

DECEMBER 06 - JANUARY 07

NEW YEAR - NEW BEGINNINGS

Children of all ages are invited to join us for a range of fun activities to welcome in the New Year, on Sunday 7th. January, 2007, in the Church Hall, from 10.45 am to 11.45 am.

There will be crafts, music, drama, Bible stories, chat and much more.

Contact Jo Wright - junior-church@the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk

BARBARA FOSTER Editor

JUNIOR CHURCH

It has been decided that **JUNIOR CHURCH** will in future only meet on the first Sunday of every month. It will coincide with Stephen's "**Whole Church, Junior Church**". We will be inviting all the young people attached to our church to this 'once a month' session. It is hoped that we will recruit more young people and gradually build up our numbers again. These sessions will be held in the Church Hall.

Our first Junior Church after Christmas will be on **JANUARY 7TH. 2007**

JO WRIGHT

NATIVITY & TOY SERVICE – DECEMBER 17TH.

We will be having a '**WHOLE CHURCH NATIVITY**' so please come prepared to take part. If you would like to dress up or bring any props with you, then please do so.

We will also be collecting new toys, books and games for use by the Centre at Loughton where Lorraine works. Please leave them **unwrapped**, but if possible supply some wrapping paper with them. Gifts of money will also be gratefully received.

JO WRIGHT

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

We really enjoyed Derek Wright's most interesting and lively talk in November, relating to his experiences as a piano tuner. (We were pleased to send a donation of £10 to the Musicians' Benevolent Fund in appreciation of Derek's visit.)

Our Christmas Fellowship on December 5th. will be arranged by Barbara. There will be items from the choir, our young folk and others. There will also be refreshments served during the interval.

Do come, and ask for transport if you need it.

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THE TUESDAY MEETING 2007

January 16	<i>No meeting</i>
January 23	Study and Devotions led by Stephen Normanton
January 30	Study and Devotions led by Stephen Normanton
February 6	Church Fellowship - Susan Ruckes with " <i>Have you seen this place?</i> "
February 13	Visitors from the Mosque (to be confirmed)
February 20	<i>No meeting</i>
February 21	ASH WEDNESDAY Service at St. Andrew's
February 27	Start of Lenten Studies at The Drive

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As we did last year, we invite each member of our congregation to write a card to the whole congregation, which will then be displayed on a board in the vestibule. We will not have a posting box at the back of the church, but of course feel free to hand cards to individuals in church, or send them in the usual way!

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PETER MITCHELL writes:

"As I am going to Australia on 26th November until early in the new year, taking in two of the Test Matches, I will not be sending Christmas Cards this year.

I would therefore like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and would appreciate friends not sending cards to me. Peter Mitchell"

We hope that you will enjoy your Christmas Dinner on the beach in glorious sunshine, Peter!

YOUR PRAYERS

Many churches have prayer boards where anyone can place a note asking to be remembered in your prayers - asking us to share their joys and sorrows, worries and concerns. Such a board has been prepared for our new church entrance and all members are invited to use it both for their requests and to support others.

In practical terms, there is a supply of post-its and pens for your use. You are asked to date your request. Requests will be kept up-to-date by removing slips from the board after two weeks unless there is a special or long-term need.

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JMA

Eleven young people were awarded certificates and badges in recognition of the money they had collected during the year for JMA. They were:

Charlotte Alder, Thea Garner, Rochelle Inbakumar, Keana Kwake-Safo, Robert and Susannah Normanton, Jenny and Martin Runeckles, Lorna, David and Timothy Wright. Robert and Martin have both 'retired' this year after collecting for many years. Thank you to both of them.

The total amount raised throughout the year was £684 and my thanks go to everyone who contributed to achieve this splendid result. This figure included £224 raised at the Beetle Drive in March which was dedicated to the JMA challenge of raising £15,000 to go towards a much needed medical centre in the earthquake region in Pakistan. At the JMA service on 19th November we had hoped to hear first hand of the progress of this project and how our money had been used. It was all arranged for Stephen to telephone Bishop Sammy Azariah of the Diocese of Raiwind during the service. Unfortunately, he was not able to get through and on Monday had a very apologetic e-mail from Bishop Sammy to say there had been a breakdown in the telephone system at that time. However, from the Methodist Children website we do know that, although not

completed yet, the land for the centre has been acquired and building work is well under way. Doctors and nurses have also started working in the area.

JMA have taken up a new challenge for next year which we will support at our next Beetle Drive – watch this space!

DIANE FOSTER

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CHRISTMAS CHURCH LUNCH

The Lunch will take place on Thursday 21st. December at 1 pm in the Hall. Coffee will be served between 12 noon and 12.45 pm in the Parlour. The lunch will cost £3, and anyone wishing to come should see Catherine as soon as possible.

Names and money for the January lunch will be collected after Christmas.

MINCE PIES WANTED!

As usual, we would like to serve home-made mince pies after our Carol Service on Sunday evening 24th. December at 6.30 pm. If you can make some, please put your name on the list at the back of the church, by **SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER** and bring the mince pies to the Parlour Kitchen before the service. Thank you.

CATERING COMMITTEE

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WATCHNIGHT SERVICES on DECEMBER 31ST.,
will be held at **Barking** (Refreshments at 10.00 pm & Worship at 11.00 pm)
and at **Barkingside** (service at 11.00 pm)
EVERYONE IS INVITED

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PROPERTY MATTERS

DEVELOPMENT

At the recent JMA service the congregation indicated its support for the further development work proposed as part of our 5 year plan. Although the final decision rests with the Church Council it is good to know that we have support for the proposals. In summary, the scheme is as follows:

- Upgrade the path from the new entrance round and across the front. Paths to match those constructed during the main development. Also to improve the lighting
- Renew the chain link fence
- External redecoration of both buildings
- Refurbish the two toilets adjacent to the Parlour kitchen
- Re surface the car park. (bay markings to include a Disabled bay)
- Convert the central lobby (old Hall entrance) into storage by bricking up the external doorway and remodelling the interior doors
- Make the Hall kitchen doorway compliant with DDA regulations
- Lower the threshold of the Cranbrook Room exit into the Pre School play area

Whilst we have referred to a Phase II development the above work is nowhere near the scale or complexity of the Development successfully completed in 2004. However, the work is expected to cost around £55k. Funding the scheme will be a further challenge and we will again have to apply to external Trusts. We are also hopeful that we will receive some financial support from the Circuit and Central Methodist sources. However, we will need to evidence our own financial commitment. The good news is that we have a surplus of 5k from the 2004 Development. The Development Fund will therefore remain open and we are hopeful that through a combination of fund raising events, support from User groups and individuals that we will be able to raise £25k.

INSURANCE

The Methodist Insurance Co who insure our buildings have recently undertaken a review of the premises. There are a number of requirements that the Property Committee will need to consider, however one of the requirements is that we must not store tables in the passageway near the Choir Vestry. The tables have therefore been moved into the Parlour. Please do not store the tables in the passageway.

HEATING

With the colder months now with us and given the recent rise in gas prices I would ask for everyone's cooperation to ensure that the heating is as efficient as possible. A few things that we can do:

- Please advise John Fordree if your group is not going to meet
- Keep doors closed rather than propped open
- Church door stewards please put the overhead heaters on above both entrances (this actually saves fuel because it reduces the heat loss from the Church)

WORK MORNING

I was very grateful to those who supported the work/gardening morning last month. However, I have to express disappointment that there was not greater support, particularly having made a special appeal in the newsletter. When the Development Committee designed the landscaping scheme we thought very carefully about the garden. We considered planting a no maintenance garden (the sort you see around Tesco car parks), but felt that the Church would enjoy a more attractive garden with flowers. We felt that we would be able to garner support for two or three gardening mornings each year to maintain the beds. We will need to have one or two work/gardening mornings in the spring and I will try to get the dates agreed and published as early as possible.

JEREMY

A MATTER FOR CONCERN

When I presented the Accounts for the year to 31st August 2006 I had to report that overall there was a short fall of income over expenditure of £1775. A deficit of this size is in itself not a matter for great concern but the trends are.

The freewill offerings have remained relatively static over recent years whereas expenses have risen dramatically. The circuit assessment which is the money we have to pay to the circuit to cover the ministers salaries, national insurance, pension contributions, and other circuit expenses will for the year 2007 be £24900 against freewill offerings of a budgeted figure of £23000. There are other expenses charged against the

Church which are of a more general nature but if these are added to the assessment I am sorry to report that this results in an expected deficit of £3900.

As regards the property side the increase in rents as a result of greater use of our premises following the redevelopment and careful husbandry have covered the material increase in the costs of heating, lighting, cleaning, etc. so that this area should break even. Overall however the Church is anticipating a deficit of about £4000 for the current year which is a matter for concern.

The solution lies in the giving by members and friends so I am urging every one to look again at their weekly or regular giving to see if we cannot cover this deficit and so keep us all in a healthy financial position.

PETER FOSTER Treasurer

NCH Slides Evening

I'm not usually able to attend the annual NCH Slides Evening for one reason or another, but this year I was free on October 28th so I jumped in my (new!) car and drove up to church, and am I pleased that I made the effort! If you have never been to one of these events, you may imagine a whole evening of looking at other people's holiday snaps – and yes, there were some, but all well worth watching and with an interesting story behind them. Ian and Anne did wonders for the Australian tourist industry with their pictures alone. But we were also treated to collections of photographs that told no particular story; they were just beautiful images in their own right. We certainly have some very talented photographic artists amongst us, and with the wonders of modern technology to enhance and display the pictures, it made for a fascinating evening's viewing. Add to that the delicious array of cakes and savouries provided by the Sayers family (worth the trip on their own!), and the fact that the whole evening raised money for NCH – well, I'm wondering why the room wasn't packed out. Never mind, we enjoyed ourselves, and you could too – keep the date free in October 2007 and come and see for yourself!

Andrew Taylor

WOMEN'S NETWORK AREA 1. EVENT

Peter Sharp and I attended this event at Westminster Central Hall on Saturday 18th. November. The theme was "New Beginnings". Area 1 includes the Channel Islands, Southampton, East Anglia, South East Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire and "New London" which comprises Sectors 1,2 and 3. Representatives came from all of these, including a coach from Clacton. Various well-known speakers developed the theme of "New Beginnings", and the well-chosen hymns were led by the Walworth Choir.

The offertory was dedicated to "Pellegrino delle Terra" – The Pilgrims of the earth. This project, based in the old quarter of Palermo in Sicily, is working with women who have been trafficked from Africa into the sex trade, and offers hope and practical help in many different ways. The project has encouraged, equipped and enabled 110 women to a new life and freedom.

SUSAN RUCKES

Susan tells me that she and Peter enjoyed their lunch and afternoon tea in the Central Hall's Wesley Café, which was kept open after the usual 4 pm closing time!

Editor

THE WELCOME CENTRE

This is a "DROP-IN" Centre, for socially isolated people, and is run by the High Road Baptist Church. The Communion collection will be taken in support of this charity on Sunday 14th January.

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THE DRIVE WEBSITE

Recently Mike Seviour, Andrew Taylor and I have started work on developing a Church Website. As well as providing information about Church life it will be another means by which we can attract more people into the church. The monthly Newsletter and weekly notices will continue to be the main means of communication within the church but the website will provide us with the potential to reach a much larger number of people.

What will be on the website?

The website is in the very earliest stages of its development but we envisage that it might include an edited version of the newsletter including a 'Message from the Minister', details of services, information on Church organisations, a map, contact details and a virtual tour of the Church. Central to the website will be a focus on prayer, worship and our Christian faith.

Getting involved

We would like members of the Church to contribute items for the website. For example *original* prayers or poetry, favourite Bible passages or hymns with an explanation as to why it is important or its meaning, discussion items on topical issues, personal statements of faith, reports on church events etc. Contributions on the history of The Drive Church, Eastern Avenue and Cranbrook Park would also be welcome.

Many people just use the internet to browse so it is important to keep all items relatively brief and we will need to comply with copyright rules. The website managers will select items for publication and reserve the right to

edit all items. Personal information such as addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses will not be included on the website without permission. Contributions for the website can be handed to any member of the team.

It will be several months before the website is ready to 'go live' but we will display some of the pages in due course

ANNE WARDEN

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REDBRIDGE NIGHT SHELTER

We have received quite a lot of information to do with the Night Shelter - far too much to print in our Newsletter. I thought that the paragraphs below are the right ones to bring to our notice this Christmas-time. The rest is available for you to read on the table at the back of the church.

"CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Christmas starts almost as early in Redbridge Night Shelter as it does in Harrods. We have a small committee of staff and Trustees whose members co-ordinate all the activity which is needed to make sure all our guests have a really good Christmas with us. There are a number of ways our supporters can help with this.

The Volunteer Co-ordinator is looking for volunteers who are willing to cover a shift over the extra days we are open and, in particular, for people who will cook. Present giving at around midday on Christmas Day is a special time and we need people who are willing to come and share this time with our guests. We also need people who will come in and organise some entertainment - card games, competitions and the like - throughout the holiday period. Do get in touch with Deborah at the Shelter if you can help.

We need to find presents for all our guests, some practical, some things which are fun or which can be consumed - for example, chocolate, cigarettes, perfumes. Volunteers to sort and wrap up the presents would be very welcome. Please contact Emma at the Shelter if you have anything to donate or if you can help sort, wrap and so on.

We hope to have our traditional Carol Service at 6.30 pm on Christmas Eve. This is a highlight of the Shelter Christmas. The guests have just arrived, full of expectation and knowing that they will not have to face the streets again for two whole days and nights. All volunteers, supporters and friends of the Night Shelter are invited and the atmosphere is as warm and welcoming as anything you could find in the whole of the Borough. We sing lots of familiar carols, with guests choosing their favourites, and we hear the Christmas message. Afterwards we have fruit cup and mince pies - and we all feel Christmas has begun. Do come along and share this special time with us

Christmas can be a sad and lonely time for people who for one reason or another, are homeless and while we know we cannot take away all the pain which many of our guests feel about their circumstances, we hope that they will feel the warmth of our care and concern for them and be able to look to the New Year with courage and hope.

DIANA ROXBURGH - Vice Chairman

The VALENTINES SINGERS with the SPECTRUM SINGERS' YOUTH CHOIR

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Saturday 16th December at 7:30 pm

**Come and enjoy an evening of seasonal music with carols for choir and audience.
Mince pies and sherry or a soft drink included!**

**Barnardo's Church, Tanners Lane, Barkingside - Tickets £8, £7(seniors), £3(students, benefit holders)
available from Andrew Taylor**

Visit our website - www.valentinesingers.org

DID WE SING YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS?

Here is the list of hymns from Hymns & Psalms which we sang in the year September 05 to August 06.

HYMNS SUNG THREE TIMES-

173	My song is love unknown
264*	Jesus, the name high over all
267*	Love divine, all loves excelling
300*	Father, whose everlasting grace
326	There's a spirit in the air
455	Christ is the world's light
463	To God be the glory
476	Lord, thy word abideth
504*	O heavenly king, look down from above
559	What a friend we have in Jesus
578	This is the day
673	Dear Lord and father of mankind

39 hymns were sung twice and a further 135 hymns were sung once, (lists can be supplied on request) leaving 636 which were not used at all.

The hymns above marked * are by Charles Wesley, the tercentenary of whose birth is 2007, which is being marked by many celebrations up and down the country, including our own at **The Drive on Sunday July 1st at 6.30pm**, joined we hope, by people from other churches in the Circuit. More about that later.

I have heard of one Circuit in which all the preachers are asked to choose one hymn written by Charles Wesley and to say why it has been chosen, for each of the services they conduct in 2007.

Last year I listed a few hymns not sung, which I thought were worth using, three of which were chosen this year! I will list a few more, hoping our preachers might be moved to use them.

337	O Lord of heaven and earth and sea	<i>(the only harvest hymn I know which specifically mentions Jesus Christ.)</i>
343	God in his love for us lent us this planet	
399	Almighty Father, who dost give	
428	There is no moment of my life	
439	I'll praise my maker, while I've breath	
519	Father of heaven, whose love profound	

Now that our own Drive Song Book is in regular use, next year's lists will include songs from that book. As last year, my thanks are due to Mike Seviour, who collated my lists, saving me much laborious work.

FRANK SAYERS

**Sing to the Lord, all the world!
Worship the Lord with joy;
come before him with happy songs!**

Psalm 100

I often wonder where my love of music comes from. Is it genetic? Well, ask my Mum and Dad about that one! My grandfather was certainly a very useful party pianist – he could play most of the popular tunes of the day by ear. Or is it my experience of music-making when I was younger? I'm lucky that I was brought up in Redbridge when music tuition was available to all at little cost. We all learned to play the recorder at school, and from that followed clarinet and piano lessons, and playing in wind bands and orchestras. I went to Germany with the Redbridge Youth Orchestra and my first experience of the Royal Albert Hall was as a performer in the 1980 schools' choral festival.

So is my musical ability a result of nurture or nature? Well the answer as usual has to be a bit of both. And while I could fill this newsletter with an eloquent discourse on what's good and bad about music education in this country today, I want to point to one childhood experience that I'm sure had a lasting effect – singing hymns in church.

Methodists are traditionally regarded as good singers ("Born in song" as H&P 486 puts it), and locally the congregation at the Drive was reckoned to be particularly strong in the vocal department. I can remember four-part singing in the congregation as well as in the choir. Almost everyone enjoys a "good sing" on a Sunday morning and people always have an opinion about the hymns and songs that we sing. In most of our services, the ones where we do not follow a liturgy from the service book, singing is the main visible and audible contribution to worship that the congregation has.

So it makes me think what impression our singing gives to a visitor to our church today. We have spent much time and effort in making our buildings more accessible and welcoming, and we always do a good job in making everyone feel personally welcome and at ease before and after the service. But would a visitor listening to us singing be convinced that we are worshipping the Lord with joy and coming before him with happy songs?

I know that numbers in the congregation are not what they used to be, but that is not a reason to let the singing be lack-lustre. There are some things we can all do to improve the sound we make together, all common-sense and easy to achieve.

As your family Lord, see us here

Sit closer together. Being scattered around a large space is not the ideal way to encourage communal singing!

Stand up, stand up for Jesus

Stand up with the choir as soon as the organ or piano playover begins so that you are ready to sing.

Open, Lord, mine inward ear

Listen to the playover on the organ or piano. It reminds you of the tune, and should indicate the style and tempo of the hymn or song.

Breathe on me breath of God

Take a good deep breath at the beginning of each verse, and usually at the end of each line.

I lift my eyes

Hold your book and head up and sing forwards, not at your feet!

O happy day

Open your mouth and look cheerful! Smiling does actually lift the sound, as well as improving your chances of being on TV if you're ever at a Songs of Praise recording.

And a word about new hymns and songs – they were all new once! Some new tunes are hard to pick up first time, but I always think what congregations must have made of tunes such as Repton (Dear Lord and Father

of mankind), Down Ampney (Come down O Love Divine) or Love Unknown (My song is love unknown) when they were first sung – none of these are easy “four-square” tunes, but all are now among the best-loved hymns of all time. So even if a new song is less familiar, all of the above still applies.
 That’s what I think. How about you? **ANDREW TAYLOR**

<p><i>CHURCH BARN DANCE</i></p> <p>SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2007</p> <p>7.00pm - 10.30pm.</p> <p>Book the date now. Tickets available in January</p>
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<p><i>CHRISTMAS AT THE DRIVE</i></p>
<p>Tuesday December 5th</p> <p><i>CHURCH FELLOWSHIP - CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME</i></p> <p>at 8.00 pm</p>
<p>Wednesday December 13th</p> <p><i>WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - CHRISTMAS MUSIC</i></p> <p>at 2.30 pm</p>
<p>Sunday December 17th.</p> <p><i>NATIVITY & TOY SERVICE at 10.45 am</i></p>
<p>Thursday December 21st.</p> <p><i>CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH</i></p> <p>at 1.00 pm</p>
<p>Sunday December 24th.</p> <p><i>CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE</i></p> <p>at 6.30 pm</p> <p>followed by mince pies in the Church Parlour</p>
<p>Monday December 25th.</p> <p><i>CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE</i></p> <p>at 10.45 am</p>

*We wish everyone a Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year*



AN ADVENT PRAYER

As Christmas approaches,
give us a share of that divine simplicity
enjoyed by Elizabeth and Zachariah,
Mary and Joseph,
and unnamed country folk,
who encountered angels
and believed the Good News
and recognised Christ among them.

From "Cloth for the Cradle"

DECEMBER 2006 DIARY

- SUN 3** **ADVENT 1**
10.45 am **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE - Mrs. PHILIPPA NORMANTON**
(No Evening Service)
- TUES 5 8.00 pm Church Fellowship - Christmas Programme *see page 3*
- WED 6 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
- THUR 7 8.30 pm Choir Practice
- SUN 10** **ADVENT 2**
10.45 am **Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON**
- WED 13 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Christmas music with Frank Sayers
- THUR 14 8.30 pm Choir Practice
- SUN 17** **ADVENT 3**
10.45 am **NATIVITY & TOY SERVICE - REV. MICHAEL MOON**
- THUR 21 1.00 pm Church Christmas Lunch - *see page 4*
- SUN 24** **CHRISTMAS EVE**
10.45 am **Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - FAMILY COMMUNION -**
Collection at Communion for Redbridge Night Shelter
6.30 pm **CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE & CHRISTMAS STORIES with Rev. S. NORMANTON**
- MON 25** **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.45 am **CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE - Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON**
- SUN 31** 10.45 am Dr. LEELA KNIGHT

JANUARY 2007

- THUR 4 8.00 pm Church Life Committee
- SUN 7** 10.45 am **Mr. JOHN NICHOLLS**
10.45 am - 11.45 am **NEW BEGINNINGS in the Church Hall** *see page 2 & 3*
(No Evening Service)
- WED 10 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
- SUN 14** 10.45 am **COVENANT SERVICE & COMMUNION with Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON**
Collection at Communion for The Welcome Centre - see page 6
- WED 17 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship
- SUN 21** 10.45 am **Mrs. BERYL VAUGHAN**
- TUES 23 1.00 pm Church Lunch
- WED 24 2.30 pm Women's Fellowship
- SUN 28** 10.45 am **Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON**

**WILL YOU PLEASE LET BARBARA FOSTER HAVE ITEMS
FOR THE FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER BY
SUNDAY JANUARY 14th.**



CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT THE DRIVE

TUESDAY 5TH DECEMBER 8.00 pm CHURCH FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTMAS programme arranged by Barbara Foster

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 10.45 am
FAMILY, TOY & NATIVITY SERVICE led by
Toy Collection for Loughton Family Centre

WEDNESDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2.30 pm WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTMAS MUSIC, arranged by FRANK SAYERS

THURSDAY 21ST. DECEMBER 1.00 pm
CHRISTMAS CHURCH LUNCH in the HALL

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE 10.45 am
FAMILY COMMUNION led by Rev.S.NORMANTON

6.30 pm
CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE with CHRISTMAS STORIES
led by Rev.S.Normanton

SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER 10.45 am
CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE
led by The Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON