

# NOVEMBER 2009

The following is a copy of an e-mail Audrey and I received from David Walker after his and Mary's visit for our Harvest Festival. It just shows the value of a "WELCOME" policy. You will recall that Mary and David were married 50 years ago in the Cranbrook Park Church on the same day as Audrey and I were married at Eastern Avenue.

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The following is a copy of an e-mail Audrey and I received from David Walker after his and Mary's visit for our Harvest Festival. It just shows the value of a "WELCOME" policy. You will recall that Mary and David were married 50 years ago in the Cranbrook Park Church on the same day as Audrey and I were married at Eastern Avenue.

Dear John,

In many ways it was a God-given privilege to share in worship and that lovely meal with you all in Ilford. We thank Him for that privilege.. Thank you especially for taking photos so we have something tangible to recall what was a remarkable day. Life is strange sometimes - and at our time in life it is helpful to recall special people and events in our lives. The years when Mary and I lived in Ilford were Character forming in that we grew up within a special group of friends in Cranbrook Park .who provided safe and challenging fellowship - which with hindsight we have come to value so much more now than we realized then. We have met up with just a few of those people recently and just driving around the area - Wanstead Lane, Bethell Avenue, The Drive, Balfour Road (where we lived in our first home in a two roomed flat) and having all-too-brief conversations in a church which was just round the corner from 94 Wanstead Lane just gave us tantalising reminders of those formative years..

It amazed me that we had never entered your church before - yet we felt so at home with you. As one who is involved in inter-faith dialogue in a predominantly Muslim area of Gloucester I valued a church which has a significant proportion of its membership from other races. That is sometimes not easy for everyone and your minister and the team of stewards and musicians and catering staff and flower arrangers carried it all through seemingly seamlessly. It is a good church that allows water spillage to be so central to the message and to demonstrate it so well. Well done all!!!!

Several people said that they remembered my Dad - I detected that was because he was out-spoken. I have grown to value his courage and wisdom more over the years, in ways I sometimes rejected then! Jesus was challenging and said outrageous things. My Dad learnt those attributes - but he also showed the LOVE of Jesus through his ministry and life as a Christian Counsellor - and by the book which he wrote just before his death - "The Church of Judas".\* A shocking title - but with many truths within it which many of us could do well to face today. Amazingly Epworth enabled it to be published - recognising that the core of the book had truths ahead of his time.

We are especially grateful to Barbara Foster and her family for enabling us to celebrate "Back-to-Church Sunday" in an amazingly lovely way. The day confirmed for us the greatness of our "God of Surprises". We were especially pleased to meet up again with Sister Felicity Young and to recall how through Cranbrook Park Youth activities we not only had many laughs — but we were wonderfully nurtured, challenged and loved. Friends of those days went many different ways - but though our paths never crossed again - they almost did as God took us into similar Christian Caring directions. I thank Him that at those pearly gates St Peter will not demand our denominational ID cards!

We thank you all for GREAT Christian hospitality - and for a minister who gets down on his knees to wipe the floor and talk to children! May God continue to richly bless your whole Christian Family. Keep singing!

In Christian Love,

MARY and DAVID WALKER

David sent us a copy of his father's book "The Church of Judas" which has been placed in the Church library for anyone to borrow and read.

There are so few former Cranbrook Park members, with whom we are in touch, apart from those who have become members at The Drive - Maisie, Lottie, Josie and family, Peter and I and our family and Maureen Bird, who was very much in touch before moving to Hampshire to be more accessible to her two sons.

In fact, Maureen kept one morning a week open to friends from the Cranbrook Park days for many years, after they became "Young Wives" instead of "Youth Club"!

I was particularly pleased that my cousin, Felicity was free to join us for the service as well as the lunch. Felicity was an enthusiastic member of the Youth Club during her teen-age years. There was plenty of reminiscing at our table over lunch, which, by the way, was delicious!

It's incredible to think that we have met up after 50 years, remembering those happy times, and thanking God for our church and all those who have kept it alive down the years.

We pray that our children and grandchildren will remember their happy times in this church, or others, with memories which will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

BARBARA

Now for the birthdays

We send Birthday greetings to Amy McGinley, who will be 17 on 16<sup>th</sup>. November, and to Rochelle Inbakumar, who will be 7. With our love, BARBARA

THE REV. STEPHEN POOLE has undergone a routine heart operation, which went well. Stephen is now at home and will be convalescing for four weeks. We wish him well and remember him in our prayers.

Diane and Jeremy thank everyone who sent cards and good wishes on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary at the end of September.

Message from VI COLE                      Thank you for the Harvest Gift – it was very welcome.

I would also like to say how uplifting it was to receive so many visits and cards while I was in Hospital and the Home.

BARBARA

#### JMA PRESENTATION SERVICE

Please join us for our JMA PRESENTATION SERVICE ON 15<sup>TH</sup> November led by Stephen when certificates and badges will be presented to our JMA members:

Charlotte Alder, Theodora Garner, Rochelle Inbakumar, Jenny Runeckles, and Tim Wright.

#### ALL AGE WORSHIP

The All Age Worship service last month was conducted by Mr. Ian Sheach on the theme of Communication.. In the discussion group a poem from childhood remembered and recited word perfect by Maisie Mitchell, which we all felt reminded us that in trying to communicate our faith we must be prepared to listen as well as speak. Here is that poem:

A wise old owl lived in an oak,  
The more he heard, the less he spoke.  
The less he spoke, the more he heard.  
Let's emulate this wise old bird.                      FS

#### CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

In October we had a visit from Mr. Stan Crees who told us about the work of OPERATION AGRI which is a Christian charity working to bring basic medical, sanitary and farming help to central American countries. We were told about the work in Nicaragua, with very informative illustrations. Operation Agri is also active in other

parts of the world, and Mr. Crees said that he would be able to come and talk about the work in Nepal at a later date.

The meeting ended with a prayer written by Hilary Stevens. Those of us who were present felt it ought to be included in this report to which Hilary agreed. -

"Lord, we could have been born anywhere in the world, into any century, past or present. Into any faith, or none. We could at this moment be gazing at the desolation of our homes in the Phillipines, Samoa or Indonesia with friends and families lost and our future hopes in ruins. Only an accident of birth brought us to this place at this time and we know how very fortunate we are.

"A week ago we were celebrating Harvest and we had much to celebrate. But why don't you give everyone a Harvest, Lord. Only you can send the sun and the rain. In parts of Africa the crops have shrivelled and died and the animals have become skeletons. Lord this is an age of techno logy, of easy communication and you have given us the ability to make the desert blossom, to reclaim the swamps and make barren land fertile. Yet in the EEC we can see the obscenity of milk poured down the drain and fruit left to rot on the trees because it is not worth harvesting. It seems madness and an evil madness at that, for you do give everyone a Harvest - the one you give to us is not ours but yours to be shared..

"Lord, we acknowledge our guilt that we in the developed world are taking far more than our fair share of what you have given. Strengthen the resolve of all Christians to put pressure on Governments and all who have the power to change things for the better and may we always give of our own money generously.

And Lord, we rejoice at those who go abroad at great cost to themselves to take your story to what we used to think of as lands afar but which are now so familiar to us on the TV screens in our living rooms.

"And we pray for ourselves that in grace we may live out the life of Jesus to the best of our ability just where we are. For it is a frightening thought that those we meet day by day may never come to know you unless they do so through us.

Amen"

Our next meeting is on Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. at 8.00 pm in the Church Parlour when Lorna Wright will tell us about her trip to India with a Wanstead High School party, which included some climbing in the foothills of the Himalayas. There are plenty of photographs to see. Do come along. Lifts available on request. FS

" RAYSIN HOPE "

It is now a year since Ray passed away and we are furthering our wish to support people with brain tumours by setting up a charity in his name. Thank you for your love and prayers through the past 18 months.

**C O F F E E M O R N I N G**

**S A T U R D A Y 28<sup>TH</sup> N O V E M B E R**

**10.00 am - 12 noon**

**C H U R C H P A R L O U R**

You are invited to join us as we launch our FUNDRAISING to support people with brain tumours.

All proceeds from the Coffee Morning will be shared between " RAYSIN HOPE " AND The Drive Church Development Fund

ANNE DELLOW and FAMILY

C H U R C H C O U N C I L

The Church Council met on Thursday 8th October 2009.

The Chairman was our minister, Revd Stephen Normanton, and there were 18 members present.

Various reports were given.

Matters from the Circuit Committee are mentioned in the Plan. We are seeking a Minister to replace Revd Stephen Normanton and a Probationer to replace Revd Marie Whitcombe. Revd Stephen Poole is to be appointed Superintendent Minister from 1st September 2010. Senior Stewards will look at the profiles of ministers available.

The manse at Morley Road is to be sold and a new property bought at the new London Riverside area (Creekmouth). The house will remain the property of the Circuit and we will charge rent. A worship centre, supported by Methodists, Anglicans and the Salvation Army is to be built near the school. A worker will be appointed for three years initially.

Stephen Froggatt received a unanimous vote to be a candidate for the ministry. The final decision will be taken by the Methodist Church next spring.

From the Finance Committee Peter Foster circulated copies of the accounts and went through them. He pointed out that we were on a cheap rate for gas for the first three months, but now we are on a competitive rate, hence the substantial rise in the cost. He drew attention to the big rise in revenue for lettings. Freewill offerings are up, both cash and envelopes, so the overall situation is that we are better off than last year.

From the Property Committee Jeremy Foster reported that we spent more than our budget. The choir vestry roof cost over £5,000, which was an unexpected item,

there was water through the church roof, the Cranbrook Room needed re-flooring, a fire warning system was installed, so the expenditure was more than expected. Jeremy outlined where we are now. The main item is £4,400 for re-surfacing the hall floor. There are miscellaneous items - decorating etc. and beyond that regular maintenance - fire alarm, organ, boiler, gas, totalling £880.

The Property Committee proposed £10,150 for this year's budget, which the Council approved.

Jeremy asked for support for the next Work Morning on 14th November and said the help is appreciated.

There had been a review of the Church Life Committee, which had not met this year, but Peter Foster reported that he intends to get it going again and they will meet on a six-month basis. They will meet on 4th November. The purpose of the Church Life Committee is for an overview of the life of the church and its committees - to know what is going on, to manage the routine life of the church. A diary is produced, showing the programme of all the church activities. All church organisations have a representative on the committee, but work is often limited because they don't always come. The Church Life Committee is open to all but representatives are needed from all organisations.

A Creative Planning Group now meets periodically, convened by Anne Warden. This grew from the earlier workshops on church development and growth, and particularly following the visit of Paul Kybird. The aim is to try new things, to put into practice what Paul Kybird said. Flyers have been given to user groups advertising festivals and special occasions; 'coffee stops' at Christmas and Easter have been offered to people waiting at the bus stop; a Christmas Tree Festival is being arranged, which is hoped will raise money for the Development Fund.

A Church Brochure has been printed at a cost of £350. It is a fluid group, open to new ideas, and will be in contact with the Church Life Committee. The group wished to be recognized by the Church Council, and its existence was duly noted. The next meeting of the Church Council is on Thursday 25th February 2010.

KATHLEEN TAYLOR

## CHURCH WEBSITE NEWS

Following the All Age Worship and Learning service in October when a number of us met to learn more about the Methodist Church Website and our own church website there have been a number of additions to The Drive website.

On the Home Page at present we have 'clickable links' which will take you straight to two sections of the Methodist Church website;

- On-line Bible Study
- St.Pixels On-line church – this is a 'virtual church' offering prayer, Bible Study
- and worship throughout the week. This might be particularly appealing to those with internet access who have to miss a 'live' Sunday service in church.

Once these temporary links have been removed from the Home Page they can also be found in the 'Prayer and Worship' section of The Drive website. In addition, we have another new feature in this section of sermon notes kindly provided by Antonia Olujinmi entitled 'What the Preacher Said'. It is hoped that in the coming months we can also add a feature on the Bible passages which have been used during Sunday worship.

It is important that the website is developing in this way as it should be something which is continually changing and evolving. We often include reports and photographs on recent church events such as Harvest Festival and Sing Hallelujah. It would be good to receive more regular reports from members of the congregation, or your prayers and, perhaps, thoughts on matters which interest or concern you. Please just let me have items for the website at any time.

To visit the website go to [www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk](http://www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk)

ANNE WARDEN

WORK MORNING - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 10.00 am

There will be some indoor cleaning and light gardening jobs - do come, and help to get the work done. JEREMY

PETER SHARP has kindly offered his car and himself to drive church friends to meetings and events around the Circuit and beyond. Just phone Peter and he can tell you if he is free to transport you!

Thanks, Peter

#### N E W S L E T T E R

I expect that you have heard that Frank and I have decided that the December09/January 10 Newsletter will be our last. We have enjoyed our joint efforts - preparing and typing, for many years, but we feel that an enthusiastic, younger editor is now needed!

This was discussed at the last Church Council meeting, and the idea of a group effort was raised. Do speak to Stephen or Hilary if you are interested in filling this post.

For a few years Betty Griffiths typed our Newsletter, and I enjoyed going through it with her every month, as I did with Frank.

Of course for many years we have relied on Audrey and John printing and producing our very smart Newsletter. They have agreed to continue with this part of the job.

Many thanks to everyone for your news and reports, all these years. BARBARA

REDBRIDGE joins NATIONAL CARE debate -

Councillor Kumar writes: -

" Redbridge residents are being invited to discuss the Government's vision for care in the future.

"The National Big Care debate is giving people across the country the opportunity to have their say on a new government paper about care called 'Shaping the Future of Care Together'.

"The paper sets out a vision to build a National Care Service that is fair, simple and affordable for all adults in England with options for the service reform, and how the new system could be organised and paid for.

"The consultation covers three areas;

The vision for the future - How to deliver the vision - Funding options.

The vision highlights six key areas including the importance of prevention services, ensuring care and support needs are assessed in the same way where ever you live and providing personalised care and support for those who need it.

"Redbridge is holding an event for residents to debate the suggestions on Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am at The Sir James Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green. The feedback will be used to prepare a local response to the consultation questions.

"The Big Care Debate, running until November 13 is an opportunity for everyone to have their say on a change in the way care is delivered, something which will have a major impact some day in most people's lives as individuals or carers."

Visit [www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk](http://www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk) to find out more information about the debate and to have your say directly to the department of Health.

WANTED - A SUITABLE PIANO!

Yinka would like to find a suitable piano for her little girl, who would like to have lessons on the piano. Please telephone if you can help. Thankyou

FOUND -

In a pew in church, a nice white and gold pen, with the names "Maurice and Sheila" embossed on it, together with "Golden Wedding Anniversary 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008". Please speak to one of the stewards if you know the owner. Thankyou

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL.

We are looking forward to our first Christmas Tree Festival which new venture for the church. If it is to be a success then we will the whole church to be involved as far as is possible. So, how can help ?



will be a need you

- Jo Wright is gathering together a large team to help with the catering. We will be serving tea, coffee and, of course, mince pies throughout the festival, as well as, simple lunches.
- Philippa Normanton is organising additional fund-raising activities – how many Smarties in a jar, tombola etc.
- Janet and Roy Brunnen are organising the raffle. This will be held during the Concert for Christmas on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December in aid of Haven House. They

would like about 10 prizes in total and would welcome any donations. One suggestion is that we could make up a Christmas hamper which could consist of small non-perishable items donated by several people. Any spare prizes could be used in the tombola. Please remember that we cannot have any alcoholic prizes.

- I will be organising a team of stewards to welcome people to the Festival and to be in the church to speak to our visitors. Throughout the Festival we will need about 6 stewards an hour. If you can help with stewarding please sign the sheet in the main foyer.

If you can help with any of these activities please speak to the people concerned. It will be a hectic few days and many of us will be trying to 'wear several hats' so don't forget to allow yourself some breaks – time for a drink, some lunch and to enjoy the Christmas trees yourself !

The timings for the festival are as follows;

Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	6.00-9.00 pm – setting up.
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 am to 5.30 pm – Christmas Tree Festival
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00-9.00 pm – Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 am to 5.30 pm – Christmas Tree Festival
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	7.00-9.00 pm – Concert for Christmas in aid of Haven House. Entry by programme on sale in advance.
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	10.00 am - 12.00 noon – taking down.

The proceeds of the Christmas Tree Festival which will come from donations, fund-raising activities and the refreshments will be aid of the Church Re-Development Fund.



This is a fantastic opportunity for us to increase our presence in the area and to share the message of Christmas. Please do your best to help in any way that you can, no matter how great or small your contribution, and make this a special Christmas at The Drive. Thank you.

ANNE WARDEN

*Please re-read **Stephen's October Letter**, which will tell you all about the Festival.* Editor

#### CATERING FOR THE CROWDS!

On both weekends of the Christmas Tree Festival we are serving lunches, and refreshments throughout the day.

Is anyone willing to make soup for the lunches?

Also, can anyone help with serving the refreshments?

I am making up a rota of people to help. If you can help for an hour or so on the 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> December, it will be appreciated. Please see me if you can help.

JO WRIGHT

## CHRISTMAS BOX APPEAL

A few people have asked if we are going ahead this year with Christmas Box Appeal. We are not collecting boxes this year because we felt we would concentrate on our Christmas Tree Festival.

Thank you for asking!

JO WRIGHT

MATERIAL FOR THE DECEMBER 09 – JANUARY 10 ISSUE  
OF THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE GIVEN TO BARBARA FOSTER  
BY SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15 OR PLACED IN THE FOLDER IN THE  
VESTRY.

## DIARY NOVEMBER 2009

<b>SUN</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>ALL SAINTS' DAY</b>
		<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Rev. Stephen Normanton - All Age Worship</b>
		<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Rev. Stephen Normanton – All Saints' Day remembrance service at The Drive</b>
<b>TUES</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8.00pm</b>	<b>Church Fellowship - Lorna Wright talks about her trip to India</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton</b>
		<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Church Life Committee</b>
<b>THUR</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>
		<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Mr. John Nicholls</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Women's Fellowship - Frank Sayers - "Felix &amp; Karl"</b>
<b>THUR</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>Coffee Morning at The Red House</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Work morning - see page 6</b>
<b>SUN</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL</b>
		<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Rev. Stephen Normanton &amp; Family Communion <i>Collection at Communion for St. Francis Hospice. Material for the December/January Newsletter due in today</i></b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Women's Fellowship – Brian Grinham with slides of Ireland</b>
<b>THUR</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>

<b>SUN</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Miss Janet Tweedale</b>
TUES	24	1.00pm	Church Lunch
WED	25	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
THUR	26	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
<b>SUN</b>	<b>29</b>		<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>MORNING WORSHIP</b>
		<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Circuit Service at Grange Hill - Marie's Farewell Service - See the Circuit Plan</b>
DECEMBER			
WED	2	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THUR	3	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
<b>SUN</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>
		<b>10.45 am</b>	<b>Rev. Stephen Normanton - Family Communion</b>