

MAY 2007

Flowers

Thanks to all those who give to the Flower Fund in whatever form; and thank you too, to those generous folk who contributed to the Easter flowers which decorated our Church. I also want to thank Phyllis Spencer for her many years as a flower arranger at The Drive, We wish her (and Phil) much happiness in their new Home. Is the Minster at Wimbourne about to take on a new arranger? Best wishes to them both.

Please add your name to the list in the porch if you have a date you wish to celebrate or commemorate. Finally a big thank you to the few on the arranger's rota, who continue to beautify our Church Sunday by Sunday.

C.E.S

Whole Church Easter Celebration

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Easter celebration. We raised £110. This will be split between JMA and a charity to be decided by our young people.

A big thank you to all the people who helped organise and run the event including the pre-school team. It was good to see some pre-school children there. We also had friends from the uniformed organisations too.

It was good to see Marie Whitcombe a few Sundays ago preaching at our Church. During the service she gave us all a piece of paper with a part of the body on it. We wrote prayers on the back of the paper and then stuck it together to try and make a whole body. It was noticeable to see as we were few in number that Sunday that quite a few parts of the body were missing. Marie's message was that we are all part of the body of the church and we are all missed when we are not there. However great or small we feel our jobs are in the church we are all needed to work together as one body.

Jo Wright

The Spencers are on the move ...

Many of you will know that we have long cherished the idea of moving to Dorset. That is now becoming a reality. Our house on The Drive is sold, and we will be moving out on 1st May.

Although we are negotiating over a new permanent home, that is not yet finalised. In the meanwhile we will be living in what has been our week-end home. It will be cosy in the extreme - which is a very polite way of saying cramped - but we hope to be out again by the end of the summer.

We will miss all our friends at The Drive Church. We have been here 23 years and seen many changes in both our own lives and that of the Church. This is the end of a chapter for us. That unfortunately means that nothing can be added, but it also means that nothing can be taken away. We will take many memories with us.

If you are in Dorset, or passing through for places further west, please let us know. We would love to see you, either for a coffee en route or for a longer stay. We have a guest room even in our week-end home, provided you don't mind sharing with a few crates.

For contact details see the May newsletter

Phyllis & Phil Spencer

Tennis with David!

David has played a lot of tennis over the past few months. During the half term David took part in our local club tournament at Cranbrook Castle. He became the youngest player ever to win the boys 18 and under singles title. He also won the 14 and under doubles with his partner Ashley. Over Easter he took part in a tournament in Paddington and won the boys 14 and under singles and doubles with his partner Marcus. He also played at a club nearer home called Whitehall and came runner up in the 14 and 16 and under singles.

Jo Wright

Well done David – we are all proud of you! Ed

Circuit Mission and Social Responsibility Event 2007

Sunday 17th June at Seven Kings Church at 4 pm onwards including tea and worship.

Stephen writes in the Circuit Directory of May to June:

“In the year which marks 200 years of anti-slavery legislation, the Methodist Church, along with many other organisations, is campaigning to ensure that the issue of sex-trafficking is addressed as a global concern”.

Margaret Sawyer, Women's Network Secretary, will lead the meeting on June 17th. Do support her, and this event, if you possibly can.

Decajazz

Don't forget to get your tickets for the "Dinner with Decajazz" at The Drive Hall, on Saturday 23rd June, 7 pm for 7.30 pm. Proceeds from this event will benefit the 2008 Development Scheme.

Diane, Jeremy or Matthew would be delighted to supply you with tickets.

Tickets £10, Concessions £8, Family £30 (This includes a 3-course meal!)

Don't mention the war!

as the old comedy show said. But on Tuesday 3rd April, Beryl Evans, Peter Foster and I did just that, from three entirely different viewpoints. We were all invited to talk to a group of American students – led on a course by Dr. Jeff Schramm, a friend of Stephen's based at Imperial College, Kensington.

Peter spoke of his time in the Army in France, the push towards Berlin, preparation to go to the Far East (although it never came to pass) and his final demob, two years after the war was over.

Beryl told us about her time in the A.T.S. on gunnery bases and the various parts of Scotland she visited during those years, where she met her husband-to-be Cyril. She also witnessed the arrival of thousands of American troops, landing at Greenock. She praised their kindness and hospitality, and said the British troops were invited to join in many activities.

As the youngest, I spoke of my evacuation experiences, firstly with my mother, brother and sister to a Dorset village near Yeovil where a great-aunt lived. Then after we had returned to Ilford for the birth of my younger brother, three of us went to Henley-on-Thames with Redbridge School. We were well looked after by our landlady and our teachers, and only returned for me to take up my place at Wanstead County High School (as it was then). It was an unfortunate decision, as the blitz started the night we arrived in Ilford.

After listening intently to these talks, the students questioned us closely on various aspects including the influence of Winston Churchill during his premiership. After a very pleasant and interesting morning and a delightful lunch with Dr Schramm, Stephen drove us all home.

Catherine Sayers

From The Stewards

At the recent Annual Church Meeting Diane Foster was welcomed as a new steward. This will be Diane's second term as a steward and we are grateful to her for agreeing to serve for a further term. At the same meeting Hilary Stevens completed her term of office as a steward. Like Diane, Hilary has also completed more than one term as a steward and a Senior Steward. This is a role which she always carried out quietly and efficiently taking a great interest in the well being of all those connected with our church. We thank Hilary for her dedication and care. The team of stewards now consists of Diane, Brian Taylor, Ian Warden and Anne Warden.

All-Age Worship

The All-Age Worship and Junior Church planned for Sunday 1st July will now take place on Sunday 8th July when the service will be led by Phillipa Normanton.

A New Letting

A group from the Restoration Christian Centre will meet in our Church Parlour on Sundays from 1 pm to 3 pm.

AQUABOX

A GIFT OF CLEAN WATER A GIFT OF LIFE

Disasters come in many forms: earthquake, cyclone, flood, refugee displacement etc., but all share a common factor. The most urgent single problem facing the relief agencies is the provision of a supply of safe drinking water. The lack of, or disruption to, safe water supply or sanitation creates an ideal breeding-ground for water-borne disease. Cholera and typhoid are the most virulent of these but they are not the whole story. Often the problem can be a simple infection causing diarrhoea leading to dehydration, especially in the very young.

The church is supporting the Aquabox Scheme which is an official project of Rotary International. Two boxes have already been purchased containing water treatment kits and survival bags. The Aquabox has two functions. It is filled with a selection of useful hardware, hygiene items. Our task will be to fill the boxes with the items from the list supplied with the boxes. Once the welfare items have been removed the Aquabox is used to purify up to 1,100 litres of polluted water, making it safe to drink. As an example, 1,100 litres is 5,000 cups – enough say, for a group of four people drinking ten cups a day for about four months.

Please support this worthwhile cause by placing any items from the list in the boxes in the Church foyer. The list of items required for the Aquabox is shown on the next page. If you would like to donate items please sign the list in the Church foyer to show which items you wish to supply (this is to avoid having too many of one item and none of another !) Items should then be placed in the Aquaboxes in the foyer.

If you would like to find out more about the work of this charity visit their website at www.aquabox.org

Thank you for your support.

Anne Warden

AQUABOX

A GIFT OF CLEAN WATER

A GIFT OF LIFE

Please place any item you wish to donate in the Aquaboxes in the foyer.

Items in *italics* are of particular use.

<p>ESSENTIAL</p> <p><i>Bucket – Strong plastic, rubber or canvas</i></p>	<p>GENERAL SUPPORT</p> <p><i>Childs small toy(s) (Ball or fluffy toy)</i> <i>Needle and cotton (strong)</i> <i>Small strong torch & batteries in sealed pack</i> <i>6 candles & safety matches</i> <i>Children's/teenagers toys</i> <i>Pencils and paper</i> <i>Insulation tape</i> <i>Ball of string</i> <i>Roll of plastic sacks (kitchen/garden)</i></p>
<p>HYGIENE</p> <p><i>4 new toothbrushes</i> <i>Toothpaste</i> <i>Tablets of soap (at least 4)</i> <i>Washing powder or flakes (hand wash)</i> <i>Packs of cotton wool</i> <i>Kitchen roll (one or two only)</i> <i>Sanitary pads</i> <i>Toilet rolls (2 plus)</i></p>	<p>FOR SHELTER</p> <p><i>Hammer & large number of 50mm + nails</i> <i>Pliers</i> <i>String folding knife</i> <i>Rope (12 metres of 7.5mm diameter plus)</i> <i>Garden wire (2mm x 20m plus)</i> <i>Screwdriver & matching screws (cross or slot head)</i> <i>Hand trowel or small shovel</i> <i>Galvanised staples (large, 25 mm plus)</i> <i>Groundsheet</i></p>
<p>FOR THE BABY</p> <p><i>Vests</i> <i>Baby grows</i> <i>Towelling nappies (4 if possible) + nappy pins or hemmed squares of towelling.</i> NOT DISPOSABLE NAPPIES <i>Plastic pants</i> <i>Feeding bottle or cup</i> <i>Safety pins</i></p>	<p>FOR SLEEPING</p> <p>NO BLANKETS PLEASE We provide 4 survival bags with each box Blankets take up too much room</p>
<p>EATING & DRINKING</p> <p><i>Large cooking pan (preferably new)</i> <i>4 bowls & 4 cups (unbreakable, e.g. robust plastic)</i> <i>4 each metal spoons, forks & knives</i> <i>Scissors – kitchen quality</i> <i>Can opener</i></p>	<p>CLOTHING (<i>Clothes should only be used as infill</i>)</p> <p><i>Lightweight waterproofs</i> <i>Baby/children's clothing</i> <i>Ladies/men's clothing</i></p>

Training for Church Stewards

At Harold Wood Methodist Church on Thursday 10th May at 7.45 pm.

Training will be led by Paul Kybird, London District Training and Development Officer.

This one-off meeting is for all Church stewards, newly appointed stewards, or even those thinking about becoming stewards.

Global Day of Prayer Celebrating Pentecost

This will be held on Sunday 27th May between 3 pm and 5.30 pm at West Ham United Football Club's Boleyn Ground.

Tickets £3. Book online at www.gdoplondon.com or 0870 1122700

London Riverside Project

An ecumenical conference to consider a Christian churches and faith communities response to the London Riverside Development. This will be hosted by Rev Ermal Kirby, London Methodist District Chair and Rev David Hawkins, Bishop of Barking, at Barking Methodist Church on Wednesday 23rd May.

Let's sponsor Michelle on the Moonwalk!

Michelle Garner and two of her sisters are to participate in the Playtex Moonwalk 2007. This is a power walk which takes place at night starting and finishing at Hyde Park on 19th May. The moonwalk is in aid of Breast Cancer Research and Michelle will gratefully receive any sponsorship – nothing is too big or too small!

The Drive Scout & Guide Group

PLANT SALE

Saturday 19th May 2007

10am to 12.30pm

Refreshments and cake stall

**Come early for the best
selection**

**We welcome your
homegrown cuttings
and plants**

Food for thought

Good food is the sustenance of life and shared with friends and family is invaluable. This hospitality is what Catherine and Barbara have provided for 25 years with the monthly Church lunch for the senior members of our Church.

These young ladies with Sheila Woodbridge started the luncheon club for the elder members who were on their own. During the early years they were assisted in turn by the Minister's wives, Celia, Ruth and Joan. Sheila moved leaving Barbara and Catherine to carry on. When numbers dropped, couples were invited.

Tuesday was the best day for me to print the Newsletter and sometimes when there was a spare seat I was invited to join the lunch as I was told they liked to have the company of a younger person! Time passes and I am now there in my own right. Amongst the early guests was Mrs. Grinham, Brian's mother, and now he is a regular – there's a thought.

By rights Catherine and Barbara should have hung up their aprons and be served themselves. Congratulations and thanks to you both for sharing your love of cooking and serving many so well for the past 25 years

Audrey T

Jeu d'esprit

Flame-dancing spirit, come,
Sweep us off our feet and
Dance us through our days.
Surprise us with your rhythms,
Dare us to try new steps, explore
New patterns and new partnerships.
Release us from old routines,
To swing in abandoned joy
And fearful adventure.
And in the intervals,
Rest us,
In your still centre.

From Watching for the Kingfisher by Ann Lewin

And finally

If you cannot get to sleep, don't count sheep – talk to the Shepherd.

**Will you please let Barbara Foster have items for the June Newsletter
by Sunday May 13th**

Diary May 2007

Tuesday	1 st	8 pm	Church Fellowship – Pam & Peter Hall from Gants Hill will talk about “Orchids”.
Wednesday	2 nd	2.30 pm	Women’s Fellowship – Rev Stephen Normanton
Thursday	3 rd	8 pm	Choir practice
Sunday	6 th	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Rev Stephen Normanton – All-age worship “Joseph” Rev Stephen Normanton
Monday	7 th		Bank Holiday
Tuesday	8 th	8 pm	Tuesday Meeting – Rev Stephen Normanton will speak on “Church History after the New Testament”
Wednesday	9 th	2.30 pm	Women’s Fellowship- Members afternoon
Thursday	10 th	8 pm	Choir practice
Sunday	13 th		Christian Aid Week
		10.45 am	Rev Michael Moon
Tuesday	15 th	8 pm	Tuesday meeting – Rev Seni Cole - Devotional
Wednesday	16 th	2.30 pm	Women’s Fellowship – To be arranged
Thursday	17 th	8 pm	Choir practice
Saturday	19 th	10 am	Scout & Guide Group Plant Sale
Sunday	20 th	10.45 am	Rev Linda McMurray
Tuesday	22 nd	1 pm 8 pm	Church Lunch Tuesday meeting - Rev Stephen Normanton - Pentecost
Wednesday	23 rd	2.30 pm	Women’s Fellowship – To be arranged
Sunday	27 th	10.45 am	Pentecost. Rev Stephen Normanton. Family Communion. Extra collection for Christian Aid
Monday	28 th		Bank Holiday No Tuesday Meeting or Women’s Fellowship this week

June 2007

Sunday	3 rd	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Rev Stephen Normanton - All-age Worship “Moses” Rev Stephen Poole
Tuesday	5 th	8 pm	Church Fellowship - Frank Salisbury - Methodism's Painter Laureate
Wednesday	6 th	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship – Rev Stephen Normanton

Circuit Calendar for May 2007

Saturday	12 th	2 pm to 4 pm	Goodmayes May Fair, All are welcome
Saturday	19 th and		Old Dagenham Church Anniversary weekend
Sunday	20 th		
Saturday	19 th	3 pm to 8 pm	Old Dagenham Wesley Celebration
Wednesday	23 rd		London Riverside Consultation at Barking (see notice page 7)