUES	24	1.00 pm	Church Lunch
WED	25		A S H W E D N E S D A Y
		2.45 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>to be arranged</i>
		8.00 pm	Combined Ash Wednesday service at The Drive - <i>see page 3</i>
THUR	26	8.00 pm	Choir Practice

MARCH

SUN	1	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON with ALL-AGE-WORSHIP & LEARNING Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON
WED	4	2.30 pm 8.00 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton Circuit Meeting
THUR		8.00 pm	Church Council

WILL YOU PLEASE HAND ITEMS FOR THE MARCH
NEWSLETTER TO BARBARA FOSTER, **BY SUNDAY 15th. FEBRUARY**
OR PLACE THEM IN THE APPROPRIATE ENVELOPE IN THE MINISTER'S VESTRY.

The **CIRCUIT PLAN** for the coming quarter is now available in the church.
Please take a copy which contains details of coming Circuit events
and also of the changes taking place in the ministerial staffing.