

OUR MINISTER SAYS

Mothering Sunday falls on 14th March. ‘Mother Church’ is the traditional theme for this particular Sunday and we mark the day accordingly. Mother Church has many different meanings. It might be that we identify the church where we grew up as Mother Church, or it may be that we think in terms of the global community of Christians spread throughout the world as Mother Church, being the body of Christ. John Wesley recognised the global nature of the church when he said, ‘The world is my parish’.

The world was indeed John Wesley’s parish as Methodism has since become a principle Church throughout the world. According to the BBC website (http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/methodist_1.shtml) There are Methodist Churches in nearly every country in the world and global membership numbers some 70 million people. There are more Methodists in the world than the population of the United Kingdom!

One of the first areas of the world to embrace Methodism was the Caribbean. This year celebrates 250 years of Methodist work in that region. In 1758, Nathaniel Gilbert, a plantation owner from Antigua, arrived with two slaves at a house in Wandsworth which was owned by his brother Francis. While he was there, an itinerant preacher, the Revd. John Wesley, visited on a number of occasions. It was not only the Gilberts who were impressed by Mr Wesley’s message, Nathaniel’s slaves also responded and were baptised by Mr Wesley. In June 1759, Nathaniel Gilbert and his slaves left Wandsworth to return to Antigua and it was from their preaching and teaching that the Methodist work developed.

Next month at Westminster Central Hall on 24th April there is to be a District Celebration to mark this 250 year anniversary of the work in the Caribbean.

This Mothering Sunday as we think of our own mothers we can also be thankful to God for the Global Mother Church of whose children many make up our own congregation.

Blessings.

Stephen.

MY THANKS

I am very grateful for the kind words I have received following my first production of this newsletter.

Those who have taken the trouble to comment have all told me that they think the reduction in size of the newsletter is an improvement, and I therefore intend to continue with this format.

As to the content, it is only possible to print available information, and for most of this I rely on you the church family to give me the necessary information. This can be as a snippet passed to me so that I can get it developed and written, as an article handed to me for publication, or perhaps an email which can be downloaded straight into the document.

Whichever and whatever you may wish to share with our readers I will be pleased to receive. It is especially important that we can share special events concerning members past and present. It always surprises and delights me to hear that those who have moved on are remembered by those still in our congregation. Please help me to make this a means of communication between those who are known to us and our community, and this church.

If you become aware of anything happening which affects our members, or the area in which we live and worship, please let me know so that I can investigate and report.

For instance, should we comment on the proposals to change the local health care provision.

What do you think of the statement by The Reverend David Gamble, president of the Methodist conference speaking at the Church of England's General Synod, that "We are prepared to go out of existence, not because we are declining or failing in mission, but for the sake of mission".

Roy Brunnen

It is never too early to let me have items for the next newsletter. Items for the April newsletter must be with me by Sunday March 21st.

THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

At our February meeting our organist, Andrew Taylor talked about and played the music that he would take to that now crowded Desert Island. Andrew's selection ranged from Ella Fitzgerald via Stevie Wonder to Mahler's second symphony 'the Resurrection'. (Quite a range – showing a catholic taste in music one might say.)It was a highly entertaining evening.

Because of our Lenten studies with St. Andrew's and Cranbrook Baptist Churches during March and April, our next Church Fellowship meeting will be on Tuesday May 4th. when our speaker will be Mr. John Nicholls, one of our Circuit preachers, who will tell about his work with the Immigration & Asylum Tribunal. Refreshments are always served.

Frank Sayers

BROWNIES – HOORAY – GOOD NEWS

Thanks to the publicity in the Ilford Recorder which was posted on the Church notice boards and pleas in the Newsletter, we are pleased to report that we have two prospective new leaders for our Brownie Pack. One person responded to the Recorder article and one of our own, Angela< showed interest when she saw the poster and was spoken to in Church. When they met at the Brownie meeting they realised they knew each other which is an added bonus when you are starting a new venture.

John Taylor. Group Chairman.

SUNDAY 30TH JANUARY – NOTES FROM MY DIARY

What's Under Your Feet

Yesterday some members of the Scout and Guide Executive met for a convivial meal and amongst the chat an interesting story was told. Andy and Sarah Marriott had not rushed to replace the carpet in their living room when they moved in, but when the children had grown up a bit it was time to replace it. When they removed the old carpet they revealed old newspapers lining the floor – a practice that was familiar in the 'old days'. Of course, they began to peruse the pages of an old Ilford Recorder. A vigilant Mum, Pat Marriott spotted a familiar name – Haynes. It was a report of the funeral of Alfred Haynes (a founder member of Eastern Avenue Methodist Church), Maggie (Fudge) Smith's Grandfather. It was duly saved and shown to Maggie, who was also dining with us. You never know what is under your feet

An added coincidence - When we came into church this morning there was a beautiful display of flowers arranged by Catherine which were given by Maggie in memory of the Fudge and Haynes family.

Audrey Taylor.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE PROPERTY MORNINGS.

The occasional Saturday Property mornings are an essential part of the ongoing maintenance of our premises. This year, we are again publishing the dates well in advance so that our supporters can mark their diaries.

The dates are as follows:

20th March

8th May

26th June

25th September.

Mornings start at 10am and run through to lunch, but please come along when you can. Tasks range from light cleaning to gardening to changing light bulbs. As ever support is requested and appreciated.

Jeremy Foster.

EASTER FLOWERS

Donations towards the Easter Flowers to decorate our church would be warmly welcomed and gratefully received by Catherine Sayers.

On Sunday 7th February we were all asked to indicate our thoughts about our church. The written response I have seen says the best aspects of church life is the variety of activities, and broad range of preachers, the choir and organ music.

It was suggested that there be a series of sermons based on a book in the bible thereby following one theme for a few sermons at a time.

The best activity we engage in is the handing out of mince pies at Christmas, and hot cross buns at Easter.

That if members of the congregation were to undertake a small task or duty they would increase their sense of belonging to the Church family.

LENTEN STUDIES



From the ram to the lamb

will take us on a journey to discover some ways in which Jesus fulfils Old Testament prophecy and the sacrificial system.

ASH WEDNESDAY 17th FEBRUARY - 8.00 SERVICE at ST ANDREW'S - THE DRIVE

In Session 1 Tuesday 23rd February - we will look at the story of Abraham and Isaac and the substitute sacrifice. We will understand more of the promises and mercy of God.

In Session 2 Tuesday 2nd March - we focus on Moses, the Passover Lamb, and the protection afforded by the blood of the lamb. Our studies will give us glimpse of the glory of God.

In Session 3 Tuesday 9th March - we take a closer look at the sacrificial system, considering why it was needed and what was achieved. In so doing, we will learn more of the grace and righteousness of God.

In Session 4 Tuesday 16th March - our subject will be John the Baptist as forerunner of Jesus and the identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God, which will point us to a deeper appreciation of the love of God?

In Session 5 Tuesday 23rd March - we shall turn to the death of the Lamb - the permanent solution to the problem of sin - and what that reveals of the holiness of God.

ALL 5 SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH - THE DRIVE

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 1st APRIL - 8.00 at METHODIST CHURCH - THE DRIVE



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

Our annual JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA (and raffle)

will be held on:

SATURDAY 20th MARCH 2010

2.30 pm for 3 pm START

THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Adult: £4; Child: £2;

Family: £10 (2 adults, 2 children under 18)

All profits go to JMA (Junior Mission for All)
raising funds for projects both at home and abroad.

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



Come and join the United Churches of Ilford
A Service of Prayer and Worship at
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH,
THE DRIVE, ILFORD
at 2.00 pm
Friday 5th March 2010

Guest Speaker: SISTER JAYNE
HORSWILL.

The Worshipful Mayor & Mayoress of Redbridge-
COUNCILLOR THOMAS & MRS. SIM CHAN

Local Members of Parliament & Redbridge
Councillors.

Refreshments and Sale of plants and goods after
the Service

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. (see previous page)

The women's world day of Prayer is held on the first Friday of March every year. Each year the women of the selected country compile the service and this year it is the Cameroon in Africa. The service begins at 2 pm, and many of the churches in Ilford will be taking part. Men are warmly welcomed, a stall with goods for sale will be at the back of the church and refreshments will be available. PLEASE DO COME and learn more about the Christians who live in Cameroon.

Catherine Sayers.

A warm welcome to all who are here for this annual service. Remember the service is taken by ladies but gentlemen are very welcome.

Susan Ruckes

(Spotted in the newsletter of Wesley's Chapel and reproduced by permission)

ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY - "A Word in Time"

If you are a person who uses a computer on a daily basis at work, or at home, you may prefer a web-based Bible Study to a book-based one.

If you go onto the Methodist website (www.methodist.org.uk) on the home page you will find "A Word in Time".

The Bible studies follow the lectionary in the Prayer Handbook and each week there is a different contributor.

There are questions for further study and thought as well as the possibility to give feedback and read the feedback of others.

Give it a go - there is some good stuff there to stimulate your mind and uplift your spirit.

Frank Sayers

WORSHIP LEADERS have been involved in our services for more than five years. In order to make sure their gifts are most appropriately used we are going to have a review of their role and involvement.

This review, to take place at The Drive Church on Saturday 13th March at 10 am

VISITING CHOIR AT THE DRIVE

The Glories of French Music.

On Saturday 13th March, a visiting choir is coming all the way from ---- Barkingside to give a concert of French music at 7.30 pm.

The new Essex Choral Society gave a concert here soon after the removal of the pulpit, some years ago.

The programme will include the hauntingly beautiful Requiem for Organ, Cello, and Voices by Durufle and four Motets by the same composer. The Organist will be Rebecca Taylor. The Durufle motet was sung at the wedding of the Earl & Countess of Wessex. Fours Hymn of Jean Pacine is not to be missed.

Please support this event before the choir returns to its usual venue in--- Barkingside. Tickets priced at £10 (£8 concessions) are available from Brian Taylor on 020 8550 5303.

Susan Ruckes & Brian Taylor.

THE ROAD TO CHRISTIAN UNITY

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity took place, as usual, between 18th and 25th January.

All the half hour services took place at noon in the Hospital Chapel on Ilford Hill. Each service was taken by a different church. The Hospital Chapel took the Thursday service, which was followed by the regular Thursday Eucharist. The theme this year was "Witness" and the familiar story from Luke chapter 24, The Road to Emmaus. Each preacher took a different aspect from the excellent accompanying booklet.

On Thursday Father Barnes deviated slightly from the theme. He warned us that Christianity is under threat, not from other faiths, but from secularism. Certain politicians and people in the media are attempting to undermine Christianity.

On Sunday afternoon there was a united service at the Salvation Army in Clements Road. When sharing the peace, we were asked to find someone we did not know. This was not easy for most of us who had attended the Hospital Chapel services. One piece of sad news united us more than almost anything else. That was the death of Peter Foley. (see next item)

Susan Ruckes

PETER FOLEY

The death of historian and campaigner, Peter Foley, was announced during the week of prayer. Peter was a member of St Peter and St Paul's Catholic Church. He was one of the original guides at the Hospital Chapel, and had written books about both places.

On Friday 29th January about two hundred people attended the funeral at St Peter and St Paul's. Father Tom Levin had "taken" his parishioners and preached at "their" service of unity in the Hospital Chapel the previous week. Father Levin officiated at the funeral service.

Father Barnes gave the homily. He talked about Peter's ability to communicate his vast knowledge of history, how he kept listeners spellbound and of his love of the Essex countryside. It was an inspiring address. Father Barnes reminded us that we were there not only to think of our loss but to commend Peter to the Lord.

Susan Ruckes.

From other Church bulletins

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

What's on this Month

Tues	2 nd	10. Am Morning Communion, 8 pm	Lenten studies Session 2. at The Drive Church
Wed	3 rd	2.30 pm 8 pm	Women's Fellowship Circuit meeting at The Drive Church
Thu	4 th	8 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	5 th	2 pm	World Day of Prayer. The Drive Methodist Church
Sat	6 th	10 am	Creative Church
Sun	7th	10.45 am	Mr Ian Sheach. All age worship & learning. Followed by the Annual General Church meeting, and lunch.
Tues	9 th	8 pm	Lenten studies session 3. At The Drive Church
Wed	10 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	11 th	8 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	14th	10.45 am	Mrs Small-Byam. Mothering Sunday.
Mon	15 th	8 pm	Pre School management committee Evening Prayers
Tues	16 th	8 pm	Lenten Studies session 4. At The Drive Church
Wed	17 th	2.30 pm 8 pm	Women's Fellowship Church Life Committee
Thu	18 th	8 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	19 th	10 am	Coffee in the park, at The Gardeners cottage Cafe, Valentines Mansion.
Sun	21st	10.45 am	Mrs Grace Smith. Passion Sunday
		Tue 23 rd 8 pm	1 pm Church Lunch Lenten Studies session 5 at The Drive
Wed	24 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	25 th	8 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	28th	10.45 am	Mr Timothy Nicholls. Palm Sunday.