

MARCH 2009

Congratulations to:

The Revd. Stephen Normanton who, after 7 years has recently finished his Open University Honours Degree, having attained a 2:1 in International Studies. His graduation is on 2nd May.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

We were very disappointed to have to cancel our February meeting when Lorna Wright had agreed to tell us about her experiences at an international jamboree camp in July 2008. The good news is that Lorna has agreed to come to a meeting of the 2009/2010 session by which time she will have been on a school working trip to India and can tell us about that as well.

LENTEN STUDY 2009 - THE PSALMS

TUESDAY STUDY MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT ST. ANDREW'S - **7.45pm**

Week 1 *'Who is the psalmist?'*
Rt. Revd. David Hawkins,
Bishop of Barking
Tuesday 3rd March

Week 3 *'Why does the psalmist get so angry?'*
Tuesday March 17th

Week 2 *'Who does the psalmist think God is?'*
Tuesday 10th March

Week 4 *'God knows everything. So ? ? ?'*
Tuesday 17th March

Week 5 *'Is this the best psalm of them all?'*
Tuesday 31st March

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 25TH FEBRUARY **8.00 PM** AT THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 9TH APRIL **8.00 PM** AT THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING LUNCH

This will take place on Sunday 15th March in the Church Hall at 12.45 pm, after the Annual Church Meeting. A list is to be found at the back of the church for you to add your name, if you would like to join in.

The collection at our communion service on **Sunday March 15th** will be given to Barnabas Workshops. The Workshops help young people to gain their skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed in their futures. I have written this little explanation, as you may not know what this charity aims to do.

EDITOR

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Woodland Junior School in Kent has produced a leaflet about the history, customs, recipes and flowers, relating to Mothering Sunday. Here, at The Drive we are very familiar with these customs but, for people who were not brought up in this country, it may please you to read about them. The leaflet is to be seen at the back of the church.

EASTER CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 11TH. APRIL - 10.00 am TO 12.30 pm

Wellgate Community Farm are bringing some animals to our Easter celebration this year.

Hot cross buns tea coffee & crafts in the Hall too

JO WRIGHT

On that Saturday we will be having a raffle.

If anyone has any raffle prizes, please give them to me or Michelle. Thanks.

JO WRIGHT

ILFORD TOWN CHURCHES

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

It was decided at Ilford Town Churches' meeting to collate all the Lenten courses and events and circulate them to the Churches. We would particularly like to draw your attention to the Good Friday Walk of Witness, especially in these times when Christian faith is being so marginalized.

The Walk will begin on Good Friday at 10.30 am at the Hospital Chapel.

We need your support!

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

A service was held in Valentines Park Memorial Garden on Tuesday 27th January. We have shivered in the wind and rain, but this year it was sunny and calm. The speakers were IMAM MOHAMMED FAHIM, RABBI ARYEH SUFRIN and REVD. CLARE NICHOLSON, whom many of us know from St. Peter's, Aldborough Hatch, famous for its Annual Flower Show. [I often meet her on the bus.]

Cllr. Alan Weinberg gave the introduction.

People from various Jewish and State schools took part in the service. They read some very moving stories. A tribute was given to Holocaust survivor, Leon Greenman who died last March at the age of 97. Money is being raised for a memorial stone to be added to the Memorial Garden. A Jewish choir sang two hymns. After the service some musicians played "Hava Ngila" and other familiar tunes.

SUSAN RUCKES

PROPERTY MORNING

A gentle reminder that the first Church Work Morning

Is on Saturday 14th. March from 10.00 am.

All support will be greatly appreciated.

JEREMY

Back in Nottingham

Coming back to Nottingham after spending a year abroad in Germany and Russia learning more about the language and culture has been an interesting experience. I have also been able to catch up with what others have been doing on their travels and seeing what has changed on campus. It was strange being 'new' in such a familiar place, but I soon got back into the routine again! I am sharing a house with four other linguists, who speak various languages, including Spanish, German, Russian, Serbian and French so it is nice to be able to share knowledge and experience with one another.

I have just completed my first set of exams for this year at university, in courses ranging from German post-modern theatre, something I found challenging but extremely enjoyable at the same time, to looking at Russian culture of the 'thaw', 'glasnost' and post-Soviet periods, which again is a captivating area of study, and even more so having lived in Moscow for five months. I have also taken on a new language, Serbian-Croatian. It has been both relaxing to get back to the basics of learning a language, and also an eye-opener as to how Slavonic languages interlink.

I was pleased with my results in these exams, and have just started my second and, sadly, final semester at university. My time spent at Nottingham has been very enjoyable, as was my year abroad, and I will be sad to see those times behind me come June. However I am looking forward to the opportunities that await me after graduation. LOUISE

*It would be good to hear from some of our other young friends, whether they are still studying at home or college, or even on the tennis court! We **are** interested in what they are doing now, and what their hopes are for in the future.* EDITOR

NEWS FROM DORSET

Greetings to everyone at The Drive Church. We are sorry that we have not been in touch for some time, but that does show that we have well and truly put down roots in our new location.

We moved into our new permanent home in November last year, but had extensive work done to the garden, a small utility extension built and a conservatory added during the summer of this year. So it is only in the last few weeks that we feel that we are living in the property as we envisaged it. We had always planned to completely gut the garden, and so did not spend the generous garden token which The Drive gave us until it was finished. We have now bought a Japanese Acer which has pride of place as a reminder of our many years in Ilford. Please forgive us for being so long in taking advantage of your gift. For those with access to the web site, we have provided a few photographs.

We are well settled at Wimborne Methodist Church. We have been responsible for leading the team which produce the weekly notices for about a year now, because someone found out that we are moderately computer literate and that Phyllis is a good organiser!

Phyllis is deeply involved with the local drama group. They use the local cinema/theatre which is ten minutes walk away, which is quite a contrast to travelling into central London! Her musical activities have also blossomed, with participation in an orchestra and various chamber groups, albeit at a distinctly amateur level. She has also managed to find a choir which does not hold auditions, and so a long-held ambition is being worked out.

Phil has been fully occupied since leaving Ilford with various aspects of selecting and renovating our new home, and so there is little to report yet on the development of hobbies. That will be the exciting new chapter for 2009.

Phil & Phyllis Spencer
November 2008

ASHING

Light as a feather
A finger touched me,
Branded me cross-shaped,
Smudged me with ash.

Light as a feather
God's finger caressed me
With sign of forgiveness,
Marked me with love.

Light as a feather
Penitent, shriven,
Signed with his life-mark
I go on my way.

From "Watching for the Kingfisher" by Ann Lewin.

**Material for the April Newsletter should be given to
Barbara Foster by Sunday March**

DIARY MARCH 2009

SUN	1	10.45 am 6.30 pm	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All Age Worship & Learning Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON
TUES	3	<u>7.45 pm</u>	Lenten Study at St. Andrew's
WED	4	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THUR	5	8.00 pm	Church Council
FRI	6	2.00 pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service at St. Andrew's
SAT	7	2.30 pm for 3.00 pm	BEETLE DRIVE
SUN	8	10.45 am	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Miss JEAN FRYER
TUES	10	<u>7.45 pm</u>	Lenten Study at St. Andrew's
WED	11	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Sister Vera Nicholls
THURS	12	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SAT	13	10.00 am	Work Morning
SUN	15	10.45 am	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - Family Communion Communion collection for Barnabas Workshops
		12.45 pm	Annual Church Meeting Lunch in the Church Hall
TUES	17	<u>7.45 pm</u>	Lenten Study at St. Andrew's
WED	18	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>To be arranged</i>
THURS	19	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	22	10.45 am	MOTHERING SUNDAY Sister VERA NICHOLLS
TUES	24	1.00 pm <u>7.45 pm</u>	Church Lunch Lenten Study at St. Andrew's
WED	25	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Miss Janet Tweedale
THURS	26	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	29	10.45 am	PASSION SUNDAY Mr. JOHN SIMMONS
TUES	31	<u>7.45 pm</u>	Lenten Study at St. Andrew's
APRIL			
WED	1	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THURS	2	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SAT	4	10.00 am - 12.00 noon	HOLY WEEK COFFEE STOP
SUN	5	10.45 am 6.30 pm	PALM SUNDAY Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All Age Worship & Learning Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON

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