

DECEMBER 07 - JANUARY 08

SLIDES' EVENING

Catherine and Frank warmly thank everyone who so enthusiastically supported the Slides' Evening event in aid of the National Children's Home recently. As on previous occasions we saw a wide variety of scenes, and have become quite accustomed to this entertaining electronic wizardry kindly organized by Mike Seviour and his sister Madeline. Together with donations, the evening raised £175.00. Splendid!

"SAMARITAN'S PURSE"

Thankyou to everyone who gave boxes, gifts and donations to the **Operation Christmas Child**.
I dropped off over 20 boxes. Hopefully in the New Year we will hear where they went.

JO WRIGHT

Thanks to Jo, for organising the filling, wrapping and delivery of the "**shoe-boxes**" which were on display in church recently. Jo had to drop them off at Dagenham Motors, but they will be transported to anywhere in the needy world. Thanks to everyone who has filled a box, or made a donation, to help as many children as possible have presents at Christmas.

JUNIOR CHURCH DATES

DEC. 9th 10.45 am **Toy Service** (Please bring a toy unwrapped and some wrapping paper - thankyou)
We will also be giving out **Nativity costumes** to the children.

DEC. 23rd. 10.45 am **Nativity Service**.

JAN. 13th. 10.45 am **Junior Church Service**.

MINCE PIES NEEDED

We would like to serve mince-pies after the Carol Service on 23rd. December. If you are able to make some for this event, please sign your name on the list at the back of the church, and bring them to the Parlour kitchen before the evening service. Thank you. CATERING COMMITTEE

J M A

I was pleased to report at our JMA Service on 18th November that the amount raised by The Drive for the past JMA year was **£640**. Half of this came from donations and fund-raising. Thank you to everyone who supported the Beetle Drive and Easter Egg Hunt. The rest of the money was collected by our JMA members and receiving their badges and certificates were:

Rochelle Inbakumar; Thea Garner; Charlotte Alder; Jenny Runeckles; Timothy Wright; David Wright; Lorna Wright and Susannah Normanton.

Tim also received his Long Service Certificate denoting 7 years collecting – well done to him. Susannah and Lorna have now ‘retired’ after many years so a big thank you to them and families for their support.

Our service led by Stephen started with the dedication of the filled shoeboxes for the Samaritan’s Purse charity and included quizzes where we learnt the populations of the largest cities and countries. With the avid attention of Thea, Rochelle and Charlotte, Stephen then told the story of Jonah pointing out that God cares for everyone, everywhere and that, as with giving through JMA and the shoebox appeal, we can all do our ‘bit’, however small, for the benefit of others all over the world.

Thank you all for your continued support.

DIANE FOSTER

“We all wish to join in Stephen’s thanks to Diane, for all her efforts in obtaining such a wonderful result! Thanks also to the children, for their week-by-week collecting from parents, uncles, aunts and grandparents, as well as friends in church.” Editor

CHRISTMAS CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

We shall be enjoying an evening arranged by **Anne & Ray Dellow** on **Tuesday December 4th** in the Church Parlour at 8.00 pm.

There will be the usual lavish refreshments and lifts are available if requested.

TUESDAY MEETING

The last meeting for this year will be on **Tuesday December 11th**. when Stephen will lead Advent Devotions. There will be no further meetings until **Tuesday 5th. February 2008**, when the Church Fellowship will meet, and **Duncan Paterson** will present the music which he would like to have, if he was stranded on a Desert Island! Do come and enjoy the fun.

On **Feb 12th**. **The Lenten Meetings** will start at The Drive and the Tuesday Meetings join in the Lenten Series.

CAROLS at SAINSBURYS (ILFORD)

We are invited to join friends from Ilford Methodist Church, on **Tuesday 18th December at 6.00 pm** in the foyer at Sainsbury’s. Carol sheets and collecting boxes will be available. All proceeds will be sent to the **Redbridge Night Shelter**.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH LUNCH

This will take place on **Thursday 20th December** at 1.00 pm in the Church Hall. The price will be £3, as last year, and anyone wishing to come should give their name and money to Catherine. Coffee will be served in the Parlour from 12.15 pm., following the Caterpillar Club session.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This will be held between **Friday 18th January & Friday 25th January 2008**
There will be a service at **4.00 pm** on **Sunday 20th January** at **St. Mary's Church, Ilford.**
On **Monday to Friday** at **12 noon** a service will be held at **The Hospital Chapel**
for the Ilford Town Centre Churches.
We are warmly invited to attend.

CHARLES WESLEY at THE HOSPITAL CHAPEL

On October 6th. our augmented church choir at The Drive gave a second celebration of "The Hymns of Charles Wesley", by request, at The Hospital Chapel, Ilford Hill, which was much appreciated. As previously, the conductor was Andrew Taylor, and the organist was Duncan Paterson. Canon John Barnes welcomed us and led the prayers. A retiring collection was taken and after expenses were deducted, the proceeds were divided between The Hospital Chapel funds and The National Children's Home, enabling £79 to be sent to NCH.

*(Sue asked Father John Barnes if he would write about the event,
and he kindly agreed to do so - his appreciation follows this note.)*

In the past fifty years hymnody has changed. Out have gone hymns like "From Greenlands icy mountains" "Onward Christian soldiers", "Pleasant are Thy courts above"; in have come "Shine, Jesus shine", "Lord for the years", and "Christ triumphant". In many churches the traditional hymn of years gone by is almost unknown. It is good that we learn and sing new hymns. After all "Abide with me" was new once. Yet on the other hand we should not neglect some of the master pieces of long ago.

Charles Wesley gave us hymns which came to be seen in hymnbooks of nearly every Christian church and it was lovely that Methodists came to The Hospital Chapel recently to celebrate his birthday three hundred years ago. He wrote for every conceivable occasion and most of us would feel impoverished if we were not able to sing "Love Divine", "Jesu, Lover of my soul" and "O Thou who camest from above". Further, his words have often been set to superb tunes unlike some of our modern songs. Many of them will not stand the test of time.

The event at The Chapel had so much going for it. The partnership of Andrew Taylor as conductor and Duncan Paterson as organist ensured the singers gave of their best. And how wonderful to hear S. S. Wesley's great anthem, "Blessed be the God and Father", together with the very different, "Lead me, Lord." Then we had Charles Wesley and his wife with us dressed in eighteenth century costume. The whole thing was so well thought out. I did have one disappointment. We didn't have "And can it be?". I associate this hymn so much with the Wesleys' conversion and it has such a stirring tune. Until recently it was seldom heard in the Church of England. Nowadays it is becoming very common and is included in all our new hymnbooks. It is an example of a traditional hymn making a comeback. Yes, I was sorry not to have it, but at a feast you can't have every single thing you like. CANON JOHN BARNES

CHARLES WESLEY'S ACTUAL BIRTHDAY ON DECEMBER 18TH.

The 300th anniversary of this event will be celebrated on this very day
by local Churches in Brentwood arranged by John Woodbridge.
See the poster in the church entrance for full details

Another celebration of the tercentenary of the birth of **Charles Wesley**
takes place on **December 18th at St. Marylebone Parish Church.**
Full details are given on a notice in the church vestibule.

CHURCH BARN and LINE DANCE

Saturday 9th February 2008 from 7 pm.

Tickets for this not-to-be-missed event will be on sale in January but put the date in your 2008 diary now. A great opportunity to have fun with your friends and to work off all those Christmas Dinners, or just watch others do-si-do! The callers will be Pat and Terry Gladman The cost of the evening, including supper, will be £7 for adults, £4 for children and £20 for a family of four. Proceeds will go to the Development Fund.

BRIAN TAYLOR

GANTSHILL METHODIST CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday December 15th at 9.30 am

All proceeds to the Gantshill Church Development Fund

A PRAYER:

Lord, we pray for the unity of your church,
help us to see ourselves as rays of one sun,
branches of a single tree,
and streams from one flowing river.
May we remain united to you and to each other,
because you are the source of life;
and may we send out your life
and pour forth your flowing streams over all the earth,
drawing inspiration and joy from you. *Saint Cyprian of Carthage (c. 200 – 258)*

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



WATCHNIGHT MONDAY 31ST. DECEMBER

Services will be held at Barking Methodist Church

Refreshments from 10 pm

Worship from 11.00 pm

At Barkingside Methodist Church

Refreshments from 10.30 pm

Candlelit Reflection with readings and prayers from 11.30 pm



CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT THE DRIVE

SUNDAY 2ND. DECEMBER
10.45 am. ***ADVENT CAROL SERVICE***

TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 8.00 pm CHURCH FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY arranged by Anne & Ray Dellow

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 10.45 am
All-Age Worship & TOY SERVICE
Toy Collection for Loughton Family Centre

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER 10.45 am
FAMILY COMMUNION led by Rev.S.NORMANTON

WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2.30 pm WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTMAS MUSIC, arranged by FRANK SAYERS

THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER 1.00 pm
CHRISTMAS CHURCH LUNCH in the HALL

SUNDAY 23RD. DECEMBER
10.45 am. ***Whole Church Nativity Service***
6.30 pm ***CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT***

MONDAY 24TH. DECEMBER
5.30 pm ***STORIES ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE***
led by Rev.S.Normanton
11.30 pm. ***Midnight Communion at Ilford Methodist Church***

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

DIARY DECEMBER 2007

SUN	2		A D V E N T 1
		10.45 am	ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
		6.30 pm	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON
TUES	4	8.00pm	Church Fellowship - A Christmas Miscellany arranged by Anne & Ray Dellow
WED	5	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THUR	6	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	9		A D V E N T 2
		10.45 am	ALL - AGE WORSHIP & TOY SERVICE Rev. Stephen NORMANTON
TUES	11	8.00 pm	Tuesday Meeting - Advent Devotions - Rev. Stephen Normanton
WED	12	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>(to be arranged)</i>
THUR	13	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	16		A D V E N T 3
		10.45 am	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON - Family Communion
			Collection at Communion for Redbridge Night Shelter
TUES	18	6.00 pm	Carols at Sainsbury's Ilford - <i>see page 3</i>
WED	19	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Christmas Music & Readings with Frank Sayers <i>Last meeting until Wednesday January 9th.</i>
THUR	20	1.00 pm	Christmas Church Lunch in the Church Hall <i>see page 3</i>
		8.00 pm	Choir Practice
SUN	23		A D V E N T 4
		10.45 am	WHOLE CHURCH NATIVITY SERVICE led by Mrs. Philippa Normanton
		6.30 pm	CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT , followed by mince-pies in the Parlour
MON	24		CHRISTMAS EVE
		5.30 pm	Songs & Stories Round the Christmas Tree
		11.30 pm	Midnight Communion at Ilford Methodist Church
TUES	25		C H R I S T M A S D A Y
		10.45 am	CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE led by Rev. Stephen Normanton
SUN	30	10.45 am	Miss JENNIFER BENFIELD

DIARY JANUARY 2008

SUN	6	10.45 am	COVENANT SERVICE with Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON Communion collection for The Welcome Centre – <i>(a drop in centre for socially isolated people)</i>
WED	9	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
SUN	13	10.45 am	Mrs. STELLA ALLEN - Junior Church meets today
WED	16	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>(to be arranged)</i>
THUR	17	8.00 pm	Church Life Committee
FRI 18 – FRI 25			WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
SUN	20	10.45 am 4.00 pm	Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON ILFORD TOWN CHURCHES' SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY AT ST. MARY'S, ILFORD HIGH ROAD
MON 26 – FRI 25			12 NOON DAILY - Service for Christian Unity at The Hospital Chapel, Ilford Hill
TUES	22	1.00 pm	Church Lunch
WED	23	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>(to be arranged)</i>
SUN	27	10.45 am	Mr. NORMAN BEASLEY
WED	30	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - <i>(to be arranged)</i>

**WILL YOU PLEASE LET BARBARA FOSTER HAVE ITEMS
FOR THE FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER BY
SUNDAY JANUARY 13th.**