

MAY 2009

THANKS TO ANNE AND IAN

Three of our present Stewards are stepping down from the end of April and, on behalf of the remaining Stewards, the Church Members and the congregation, I would like to thank Anne & Ian Warden and Brian Taylor for their service and dedication during their years as Stewards. All three, during their time in office, have been joint Senior Stewards with Anne and Ian holding that position for the last three years.

The two remaining Stewards, Diane Foster and Joel Inbakumar, are being joined by Hilary Stevens and myself, for a period of one year, as joint Senior Stewards, BRIAN GRINHAM

EASTER SATURDAY CELEBRATION

Our Easter Celebration was a really joyous occasion. Although the weather was grey and dull everyone who came along to the morning seemed full of the joys of Spring. It was great to see Louise, Matthew and Robert back from university and wonderful that they came along to help. (It was like a Quaver reunion.)

Kay Whiddon and Suhki from the Pre-school came and ran a stall which was much appreciated. Philippa and Susannah had some wonderful crafts and Philippa's Godly play at the end of the morning was lovely. Michelle made Easter baskets, Lorna, Alice and Florence made chocolate nests. Kathleen made her beautiful Easter garden and Tim and Jenny were fantastic goalies in the Cranbrook room. All the ladies in the kitchen supplied everyone with refreshments and did a marvellous job.

The farm animals stopped the traffic on The Drive and delighted everyone who held, stroked or looked at them. The white duck looked good for its age of 36, and I may have to revise my menu at Christmas after stroking the big brown turkey and seeing how friendly it was!

There were so many people who helped at the Easter Celebration that I can't thank them all by name. I will just say one big 'thank you' to everyone who came along and supported the morning.

JO WRIGHT

YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT PHILIPPA DID ON EASTER DAY!

She cut one of the members of the congregation's tie in half! Poor Roy was invited to help the preacher during the service and that's what she did to him. I couldn't believe it. On the other hand, I think it might have been a 'put up job' and Roy deliberately wore a tie he didn't like.

This was the innovative way in which our preacher on Easter Day, Philippa Normanton, helped us to reflect upon how those present after the Resurrection would have told the story of what they had seen or heard. The women at the graveside, who saw the empty tomb, believed that Jesus had risen from the dead. The disciples, who saw Jesus on the road did not even recognise him initially, but in the end the early Christians did believe in the miracle of the Resurrection.

Throughout the service the statement

'ISN'T THERE A MIRACLE HERE? FIND OUT'

was displayed at the front of the church.

We were then shown that the statement when re-arranged becomes

'I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE'

Which is the true miracle of what we celebrate during Easter.

Photographs from our Easter celebrations, as well as reports, can be seen on the church website
ANNE WARDEN

HOLY WEEK COFFEE SHOP

Following the success of Operation Coffee Stop in the three Saturdays before Christmas, we decided to offer coffee and hot cross buns to people waiting at the bus stop on the Saturday before Palm Sunday.

Passers by and people waiting for the bus were not only given a hot cross bun, but also a card containing the details of our Holy Week services and an explanation of the meaning and significance of hot cross buns.

The event was a great success. We ran out of hot cross buns and Jo had to make a quick dash to the shops to get some more. We also ran out of the cards we had made but luckily we were able to replace them with the flyers which we now produce for all the community groups before each major festival. In the end nearly 60 hot cross buns were given out.

Perhaps the greatest thrill was that one lady who normally attends another church, thought that this was such a lovely gesture that she attended our service on Palm Sunday.

The event was well supported by members of the congregation and Jo Wright arranged the catering. Thank you to those who gave their time and supported so willingly. Pictures of the event can be seen on the church website.

To visit the Church website go to <http://www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk> ANNE WARDEN

FLOWER ARRANGERS

We are very sorry that **Audrey Runeckles** has decided, rather reluctantly, to stop arranging the Church Flowers. We want to thank her for her many years of devoted service. We shall miss her participation in this most soothing of pastimes! Anne Dellow, who has been helping Audrey recently, has agreed to take her place on the rota, and for this we thank and welcome her. Don't forget to put your name down on the list in the porch when you are celebrating or sorrowful and also to let us know of anyone who would welcome a gift of flowers from the Church. C.E.S.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

It seemed a long gap since Christmas but now we are raring to be off again. **Miss Janet Tweedale**, who appears on our Plan and comes to the Women's Fellowship, will be speaking about "My Working Life". Do come. Lifts and refreshments are always available.

Anne & Ian Warden are coming to our June 2nd. meeting to tell us, with illustrations, about their trip to Australia last summer.
THE COMMITTEE

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 10th. to 16th MAY

Our Christian Aid Service will be held on **Sunday May 10th** and will be led by **Mr. Albert Grant**. Envelopes will be available for your contributions to the special and valuable work of Christian Aid..

See the separate notice of the Christian Aid Concert on May 9th.

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Lord Jesus, you were anointed to bring good news to those who felt no good news,
to proclaim freedom to those imprisoned by injustice,
and recover health and wholeness to all the world.
You took up the cause of the oppressed.
You proclaimed the year of the Lord's favour.
At the heart of your ministry was action.
Remind us of the unlikely group of people you gathered around you to perform your work of love,
and empower us to bring your good news so your kingdom will come and your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

ARE YOU BURNING?

At one time a euphemism for wasting money was the expression 'burning pound notes'. You can't of course do that now as we only have pound coins and even if you heat them sufficiently they would only melt! However there is still a good way to discard pound coins – by not completing a gift aid form if you are a tax payer. Let's face it most of us are tax payers these days even if it's only in a small way. Your gift only has to be £4 in a year and not gift aided to waste a pound. Even small amounts waste pounds!
ANON

PROPERTY WORK MORNING

May I remind everyone that our next Property Work Morning will be on **Saturday 16th. May** at 10.00 am. Help is requested, please. JEREMY

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM

A meeting took place on Wednesday 18th. March to discuss "Recognizing the importance of women in influencing and shaping our society". The Gloucester Room at Ilford Central Library was packed to capacity, mostly with women but there were a number of brave men.

The Revd. Rosemary Enever, the vicar of St. Andrew's, spoke of her life as a wife, mother, grandmother and the changing attitudes over the years to her as a woman vicar.

There was group discussion on given questions with a summary at the end. The whole evening was very well organised by Redbridge Faith Forum Management Committee. I consider myself very fortunate to be a woman living in England in 2009. I felt that some attending the meeting did not appreciate how lucky they are.
SUSAN RUCKES

ILLUSTRATED "MESSIAH"

On Sunday 15th. March another "Big Sing" took place at Westminster Central Hall to mark the 250th. Anniversary of Handel's death. An augmented choir of about 120 sang excerpts of "Messiah" and the audience/congregation joined in with hymns, some of which had tunes by Handel.

We were all invited to observe the tradition of standing up for the "Hallelujah" Chorus and many of us took the opportunity to sing with the choir. (Of course we know the words!!) The

Westminster Praise Orchestra played superbly, and it was a joy to hear the soloists, especially the two sopranos.

SUSAN RUCKES

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together
in unity!

It is as the dew that descendeth upon the mountains of Zion;
for the Lord commanded the blessing, even live for evermore.

(from Psalm 133, verses 1 and 3 – Authorized version)

DIARY

MAY 2009

SUN 3 10.45 am Revd. STEPHEN NORMANTON - All-Age Worship & Learning
6.30 pm Revd. STEPHEN NORMANTON

TUES 5 8.00 pm Church Fellowship - Janet Tweedale

WED 6 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship – Revd. Stephen Normanton

THUR 7 8.00 pm Choir Practice

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

SAT 9 7.30 pm New Redbridge Wind Orchestra Concert - The Drive Church Hall

SUN 10 CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10.45 am Mr. ALBERT GRANT

6.30 pm

Circuit service at Old Dagenham for Krystyna Hebb, who will be commissioned as a Circuit Pastoral Worker

TUES 12 8.00 pm Tuesday Meeting - "Ideas" Meeting

WED 13 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship – Miss Susan Ruckes

THUR 14 8.00 pm Choir Practice

SAT 16 10.00 am Work Morning

SUN 17 10.45 am Miss CHERYL BENFIELD
Material for June Newsletter due in today

TUES 19 1.00 pm Church Lunch
8.00 pm Tuesday Meeting

WED 20 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship – Frank Sayers with 'GFH'

THUR 21 8.00 pm Choir Practice

SUN 24 WESLEY DAY

10.45 am

Mrs. PHILIPPA NORMANTON

SUN 31 PENTECOST

10.45 am

Revd. STEPHEN NORMANTON - Family Communion
Collection at Communion for Christian Aid

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TUES 2 8.00 pm Church Fellowship – Anne & Ian Warden talk about their visit to Australia - (Page 3)

WED 3 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship – Revd. Stephen Normanton

Will you please let Barbara Foster have items for the June Newsletter by Sunday May 17th.

CIRCUIT CALENDAR

MAY

Saturday 2 nd	6.30 pm	Old Dagenham	Quiz Night
Sunday 10 th	6.30 pm	Old Dagenham	Circuit Service for Krystyna Hebb
Saturday 23 rd	10.0 am	Old Dagenham	Flower Festival

JUNE

Saturday 6 th	10.30 am	Beacontree Heath	Summer Fete
Sunday 14 th	2.30 pm	Stratford New Town Sports' Centre	Circuit Mission & Social Responsibility Event followed by worship at Gantshill Church
Saturday 20 th	11.00 am	Old Dagenham	Jumble Sale