

The Drive Methodist Church

Newsletter

April 2010

A Message from our Minister.

The reason why Easter moves its date each year is because it tracks the Jewish Passover. It was the occasion of the Passover was when Jesus celebrated the festival with his disciples in the upper room, the night before he died, and what we now recall as the Lords Supper.

There are many symbolic relationships between Easter and the Jewish Passover. The Passover is a festival that reminds the Jews of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The story of Moses and the ten plagues of Egypt gives the account of how following the tenth plague the Pharaoh told the Israelites to go and leave the country. The tenth plague was the plague of death. The story in Exodus chapters 11 and 12 tells of how each first born would die.

Every first born son in Egypt will die from the first born son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the first born son of the slave girl, who is at her hand mill, and all the first borne of the cattle as well. There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt – worse than there have ever been or ever will be again. But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any man or animal.

The story goes on to say how the Israelites households were given instructions to make a sacrificial offering of a lamb and sprinkle its blood on their doorposts and all those households so covered by this blood of the lamb would be saved. They were, and then they were told to leave the country by the Pharaoh as his people all suffered.

Many of our Good Friday Hymns make obvious parallels with Jesus being the lamb of God, sacrificed for us that we might be saved through his blood.

The meaning and significance of the death of Jesus is interpreted in many ways by Christians but, however we chose to interpret the event, it cannot be done so without reference to the meaning and significance of the resurrection. As Jews celebrate the Passover and remind themselves of Gods liberating power so Christians celebrate Easter day as it is through the resurrection that we proclaim Christ's victory over sin and death which gives us a peace of forgiveness and hope of Heaven.

Have a Great Easter.

Stephen

From the Editor.

Another month has passed and here I am already preparing my third newsletter, when it seem only a few days since I started. Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself.

On way you can help us all to enjoy the newsletter is by those of you who have a story to tell getting it down on paper or onto your computer and sending it to me in good time for me to get it into the next edition.

My sincere thanks to those of you who have done just that, and all those who have commented on the smaller size of the newsletter. I seems to have been accepted by you all.

During the coming months no doubt many of you will be travelling the country on holiday or visiting friends and relatives, so why not take them a copy of our newsletter and asking them to let you have one from their church. At the end of the summer I will display them in the church so that we can get a flavour of how churches are doing at this time, what events they run, and how they communicate with their church family and local community. You never know, we may get some ideas for future events, and community outreach from their productions. We may also of course give them an idea or two from ours.

Roy Brunnen.

BEETLE DRIVE.

Diane would like to thank everyone who supported the JMA Beetle Drive and tea on March 20th and those who kindly made donations. Once again it was a successful afternoon raising a total of "225 for JMA funds. The winners were: Under-13s – Patrick Behan: over 13s – Audrey Taylor. Congratulations to them both.

Many thanks, Diane

It is Confession Time!

I must apologize to Andrew, our organist, who sent me his piece for the Annual Report, only 15 minutes after the deadline, and by no means the last item received. Unfortunately the fact that I received it did not ensure that it finished up in the report! To make amends, I have reproduced Andrew's offering below, which I am sure you will read with interest. Good job I will not be doing it next year!

Brian Grinham

Music at The Drive

I'm writing this having just got back from this year's Small Choirs Festival. Six of us from The Drive took part, as part of a choir of just over 50 representing 12 different churches. The setting was the splendid 1990s Catholic church of St George in Walthamstow, and we were reminded of the importance of the part music plays in worship, and how we need to be grateful to those who keep musical traditions alive. Inspirational stuff. And the 2011 Small Choirs Festival will be in our church at The Drive.

So I start by thanking those at The Drive who play their part, large or small, in our music-making – and it's all of us! Our choir, which meets on around 30 Thursday evenings each year to practice music for Sundays and festivals. Frank, who steps in to play the organ willingly when requested. And the minister, preachers, stewards and congregation who sing each week, songs old and new, and support the work of our church musicians.

This last year saw the first of our occasional mid-week musical evenings. 65 people gathered in the church to sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah, part of the BBC's *Sing Hallelujah* campaign. A good proportion of them had never sung anything like it before, and the after a short rehearsal, the resulting performance was quite extraordinary. A true community performance, with an all-aged mixture of church members, friends and some who had never been inside our building before. More to come this year, we hope.

We also hope to use the coming year to do more musical work with our growing number of young people, some of whom featured in our Christmas services.

Andrew Taylor.



SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP QUIZ EVENING

74 friends joined us for an evening to test their knowledge of Peter's searching questions and enjoy Lorraine's tasty supper. Our thanks to all who supported us and particularly Peter and Lorraine for all their hard work.

We raised £451 which will go towards the cost of the refurbishment of the Scout Hut. The new lighting has already been installed. Of this total we were pleased to donate £65 to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the young) in memory of James Haggerty, Lorraine and Peter's nephew.

John Taylor. Group Chairman.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 5TH March 2010.

This year's service was arranged by the Christian women of Cameroon, one of the smaller countries in Africa. Our speaker was Sister Jayne Horswell, an Ursuline nun, who was stationed there for many years.

The service was well attended by both women and men from churches in South Ilford. The Mayor and Mayoress, both Members of Parliament, various councillors and other ministers and priests swelled the congregation. The refreshments were well received and enjoyed and the sale of goods helped to increase the very satisfactory amount raised to help the work done worldwide by the W.W.D.P. Committee.

Thank you to everyone involved.

Catherine E Sayers.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING LUNCH. 7th March 2010.

I wish to thank all those who contributed to making the Lunch such an enjoyable occasion.

Your donations raised £160 which is for Christian Aid.

Catherine Sayers.

MAUDIE SCRIVEN.

Thank you for your kind words, prayers and support during Mum's final illness.

Mum always enjoyed the warm welcome that she received from everyone at The Drive.

It was Mum's wish that instead of flowers at her funeral, money should be donated to a Hospice.

You will be pleased to know that we have donated the following :-

St Francis Hospice	£500.00
Marie Curie Nurses	£200.00
MacMillan	£ 20.00

The nurses provided by St Francis were wonderful, they came every day and some nights.

Marie Curie Nurses attended three nights each week.

My thanks to Stephen and Phillipa for their unfailing support, jokes and prayers during this time.

Thanks also to Frank for his wonderful organ playing, Catherine for arranging the flowers, and Hilary for writing a special prayer.

Mum would have approved.!!

Janet, Jeff & Alec Wragg.

CHRISTIAN AID

Kaye Larbie (Gants Hill) is organising another Christian Aid Concert in our hall, as below.

The new Redbridge Wind Orchestra is delighted to be returning to The Drive Methodist Church Hall to present a concert on Saturday 15th May 2010 at 7.30 pm. The varied programme will include music by Sullivan, Shostakovich and Holst, together with selections from West End hits Hairspray and The Jersey Boys. Tickets are £5 each.

Brian Taylor.

AUTUMN FAYRE

In both the Annual Report and at the Annual Church Meeting our Treasurer explained the need to clear the last few thousand pounds of debt which is still outstanding in our Development Fund. To clear this shortfall the Church Council has decided to hold an Autumn Fayre on Saturday 13 November 2010.

This is intended as a major fund raising event and the Church Council is hopeful that our whole Church community can get behind the Fayre to raise the funds necessary to clear the shortfall. I have agreed to co ordinate the Fayre and I am delighted by the number of positive responses and commitments I have received from people to date.

We are now very much in planning mode and I would like to invite anyone who is interested and willing to support the Fayre to attend an initial planning meeting on Wednesday 21 April at 8.00pm in the Cranbrook Room.

Jeremy.

The Church Fellowship

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 John Nicholls, one of our circuit preachers, who will tell us about his work with the immigration & asylum tribunal. Refreshments are always served. Frank Sayers.



Last year Louise had a temporary work placement at Methodist Church House in London. During her time there she was given the task of researching over 100 Methodist heritage sites all over Britain. She had to obtain up-to-date contact details, opening times, travel directions as well as other local information about the various sites. This involved a lot of Internet research, numerous telephone calls and many e-mails. She then wrote up the text from the pieces of information she collected. It proved to be a long job!



All this data has been used to create the Methodist Heritage Handbook 2010. Endorsed by Prof. Diarmaid MacCulloch, historian, author and presenter of BBC TV's The History of Christianity, this new colourful publication is a comprehensive guide which tells visitors all they need to know about the many historic Methodist places in Britain. It is available now and free of charge to anybody who would like a copy. There are a

few at the back of the Church but I can get more copies if required.

Diane Foster

BEST POEM IN THE WORLD

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp
The thieves liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice
Next to him was my old neighbour
Who never said anything nice

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine
Looking incredibly well

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear your take
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake

'And why's everyone so quiet,
So somber – give me a clue.'
'Hush child,' He said, ' they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT

Remember just going to Church does not make you a Christian any more than
standing in your garage makes you a car. Every saint has a PAST
Every sinner has a future!

Submitted by Ian and Anne Warden.

Portals of Faith

I thought it would be a good idea to tell the members of the Drive Methodist Church about the wonderful legacy they gave to us in the form of the Youth Club in the 50's and 60's. I am of course referring to the era that we attended the Youth Club, and the people that we had the opportunity to meet and form long term friendships with.

I was prompted to write this letter by the remarks of some of my fellow clubbers who I still remain in contact with and I am certain some of the congregation remember. We happy few, Howard Letchford, Peter Turner, Warren Hanlon, Tony Wigzell. and myself Peter James. This is just a sample of the many and varied friendships that we formed and are still meeting together today.

Warren Hanlon's letter to me last year reminded me that we were most fortunate to have the Youth Club to attend; it formed a focal point for some interesting indoor sports like badminton, table tennis, snooker and chasing the girls. Also I should mention the annual concert in which the members of the club participated both on stage and in the wings.

Our concert lighting systems hung like the national grid wires over the roof trusses of the church hall, with Tony Wigzell egged on by Warren Hanlon with useful words such as "Why is that light smouldering Tony' at the same time as balancing on the edge of the roof of the vestibule juggling the amount of power we used so to prevent us from blowing up the mains.

The shows varied in the thespian talent area but we all had such great enthusiasm it really was of no consequence. The chance to work and play together has left us all with a great sense of community that has stood the test time.

Our Minister Harry Parkin was a regular attendee at the club and encouraged us to visit the Manse for a Sunday debate and fellowship. We of course sat in church on occasions usually at the back on the right (because all the girls sat there) sometimes to visit the manse after church and sometimes to repair to the Beehive PH.

Howard and I visited Plymouth the home of Tony Wigzell in early December last year, taking advantage of the reduced fares for us pensioners. We had some minor reservations about meeting Tony after some 42 years absence, but our concerns vanished in the first 5 seconds of our reunion on Plymouth station.

Our conversations ranged over our early lives in general and often returned to the subject of the Youth Club. Tony was a fine host showing us much of

the City of Plymouth; this included an art exhibition covering Joshua Reynolds paintings. This tour of Plymouth took us to the quay side and we saw the Pilgrims Gate, a portal through which the pilgrims passed to join the ships that took them on an adventure of a life time.

Reflecting upon the significance of Pilgrims Gate I found myself reflecting upon the door or portal that gave us entrance to the Youth Club in the church hall. This portal gave club members access to our adventure with others, and provided us with both friendship and guidance. So when you pass this door in future I hope you will see it not just as a portal in to the church hall but an investment of faith by the early church founders in the Drive Methodist Church that to this day is supported and guided by the current Minister and the Church Members.

Last but not least it is the 21st century portal of the Internet in the hands of Warren Hanlon that gave us the link that reunited Tony Wigzell with us after so many years. The Drive Methodist Church and the time given by the Youth Club Leaders is appreciated and remembered with thanks and affection.

Peter James
Brentwood, Essex

Do you have contact with past members of our church ?
If so why not invite them to write to us and share some of their memories.

A DISTRICT CELEBRATION

The Methodist church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) will mark the 250th anniversary of the work begun in Antigua by Nathaniel Gilbert, following a visit to Wandsworth where he heard John Wesley preach.

The celebration will feature VIP guests, music of different styles; Thanksgiving, and a challenge for all.

When ? 24th April 2010.

Where ? Westminster Central Hall

Time ? 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

From other Church Bulletins

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 pm at the First Presbyterian Church.
Please us the large double door at the side entrance.

What's on in April.

Thu	1st	Maundy Thursday	
		8 pm	Rev. Normanton. Evening Service
Fri	2nd	Good Friday	
		10 am	Mr Frank Sayers
Sat	3 rd	10 am	Creative Church
Sun	4th	Easter Day.	
		10.45 am	Rev. Normanton. Morning Communion
		6.30 pm	Rev. Normanton. Evening Service
Tue	6 th	10 am	Rev. Normanton. Morning Communion
Wed	7 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Sun	11th	10.45 am	Mr Alan Ramsden. Morning Service
Mon	12 th	8 pm	Pastoral Committee
Tue	13 th	1 pm	Church Lunch
Wed	14 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	15 th	8 pm	Stewards Meeting in the Vestry
Fri	16 th	10 am	Coffee Morning. The Gardeners Cottage. Valentines Mansion
Sun	18th	10.45 am	Rev. Normanton. Morning Service
Mon	19 th	8 pm	Evening Prayers
Wed	21 st	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Sun	25th	10.45 am	Sister Vera Nicholls. Morning Service.
Wed	28 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	29 th	10 am	Morning Communion

Material for the May newsletter should be with me by Sunday 25th April 2010
at the latest.