

May 2010

OUR MINISTER SAYS

This month we celebrate Pentecost. Pentecost was the occasion when the spirit of God descended upon the disciples empowering them to undertake Christ's work as the Church. Pentecost is always 50 days after Easter Sunday.

Often on Pentecost Sunday we sing the verse *Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me* which perhaps captures our desire to be renewed by God's Spirit. Being renewed by God's Spirit will no doubt mean different things to different people but the concept of renewal has universal appeal because we all occasionally share in common a sense of feeling low or flat, or uninspired, or unmotivated and yearn to be full of bounce and energy and creativity. We need to be careful that we don't just think in terms of God's spirit being associated with vigour and enthusiasm otherwise we might feel God has abandoned us when we don't feel like jumping up and down with glee from dawn to dusk. Similarly we shouldn't feel as though we are being unfaithful to God if we are not walking round with a huge smile on our faces all the time or singing the hallelujah chorus all day.

There are many representations of God's Spirit in the Bible but two of those are the dove and oil. The dove is associated with gentleness and sympathy and oil is associated with healing. Jesus said that he would send to us a Comforter (John 14:26) who is the Holy Spirit. So at Pentecost, it isn't really about how we 'feel' at all, it is about being assured we have a God who will never give up on us and will always be with us no matter what we face in life.

Stephen

A Few Words

Believe it or not, I have not much to say this Month, apart from my thanks to those who supply me with information and articles for publication.

I would ask however if there is anyone who would consider assisting with the distribution of Hymn Books and associated material, and or, greeting those entering our Church for services on Sundays. There is a small dedicated group of us who undertake the tasks, and our manpower requirements are four people to service each service. The old saying that many hands make light work would be true, if there were many hands. The more there is able to offer, the longer the period between “Duties” Please contact one of the stewards if you feel able to help.

Roy Brunnen.

THE CHURCH LUNCH

Because of the regulations which govern the way the Pre-School is run, the Lunch Club members are no longer allowed to be in the Hall premises when the children are there.

Consequently, we have to re-arrange our dates, only using the Cranbrook Room during the holidays. Other dates are planned for the Parlour. These will always be published in the Newsletter and the weekly notices. This is not a happy state of affairs for the Lunch Club organisers, but we have been given no choice.

C.E.SAYERS

FLOWERS

Thank you to all our generous members, who so kindly pay for our weekly display and make donations to the Flower Fund . We would ask you to keep us informed of any folk who are ill or absent (information given twice is better than not at all!) I was sorry to learn that one of our members had not been in Church since before Christmas and not received any flowers. Please help us to keep in touch in this way.

C.E.SAYERS

Buns at the Bus Stop

A few hardy souls were seen chasing people with hot cross buns in their hands at The Drive bus stop!

We handed out 60 buns in all, to lots of different people, who all seemed to appreciate the gesture. Some people were quite happy to stop and chat and it was a good way to show people that we, at The Drive were wishing everyone a Happy Easter.

Thanks to everyone who helped.

Jo Wright

Easter Saturday Celebrations 2010

Thank you to everyone who helped at the Easter Egg Hunt this year. The crafts were amazing, the Easter garden beautiful and the chocolate nests and refreshments delicious!

Lots of people put in a lot of hard work and it was a great morning.

The owls were amazing, even though Amber was misbehaving, and everyone enjoyed the display including the dead chicks and mice!

Thanks go to Diane and Stephen for organising this.

Jo Wright



**TEA AND ART IN THE GARDEN
AT
52 HIGHCLIFFE GARDENS**

On Saturday 19th June at 3 pm I welcome you to join me for afternoon tea in my garden. To enhance the afternoon there will be a display of work by local artist Nicole Antras.

Tea and cakes are complementary but any donations will be gratefully received for the "RAYSIN HOPE" charity.

Anne Dellow

BROWNIE LEADERS FAREWELL

On the Thursday before Easter all the Brownies were joined by their parents, Scout leaders and Executive committee members to give their leaders, Amanda and Beth, a fond farewell. The leaders and parents had provided a lovely spread to add to the party atmosphere.

John, as Chairman, presented Beth and Amanda with Guide commemorative vases in appreciation of the service they had given to the Brownie Pack. This was followed by the Brownies and parents own thanks and gifts.

On behalf of The Drive Scout and Guide Group, John took this opportunity to make a presentation to Rosemary Smith and thank her for her long and loyal service. She had been a Brownie leader first with the 5th Ilford when they met at Cranbrook Park Methodist Church. After Whitfield Court was built on the site they moved, for a while, to Highland school before transferring up The Drive to meet at The Drive Church alongside the 12th Ilford Brownies. Eventually the two Packs merged. Then Kaye Mawson moved away and the one constant in all this time was Rosemary. Although now officially retired and spending time between Ilford and Norfolk she still supports the Pack when needed.

WELCOME We are pleased that the Brownies have two new leaders, Deborah and Angela and we wish them well. Shirley Lander (Pack helper) will continue to give her support.

John Taylor
Group Chairman

AUTUMN FAYRE

A number of people from the Church got together recently to talk about our Autumn Fayre which is on **Saturday 13 November 2010**. I am really pleased with the response to date and I am confident that we will have a good range of stalls and activities on the day.

However, to make the Fayre a real success, we need really good support on the day, so I hope that the date is already marked on your calendar! Secondly, we need items with which to stock the various stalls. Whilst the Fayre is still some 6 months away, we want to start accumulating items for the following stalls:

- Second hand toys (our Pre School have offered to run this stall)
- Second hand books (Doreen & Eddie)
- Bric a brac (Anne Dellow)
- Tombola items (Corrine, Susan & Peter)

Please let me or any of the above people have items which we will store ready for the Fayre.

Jeremy Foster

THE MOSAIC

Should anyone wish to join me in cleaning and scraping the mosaic that is waiting to be prepared ready for display, please join me on Thursday 20th May at 2 pm in the Church.

For your help I promise you cups of tea, home made cakes, and of course lots of chatter!

Anne Dellow.

THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

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 innigration & asylum tribunal. Refreshments are always served.

Frank Sayers.

MOZART AT ST LAURENCE’S

On Good Friday, a number of people who enjoy singing assembled at St Laurence’s for a scratch performance of Mozart’s Requiem.

After a short rehearsal (about 1.5 hours because of Good Friday Services) and a welcome cup of tea, the performance took place with four excellent soloists, a pianist who was a superb “orchestra” and singers who, in some cases, who had never sung the work before. All this was under the expert guidance of the conductor Andrew Taylor.

I had sung the Mozart requiem a couple of week before in front of a large audience that had been frisked before entering the ancient building. There was no security control at St Laurence’s as far as I know. The audience was small but very appreciative. The event was in aid of “The house of hope” in the Philippines.

So what are we doing next Good Friday at St Laurence’s. Their singers and musicians are very much in my thoughts at the moment.

Susan Ruckes

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

About 250 people assembled at 9.45 am at the hospital chapel on Ilford Hill for a service to mark the beginning of the walk.

Father Barnes gave us a starting date of 1123 when Rahere founded St Bartholomews Hospital. This led to the founding of the hospital chapel by Adelicia, Abbess of Barking and 900 years of witness on that site.

On Good Friday there were several stops on the walk, the farthest being outside the Barnabas Centre, within sight of the welcome centre and the Cardinal Heenan centre. We then returned to the Town Hall for the final prayer and message. The Reverend Francis Ackroyd led the walk and spoke at each stop. Others led prayers. The Salvation Army band played at several stops.

Susan Ruckes.

The following was submitted by Josie Jiggins.

When God had made the earth and sky
The flowers and the trees
He then made all the animals
And all the birds and bees.

And when his work was finished
No two were quite the same,
“he said” I’ll walk this earth of mine
And give them all a name

And so he travelled earth and sea
And every where he went
A little creature followed him
Until his strength was spent

When all were named upon the earth
And in the sky and sea

The little creature said Dear Lord
There's no name left for me.

The father smiled and softly said
I've left you till the end
I've turned my own name back to front
And called you Dog my friend.

LATE NEWS - CONGRATULATIONS TO JENNY RUNECKLES

Jenny ran in the Mini Marathon on Sunday and recorded a time of 23 minutes 48 seconds for the 3 mile course. She came 127th out of 213 within her age group (15-17), and 352nd out of 684 in the overall girls.

Because she only qualifies every other year she always seems to be one of the youngest in her age group - she was 14 when she did the trial.
Well done Jenny who picked up yet another medal together with a couple of t-shirts.

The following item was passed to me by Betty Griffiths,
who found it in the Newsletter of Crediton Methodist Church, in Devon,
which is where our past member Pam Murphy now lives.

JOHN WESLEY – FOUNDER OF METHODISM.

With the approach on 24th May of the anniversary of John Wesley's Aldersgate experience, it may be timely to remind ourselves briefly of Wesley's life.

John Wesley was born in 1703 in Epworth, Lincolnshire, the fifteenth child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley. Samuel had been raised in a dissenting academy, but became a high church Anglican and was Rector of the parish at Epworth. Samuel had a turbulent relationship with his flock and when in 1709 the rectory was destroyed by fire, there was speculation that disgruntled parishioners might have been responsible. John was caught in the house but was rescued from an upstairs window. This gave rise to a belief in his family that he had been spared for some special purpose, and later John used to refer to himself as "A brand plucked from the burning."

After School at Charterhouse and University at Christchurch Oxford, Wesley was ordained in 1728 as a priest within the Church of England. Previously elected a fellow at Lincoln College, from 1729 he participated in a Religious study group (The Holy Club) in Oxford organised by his brother Charles, its members being dubbed “The Methodist” for their emphasis on the Methodical and devotion. Its numbers grew, and it began to undertake social and charitable activities.

Encouraged by his years at t Oxford and keen to put the principles of the Holy Club to work elsewhere, Wesley in 1735 accepted the invitation, with Charles, of James Oglethorpe to become a minister in the recently founded colony of Georgia. His two years there were for him a disappointing experience (including a failed love affair) but during so he came in contact with Moravian Missionaries.

On his return to England he turned again to the Moravians and it was at one of their meetings, at Aldersgate Street, London on the 24th May 1738 where he heard a reading of Martin Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans and penned the now famous lines “I felt my heart strangely warmed”, revolutionising the character and method of his ministry.

After his Aldersgate conversion Wesley became involved in evangelistic work. For over 50 years Wesley travelled all over Britain on horseback, averaging 500 miles annually and often preaching 3 times a day, frequently in the open air. He is said to have preached 40000 sermons and to have travelled 250 thousand miles in his life. A relatively small man (he was 5feet 6inches in height), Wesley always had to perch on a chair or platform when he preached. A contemporary describe him as “the last word in neatness and dress” and “his eye was the brightest and most piercing that can be conceived”.

From the beginning Wesley viewed his movements as on with the Church of England and not in opposition to it. As he gained converts around England, however, these men and women grouped themselves together in societies that Wesley envisioned as playing the same role in Anglicanism as the monastic orders do in the Roman Catholic Church. Yet the continual opposition of the Anglican Bishops, coupled with their refusal to ordain Methodist Clergy forced Wesley to move closer to actual separation toward the end of his life. In 1784 John began ordaining ministers himself when the Bishop of London

refused to do so and declared his independence from the Church of England, executing the deed of declaration by which the Methodist society became legally constituted; it was in essence the charter of the Wesleyan Methodists. He reluctantly ordained two men to serve as “Superintendent” for Methodists in North America and extended the practice to providing clergymen for England but very sparingly. Wesley always maintained that he personally adhered to the Church of England.

Methodism had a significant impact on English society. It brought religion to masses of people who through the shifts of population brought about by the industrial revolution, were not being reached by the Anglican Church. In addition, it had a beneficial effect on many within both the Church of England and dissenting congregations. By emphasising morality, self discipline, and thrift to the deprived classes, Wesley has been credited by some historians as being a major force in keeping England free of revolution and wide spread social unrest in his day.

Wesley, always explored, extraordinarily healthy, remained active to the end, preaching his final sermon at an open air meeting just four months before his death on 2nd March 1791. He lies buried in the church yard of the chapel he had built next to his house in London’s City Road.

Material for this article has been drawn from the websites for the Methodist Church, Answers.com, Britannica Concise Encyclopedia, Columbia Encyclopedia and Wikipedia.

Church Diary

Sat	1 st	10.00 am	Creative Church
Sun	2nd	10.45 am	Morning Service. Led by Revd Normanton
		6.30 pm	All Age Worship and Learning Evening Service. Led by Revd Stephen Normanton
Tue	4 th	10.00 am	Morning Communion
		8.00 pm	Church Fellowship in the Parlour.
Wed	5 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	6 th	6.00 am	Elections
		8.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	8 th	10.00 am	Church work morning
Sun	9th	10.45 am	Morning Service incl Baptism Led by Revd Stephen Normanton
Wed	12 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	13 th		Guide Disco
Thu	13 th	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	14 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning at The Gardeners Cottage Valentines Mansion
Sat	15 th	7.30 pm	Christian Aid Concert in the Church. Tickets £5 from Brian Taylor.
Sun	16th	10.45 am	Morning Service. Led by Dr Leela Knight
Mon	17 th		Evening Prayers
Wed	19 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	20 th	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	23rd	10.45 am	Morning Service. Led by Mr Timothy Nicholls
Tue	25 th	1.00 pm	Church Lunch
Sun	30th	10.45 am	Morning Service. Including Holy Communion. Led by Revd. Kenneth Nicholls
		6.30 pm	United Evening Service led by Revd. Stephen Normanton.