

APRIL 2009

CIRCUIT MEETING - 4TH. MARCH 2009

Representatives from the ten churches in the circuit met at Gants Hill to conduct the business of the circuit as its trustees. The opening devotions were led by Rev Denys Bament.

Staffing

The meeting learnt with regret that Rev Marie Whitcombe is continuing with medical treatment and is unlikely to be able to resume duties this year. Rev Denys Bament has agreed to come out of retirement to cover the preaching and other duties which Marie is unable to undertake. Rev Stephen Poole has to undergo heart surgery soon. Deacon Margaret Cox will be leaving the circuit in August. Rev Kaleem John will be joining the circuit staff in September 2009 with responsibility for Goodmayes and Seven Kings. Ms Krystyna Hebb has been appointed as a lay worker in the circuit from May 2009 and her Commissioning Service will be held at Old Dagenham at 6.30 pm on Sunday 10th May.

Finance

The budget recommended by the treasurers was adopted. We are grateful that the circuit assessment for The Drive has been reduced by £3000. A grant of £5000 to Barkingside for building repairs and improvement was approved. A house in Dagenham has been purchased for the new lay worker at a cost of £180 000.

London Riverside Development

Brian Endcott spoke about his work with this major housing and community project. Some of the building has been halted by the recession but it is expected that 500 houses will be built in the Riverside area this year. The developers are planning to build a community facility, to be known as the Rivergate Centre and including a church and school. All faith groups were invited to be involved and the Anglicans Methodist and Salvation Army accepted. They will form a partnership to be responsible for running the church and assisting with the design.

Youth Work

Philippa Normanton spoke about her work as Religious Education Resources Project Worker. She is continuing the work of her predecessors by visiting schools to take assemblies, lessons and arrange church visits. Philippa is also arranging activities for the growing circuit youth group including a residential weekend in September for which 25 have already registered. We were asked to pray regularly for this work.

BRIAN TAYLOR

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met on 5th March with our minister in the Chair and 16 members present. Mrs Funmi Coker, Circuit Steward also attended.

Concerning Easter Sunday, we shall celebrate Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. led by Stephen Normanton and then have refreshments, with hot cross buns, preceding the dressing of the cross and the morning service, which will be taken by Philippa.

Jeremy Foster reported that Phase II Development had been completed, at a final cost of £96,677. There is a shortfall of £4,500. The Development Fund will be kept open and social activities arranged to close the gap. The repairs to the Choir Vestry roof will cost £8,000 - £9,000. The new flooring in the Cranbrook Room is lifting and we are working with the contractors to get it resolved. The items listed for the budget have been worked through, and the premises are in

sound order. Subject to no unexpected work needing to be done, we should be able to keep within our budget of £20,000.

Jeremy said that the Work Mornings make a real difference to the premises, and that support is appreciated.

Stephen paid tribute to Jeremy, saying that the church was fortunate in having someone who looks after the premises so well, and he thanked Jeremy for all the time, diligence and effort that he puts into the work.

With regard to Finance, Peter Foster reiterated the need to organise fund-raising events to decrease the shortfall of £4,500. Stephen informed the meeting that the stewards have suggested a "Drive Alive" function in October which hopefully will involve the User Groups. Gas bills will go up. We are no longer on a discounted rate - we are now on the market rate. It looks as if cash and envelope giving will be a little higher this year. Rents are up, thanks to Brian Taylor. Peter said he expected the deficit to be £11,000 this year, which includes the cost of the choir vestry roof, so it makes a big hole in our reserves. Our Circuit Assessment will be reduced by £2,000 next year, so Peter expects a surplus next year.

Stephen thanked Peter and said he was grateful for all his accounting, and he thanked those who dealt with the money in the vestry each Sunday.

The current Officers were willing to stand again and were duly elected as follows:

Treasurer	Peter Foster
Secretary	Kathleen Taylor
Church Life Chairman	Peter Foster
Pastoral Secretary	Brian Grinham
Property Chairman	Jeremy Foster
Property Secretary	Sandy Aitken
Jnr. Church Leader	Joanna Wright
JMA Secretary	Diane Foster
Snr. Communion Steward	Elizabeth Amah
Safeguarding Officer	Lorraine Bendon

Representatives to the Circuit Meeting are:

Peter Foster, Barbara Foster, Susan Ruckes, Brian Taylor.

Deputies: Diane Foster, Peter Sharp.

Stephen reported on the recent Circuit Meeting. (See separate written report.)

The Church Council next meets on Thursday 8th October 2009.

KATHLEEN TAYLOR

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Church Meeting was held on 15th March, following the Sunday morning service. Anne and Ian Warden, retiring as senior stewards, were thanked for their diligent service over the past year and Brian Taylor, who is also retiring as a steward, was thanked for his faithful service. Our minister, who chaired the meeting, said that we depend on the stewards more than we realise and what they do is greatly appreciated. Hilary Stevens and Brian Grinham have agreed to take on the role of senior stewards for one year, supported by Joel Inbakumar and Diane Foster and they were elected and thanked.

Michelle Garner and Janet Wragg were elected to serve on the Church Council together with the existing representatives, and they were thanked for offering to serve on the Church Council, which is the governing body of the church. The retiring stewards, Anne, Ian and Brian were also elected to serve on the Church Council as church representatives.

Stephen expressed thanks to all those who had contributed in any way to the production of the Annual Report, and to all those who serve the church in many different ways. The Mission

Statement, which is in the Report, is about who we are and what we do as a church, and by and large the Report reflects how the Mission Statement is being put into practice. We can always do more, and better, but we work within our resources. People do join us, and over time the church strengthens and grows.

Brian Taylor reminded the meeting that in our Five-Year Plan we identified the need for a mid-week meeting, to be a spiritual powerhouse, charging us up. The Tuesday Meeting was established for Bible study, discussion and devotion. Attendance varies between ten to twenty people. The membership sessions were successful, and at present we are attending the combined Lenten Services based on the Psalms. We have talked about the right form for the Tuesday meeting. What form could it take? Brian gave examples of the approach taken by other churches, and posed the question 'what should we do about the weekday meeting here - a spiritual powerhouse? If you don't attend, what would suit you?'

Stephen thanked Brian and endorsed all he had said.

KATHLEEN TAYLOR

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING LUNCH

The lunch which was served in the Hall following the Meeting, was very enjoyable. Thankyou to everyone who cooked or shopped or cleared up afterwards. We are able to send £90.40 to **Christian Aid**, thanks to your generosity.

FLOWERS

The arrangers will be very pleased to receive small gifts towards the Easter Flowers for the Church. No gifts are too large or too small for the Flower Fund. A big Thankyou to all our generous members who give the flowers on various Sundays during the year. It is much appreciated CES

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

We are taking part in the Lenten meetings with other local churches until after Easter, but our first meeting will be on May 5th when Miss Janet Tweedale will tell us about her work.

BEETLE DRIVE

The Beetle Drive which was held in March was very enjoyable, and raised £180 for Junior Mission For All. Thankyou Diane for organising it, and preparing a delicious tea. (So I hear!) I was sorry to miss it this year, but had three things to do on that day!

Diane wants to express her thanks to all who came to support the event and those who gave donations.

EASTER CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 11TH. APRIL - 10.00 am TO 12.30 pm

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

Hot cross buns Tea, Coffee & Crafts in the Hall

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!

ARRIVALS

A glimpse of a familiar shape
Out of the corner of my eye, and
Suddenly my heart leaps in
Delighted recognition - they've
Arrived. After the months of
Watching the pavement lest I slip,
Hunching myself against the cold,
It's time to open up to gentle warmth,
And scan the skies for confirmation.
There they are, in growing numbers
Curving and swirling through the air.
One swallow may not make a summer,
But he definitely makes it spring.

From "Watching for the Kingfisher" by Ann Lewin

DIARY APRIL 2009

- WED 1 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Revd. Stephen Normanton
- THURS 2 8.00 pm Choir Practice
- SAT 4 10.00 am - 12.00 noon **HOLY WEEK COFFEE STOP** - (*See separate notice*)
- SUN 5 PALM SUNDAY**
 10.45 am Revd. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All Age Worship & Learning
 6.30 pm Revd. STEPHEN NORMANTON
- WED 8 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Frank Sayers & "Olivet to Calvary"
- THUR 9 8.00 pm **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
 Three Churches' Communion at The Drive Church
- FRI 10 10.00 am **GOOD FRIDAY**
 Meditation on the death of Jesus - led by Frank Sayers
- SAT 11 10.00 am – 12.30 pm Junior Church Easter Celebration - (*see page 5*)
- SUN 12 EASTER DAY**
 9.30 am Easter Communion led by Rev. Stephen Normanton
Communion collection for Age Concern in Redbridge
 followed by Hot Cross buns and Coffee
 10.30 am Decorating the Easter Cross with Spring flowers
 10.45 am Mrs. PHILIPPA NORMANTON
- WED 15 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Oliver Behan – Travels in Australia and New Zealand
- THUR 16 8.00 pm Choir Practice
- SUN 19 10.45 am Mrs. STELLA ALLEN**
Material for May Newsletter due in today
- WED 22 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - (*to be arranged*)
- SUN 26 10.45 am Dr. LEELA KNIGHT**
- TUES 28 1.00 pm Church Lunch
- WED 29 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - (*to be arranged*)

MAY

- SUN 3 10.45 am Morning Worship**
 6.30 pm Evening Service

**Material for the MAY Newsletter should be given to
 Barbara Foster by Sunday April 19th.**