

December 08 - January 10

TRIBUTES TO RAY DELLOW

From Brian Grinham

I have known Anne and Ray Dellow for some 28 years since the day they moved into Highcliffe Gardens. Anne picked up the keys from us and immediately formed a close friendship with Pat. This friendship flourished and, although we did not see so much of Ray, because of work commitments, over time we got to know him and discover what a real friendly, caring, helpful, kind, fun loving and generous person he was. Ray was a very loyal person, with a good sense of humour, and never seemed to be other than happy.

Although Ray never became a Church member, he was frequently in Church on a Sunday morning. Everyone associated with Ray, both within the Church community and outside, through work and West Ham Football club, thought the world of him as was evidenced by the attendance at the service of thanksgiving for his life on 21st November. He had a very strong faith, which over the last few months was tested immensely, and only a few days before he died he told Anne that his faith was stronger than ever.

Ray was a truly Christian man, a loving and devoted husband, a much loved and caring father, not only to Michael and Clare, but also to Joanne and Terry, and a wonderful grandfather to Charlotte. It is sad that he did not live long enough to see the second grandchild who is expected any day. It has been a privilege to know Ray and be a small part of his life. All who knew him are saddened by his passing.

And Diane Foster

I shall always remember Ray's lovely smile and remember him as such a nice man, a really good guy and very kind. He had a great sense of humour with impeccable comic timing. I can remember on many occasions when, whilst Anne was telling a story, he would have us in fits of laughter with a comment (sometimes rude!) thrown into the conversation at just the right moment which would result in a sigh and an "Oh Ray" from Anne. Another talent was his most impressive magic trick where he made coins disappear into his arm only to reappear a minute or two later from his mouth! Many a time he kept young people (and old) entertained with this party trick, including at my 50th birthday lunch. How did he do it? I still don't know!

I also believe that Ray had a good singing voice. I heard this when I sat in front of him once in a church service. I told him afterwards and asked if he had ever thought of joining our choir. He remarked "Do you know Di, you're the second person to have said that to me recently, isn't she Anne?" Another sigh and a "Yes, Ray" from Anne!

But it was through his passion and loyal support of West Ham United Football Club that our family really got to know Ray. As people may be aware, Matthew is a great fan of the team and started going to home matches with Peter when he was quite young. There was one particular match when Matthew was about 13, which he was very keen to go to but Peter wasn't able to take him. Jeremy and I were reluctant to let Matthew go on his own and I happened to be telling Ray this as we chatted over coffee one Sunday morning. Immediately Ray offered to take

Matthew with him and Michael and their friends, and not only to that match but any home game as he and Michael were season ticket holders and attended every one. So the arrangement was made, Ray would take Matthew in his car, make sure he found his seat and then meet him afterwards to bring him home. Matthew was happy and I felt confident that he would be safe. I thanked Ray the week after the game and asked if Matthew had been ok. Ray replied "Yeah, yeah, no problem Di, he had a great time, and especially enjoyed going to the pub and betting shop before the game." I remember laughing at the time, thinking he was joking and it was only some years later that I realised that Matthew actually *did* in fact always go to the pub and betting shop whenever he went to a match with Ray!

A bond developed between Matthew and Ray through their love of West Ham and Matthew would often go to matches with Ray and Michael including two trips to Cardiff when West Ham were in the play-off finals. And you can be sure that whenever Ray and Matthew saw each other on a Sunday morning you could guess what the topic of their conversation would be!

We will miss Ray very much, but we have so many fond memories.

Matthew writes:

For me, memories of Ray inevitably consist of West Ham. Over the last few years, Ray was kind enough to take me to many matches, including two of the most memorable I have been to, the playoff finals in 2004 and 2005 in Cardiff. Without Ray's offer to take me along with him, Michael and their friends, I would not have been able to go, and for this I was immensely grateful. I will always remember Ray's routine before a match at Upton Park - a visit to the Central Pub in the Barking Road, followed by a quick dash into Ladbrokes, then maybe pie and mash before taking our seats in the East Stand. The routine stayed the same every time I went to a match with Ray. Whenever I saw Ray in church there would always be a conversation about the current state of West Ham, however depressing it may have been. When I go to matches with Grandad, one of the first things we used to say to each other was "I wonder if Ray is here", and I would always stand up to see if I could see him at the other end of the terrace. I will always remember Ray for his kindness and his unyielding and ardent support for his team.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL 2008

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make 56 shoe box parcels. We exceeded our target of 50 by 6!... Thanks everyone for the good effort.

Jo Wright

J.M.A. (Junior Missions For All) SERVICE

Philippa led a happy service on 16th November, when certificates and badges were presented to our J.M.A. members,

Together with donations and profit from the Beetle Drive, over £500 was raised. This is a great achievement, so thank you to everyone who has supported J.M.A. this year

The children took an active part in the service which they all enjoyed. Thank you, Philippa, for arranging it all.

Diane

Thank you, Diane, for all the encouragement which you give to the children and for arranging the forthcoming Beetle Drive! Details later.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN - 'SLIDES' EVENING'

We spent a most entertaining evening looking at pictures from as near as the restoration work being carried out at Valentines Mansion in Cranbrook Park and as far away as Moscow, and many other interesting places around the globe. Including donations from people who could not be present the evening raised a total of £130. We thank everyone who came and helped in so many ways to make the evening such a success.

Catherine & Frank

TRADCRAFT CATALOGUE

The new Traidcraft catalogue includes everything you need for your fair trade festive season. Decorate with handmade ornaments; lay the table with their new white Christmas ceramics' range from Thailand and toast the New Year with glasses from their Bolivian recycled glass range. There are some beautiful Christmas cards and gift ideas for all the family.

There are catalogues in church, so please take one and let me know what you would like to order. You are asked to pay for your order after delivery and cheques should be made out to Philippa Normanton. Thank you for your continued support of Traidcraft as they aim to fight poverty through trade.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We will again be joining with other churches to distribute Christmas cards to all the households around the church during the week beginning 8th December. Volunteers will be needed for this job – please sign up at the back of the church.

If you would like to send a Christmas card to the whole congregation you will find a display board in the vestibule at the entrance to the church. This will be available from the beginning of December – I think it's a nice idea!

Barbara

CHRISTMAS CHURCH LUNCH

If you wish to come to the lunch on **Thursday 18th December** at 1.00 pm in the Hall, please see Catherine . The charge for a starter, turkey dinner, pudding hot or cold, with tea or coffee and mince pies and mints is still only £3 (no increase yet again!). Come along and join us.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP SPECIAL! - TUESDAY DECEMBER 9TH.

This year our Christmas programme is different. Our organist Andrew has assembled a choir of children from around the Circuit to present a musical programme lasting about half an hour, after which we shall enjoy traditional refreshments. The second half of the programme will include some Christmas readings by members of the Church Fellowship and also some Christmas music by our own Church Choir. This will take place in the church beginning at 8 o'clock. We do hope that people who don't usually come to the Church Fellowship meetings will come along to what will be a most enjoyable event.

MINCE PIES WANTED

We would like to serve mince pies after the Carol Service on the evening of 21st December. A list can be found at the back of the church for you to indicate whether you are able to supply a dozen or so.

Barbara (for Catering Committee)

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS AT THE DRIVE

- Sunday 14th December 10.45 am. Allan Ramsden will lead the Toy Service, when toys and monetary gifts will be given to the Loughton Family Centre
- Sunday 21st December 10.45 am. Philippa will lead a whole church Nativity Service
- 6.30 pm Carol Service with Stephen followed by refreshments in the Parlour. (The collection at this service will be given to Shelter – the National Charity)
- Christmas Eve 5.30pm Songs and stories with Stephen
- 11.30 pm Holy Communion with Stephen The Communion collection will be given to the Redbridge Night Shelter.
- Christmas Day 10.45 am Family Service with Philippa. The collection will be for 'Action for Children'. Please bring an unopened present with you, to open in church!

VERNEY

Don't be surprised when you miss seeing Verney in church for a few weeks. She has gone to New York to visit her sister, who is in her nineties. She also hopes to visit her brother in Canada. At home is another sister in her nineties, who needs a lot of care. Verney spends a lot of time with her so she is a very busy lady. We send her our love.

ROTAS

Catherine will be preparing the Flower and Refreshments rotas very soon. Please see her if you wish to help with either rota. Thank you.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

On Tuesday February 3rd, Lorna Wright will be speaking about her experience at a Jamboree Camp in Kent in July 2008. She also hopes to speak about a forthcoming trip to the Himalayas, which will take place in July and August 2009.

Do come along to hear project.

about this exciting

Friday 12th December
Graham Kendrick Concert
Ilford Town Hall
starting at 7.30 pm
Tickets cost £12 or £14 and are
available from
City Gates Christian Centre
316 High Road
Ilford
Tel: 020 8514 0188

THE CIRCUIT OFFICE

This is now at Beacontree Heath Methodist Church, The Broadway, Dagenham RM8 1DZ.
The telephone number is 020 8517 6159.

Diane Lilley has been appointed to the post of Circuit Administrator, and has decided that she will always be in the office on a Wednesday.

Her e-mail address is bdicircuitoffice@btconnect.com.

Diane also plans to write and circulate a Circuit Bulletin, which we have agreed to display in our church, and perhaps some items in our Newsletter

WATCH-NIGHT SERVICES AROUND THE CIRCUIT WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Barking	Refreshments from 10 pm and worship from 11 pm – Rev Michael Moon
Barkingside	Refreshments from 10.30 pm and service from 11 pm – Rev Denys Bament
Old Dagenham	Refreshments at 10.30 pm and service at 11 pm

SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP NEWS

Those of you who study the back page of the Newsletter will notice that there is a change in the entry for the uniformed organisations. Having been Group Manager for the past 10 years ever since, at 65, I had to give up my warrant, I have decided that the time has come for someone else to take over the reins. Hence you will see that Mike has agreed to take on the role as Acting Group Scout Leader. Acting – not because he is not capable of occupying the post, but because he already holds one warrant as Scout Leader and the rules say that you cannot be a GSL if you hold any other appointment in the Group.

I know that Mike will be well supported by Andrew Marriott our Group Secretary and by Peter Foster the Treasurer. I shall not be giving up all interest in the Group as Audrey and I will continue to look after the Group's interest in the Rodings site. In addition Mike has asked whether I will take up the long vacant post of Group Chairman which I am honoured to accept.

John Taylor

PSALM 139

Adapted By Zephariah Kameeta

Lord, you have examined me and know me
You know everything I do
From far away you understand all my thoughts
You see me, whether I am confessing or denying you
Even before I speak, you already know what I will say
You are all around me on every side, you protect me with your power
Your knowledge of me is too deep, for you knew me before I was born; and this is
beyond my understanding.
It is very dangerous to serve you in this world, but where can I go to escape from
being the instrument of your peace?

Which far place can I flee to, without confessing you?

If I withdraw myself into neutrality, you would be here;

If I go into my office to hide behind my keyboard, you would be there;

If I take refuge in the farthest country away from the oppression of my people, you
would be there to remind me of what I had promised you.

I could ask the darkness of my pain and humiliation to cover me, or the light of your
love in my life to turn into darkness;

But even the night of my suffering dissolves in the light of your presence.

You created me in your image and loved me even before my mother conceived me.

I praise you, what you do is so wonderful and above our human understanding

Examine me O God and change my mind

Test me and clean my thoughts

Start the revolution in my life

Create me anew and guide me in your everlasting way.

*Someone handed this to me, but I don't remember who it was – it's a lovely adaptation, and well
worth reading.*

Editor

DIARY DECEMBER 2008 AND JANUARY 2009

December 2008

Wed	3rd	2.30 pm	Womens Fellowship – Rev Stephen Normanton
Thurs	4th	6.00 pm	Choir practice
Sat	6th	10.00 am to 12 noon	Operation Coffee Stop (see notice)
Sun	7th	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Rev Stephen Normanton. All age worship Rev Stephen Normanton
Tues	9th	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship. Christmas programme (see notice)
Wed	10th	2.30 pm	Womens Fellowship. Members' afternoon
Thurs	11th	8.00 pm	Choir practice
Sat	13th	10 am to 12 noon	Operation Coffee Stop
Sun	14th	10.45 am	Mr Allen Ramsden. Toy service (see notice)
Wed	17th	2.30 pm	Womens Fellowship. Mr Frank Sayers. (last meeting until Wed 7th Jan)
Thurs	18th	1.00 am 8.00 pm	Church Christmas lunch (see notice) Choir practice
Sat	20th	10 am to 12 noon	Operation Coffee Stop
Sun	21st	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Philippa will lead a Whole Church Nativity Service Carol Service with Stephen followed by refreshments in the Parlour (The collection at this service will be given to Shelter – the National Charity)
Wed	24th	<u>Christmas Eve</u> 5.30 pm 11.30 pm	Stories and songs with Stephen Holy Communion with Stephen (The collection at this service will be given to Redbridge Night Shelter)
Thurs	25th	<u>Christmas Day</u> 10.45 am	Family Service with Philippa Please bring an unopened present with you to open in church. The collection will be for “Action for Children”

January 2009

Sun	4th	10.45 am	Rev Stephen Normanton. Covenant Service
Wed	7th	2.30 pm	Womens Fellowship. Rev Stephen Normanton
Sun	11th	10.45 am	Mrs M Small Byam
Wed	14th	2.30 pm	Womens Fellowship
Sun	18th	10.45 am	Rev Denys Bament. Family Communion (Communion collection for the Church Benevolent Fund)
Wed	21st	2.30 pm	Womens Fellowship. Rev Denys Bament
Sun	25th	10.45 am	Mr Stephen Frogatt
Tues	27th	1.00 pm	Church Lunch

February 2009

Sun	1st	10.45 am 6.30 pm	Morning Worship Evening Worship
Tues	3rd	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship. Lorna will speak on the Jamboree in Kent and a forthcoming trip to the Himalayas (see notice)