

DECEMBER 09 - JANUARY 10

*We send good wishes to all church friends,
for a happy Christmas and a peaceful 2010*

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A MESSAGE OF FAREWELL

"As we prepare to leave Ilford next week, we have received some lovely notes from members of St. Andrew's and The Drive Methodist, wishing us well in our new ministry in the Southend area and assuring us of their prayers. We have always been made to feel so welcome at your churches and we have a sense of being part of the extended family at both. If anyone wishes to keep in touch, we would be glad to hear from them:"
The email address is parsonking@hotmail.co.uk. God bless you."
Ivan and Nikki King (Cranbrook Baptist Church)

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Will any of our older/retired folk wishing to come to the Christmas Church Luncheon on Tuesday 17th please give their name and money to Catherine. The charge will be £3.

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CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Our Christmas meeting will be on **Tuesday December 8th**. [the second Tuesday of the month] when we hope to welcome you to a mixture of songs, carols, readings and poems for Christmas. Do come along to the Parlour at 8 pm. Lifts and refreshments available as always.

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WANTED - MINCE PIES!

We would like to serve mince-pies after the Carol Service on
Sunday 20 th December at 6.30 pm.

Please put your name on the list at the back of the church, if you are able to provide some (please put quantity) by Sunday 13th December. They will be very much appreciated.

The **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL** will be a fantastic event for the church in the weeks before Christmas, but will need lots of help. Please see the article in the November Newsletter

- ◇ **To help with stewarding** sign the list in the foyer.
- ◇ **To help with refreshments** see Jo Wright
- ◇ **For other fundraising** speak to Philippa Normanton
- ◇ **Donate raffle prizes** speak to Janet and Roy Brunnen

The CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL CONCERT

will take place on

Saturday December 19th at 7.00 pm.

Entry will be by Programme only, bought in advance.

Proceeds will go to Haven House Hospice

SLIDES' EVENING

Catherine and Frank warmly thank everyone who so enthusiastically supported the Slides' Evening event in aid of ACTION FOR CHILDREN 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. Together with donations, the evening raised £140.00 Splendid!



SING "HALLELUJAH" ! YES, WE CERTAINLY DID!

**At The Drive Church on Thursday October 29 - all 65 of us -
and what a lovely time we had!**

The evening was ably organised and directed by Andrew Taylor, who had cleverly devised a part for the 'non choir members' to sing, which was carefully rehearsed in the first half. After the refreshments' break, we listened to other extracts from the Oratorio.

Andrew sang 'The trumpet shall sound',
accompanied by Duncan Patterson (organist for the Hallelujah Chorus),
who then played the Pastoral Symphony.

Ginette Nye sang 'I know that my Redeemer liveth',
accompanied by her husband Peter.

The programme ended with us all singing "Hallelujah", as part of the BBC's invitation to mark the 250th anniversary of the death of the composer George Frideric Handel.

A thrilling experience!

Although the evening was not arranged as a fundraising event,
we also contributed £70 to the BBC's Children in Need Appeal. FS



JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL

Our JMA Presentation Service was held on 15th November when badges and certificates were presented to five members of the Junior Church. One collector also received her Long Service Certificate denoting seven years collecting for JMA. During the past year the young people had collected over £200 between them and, together with donations and fund raising, The Drive raised £412 towards the work of JMA. I was pleased to recruit two new members. They will be looking for subscribers so please support them if you can.

Stephen led our service, inviting us to take an imaginary trip to the hills outside Kathmandu in Nepal. The children 'collected' water and firewood as the children there would have done 25 years ago. Happily, these days, with the aid of initiatives such as JMA, people are able to turn on a tap for water. Stephen then contacted by phone some friends in Nepal who told us of their work with children, teaching them to read and write through play.

Money raised by the Methodist Church through JMA helps to enrich the lives of others by funding similar projects throughout the world.

Thank you for giving. DIANE FOSTER

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B A R N D A N C E

SATURDAY 13 TH FEBRUARY 2010 7.30 pm

An evening of fun and dancing for everyone.

SUPPER INCLUDED - BOOK THE DATE NOW

Tickets available in January

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CRANBROOK SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

The Cranbrook Ward Safer Neighbourhood Police (S.N.P.) is headed by Sgt. Paul Dwyer, and aided by P.C. Said Nurein, P.C. Shaz Meah, P.C.S. O's Stacey Blake, Raj Singh and Michael Crouch. All are dedicated to beating crime in your area.

The Cranbrook Ward priorities are:-

- Drug dealing and drug use.
- Burglary
- Anti-social behaviour by motorists

The three areas are chosen by the elected ward panel. As part of the Policing Pledge, the team spend 80% of their time visibly working in Cranbrook Ward.

What can you do to deter burglars.

- Double lock doors and windows.
- Use lights on a timer when going out at night.
- Let neighbours know if you are going away.
- Check the I.D. of unexpected callers, or use a door chain
- Let the Police know if you see anything or anyone acting suspiciously

CRANBROOK TEAM 020 8554 2558

For crime prevention advice call 020 8554 9264

Or visit www.met.police.uk/redbridge

JANET WRAGG - Chair Cranbrook Ward



CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT THE DRIVE

SUNDAY 6TH. DECEMBER

10.45 am. **FAMILY COMMUNION – Rev. S. Normanton**

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 8.00 pm CHURCH FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTMAS MISCELLANY of music and readings

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER 10.45 am

TOY SERVICE

Toy Collection for Loughton Family Centre

WEDNESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2.30 pm WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
CHRISTMAS MUSIC, arranged by FRANK SAYERS

THURSDAY 17TH DECEMBER 1.00 pm
CHRISTMAS CHURCH LUNCH in the HALL

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

10.45 am. **Mr. Stephen Froggatt**

6.30 pm **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT**

THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER

5.30 pm **STORIES ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE**
led by Rev. Stephen Normanton

11.30 pm. **Midnight Communion at Ilford Methodist Church**

FRIDAY 25TH DECEMBER 10.45 am

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE

led by The Rev. STEPHEN NORMANTON
Collection for 'Action For Children

NEW EXPERIENCES

When Ray worked in the Caribbean and time allowed, he would attend worship in various churches in order to experience the different, easy in which people reached out to God and I was always interested to hear his stories.

During a recent visit to Yorkshire my friends took me to a new drop-in coffee shop which was run by volunteers from the Christian Fellowship Church in the village. After a warm greeting and a friendly conversation about their church I decided to forgo my plans to attend the local Methodist church the next day and sample a service in the scout hut with the Fellowship instead.

They were setting up as we entered and embroidered banners were being hung up amidst the artwork of the local Cub and Beaver groups, the impact of which was probably lost upon regular worshippers but to my 'new eye', the papier maché animals hanging above the colourful Genesis Chapter I banner was quite significant. We were introduced to lots of people some of whom had travelled in from the surrounding villages.

I noticed they were putting their collection money into a box that stood next to a tray of tomatoes from which we were to 'help ourselves'. A keyboard and overhead projector provided music and words which replaced the need for hymnbooks.

The service started at 10.30 and was in two parts. One was entitled 'Songs and Praise'. This included children but the other part which was called "*The Message*" saw the children going out for Sunday School. At 12.30 everyone had refreshments and a chat. I met a lady whose son-in-law was a minister at the Elim church in Leigh on Sea, and of course I told her to go and sit on Ray's bench when she visits her family.

It was an interesting morning and one I am resisting to describe in more detail as I spare printers' ink, but should anyone want the longer version I shall be happy to share it with you, but for the moment I shall say that although I was impressed by many things that morning, I am more than happy to reach out to God at The Drive. ANNE DELLOW

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ONE WORLD WEEK

"Families who do things together, stay together."

We were invited to attend a "Family Home Evening" at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the beautiful building with white spire and immaculate grounds next to Sainsburys, near Ilford Town Centre.

The word "Family" could mean a group of friends sharing a house, not necessarily a conventional family. The importance of communications was emphasised. It was suggested that one evening a week should be a "Family Home Evening" with a variety of activities e.g. a shared meal.

I was unable to attend the South West Essex Reform Synagogue - a neighbour of the former Newbury Park Methodist Church. The visit to the Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha Sikh Gudwara began with an Inter - Faith reflection and Silence. After a brief tour of the building, we attended a time of worship. The Multi-Cultural Social Event at The Vine Church Halls, clashed with The Drive Slide Show. I understand that it was well supported.

The One World Week service of worship at Seven Kings Methodist Church, was attended also by members of several other local churches and their ministers. The Rev. Ken Nicholls preached on the subject of "The Children with No Mirrors" and recalled his time in Kenya.

The Music and Multi-Cultural Event at Ilford Community Centre (Muslim) in Eton Road, was advertised as lasting all afternoon. I arrived during the late afternoon and wondered if I had missed everything. The musical event was just beginning as I left for our own All Saints' Day Service.

However, it was a good opportunity to chat to some councillors, my M.P. and a well-known community leader over a cup of tea.

The Inter-Faith Walk of Peace took place on Sunday 15th November, but I hoped to be at the Whitechapel Mission Thanksgiving Service on that afternoon.

SUSAN
RUCKES

THE JIGGINS AND THE JONES FAMILIES

It was good to see Leslie with Josie, in church at Harvest time, to celebrate his 90th Birthday. They were not able to join us at lunch, as preparations were being made at their daughter Melanie's house. After the service, Leslie came to talk to me, and he told me all about his happy childhood. The following is what he told me.

"I have very little recollection of my life before my fourth birthday. When my Mother died, giving birth to my youngest sister Frances, she left a family of three boys and three girls. The Father of the family next door was our Dad's best friend. They had served together in World War One..

Charlie Jones died three years and it was decided that both families would join together as one big family, under the care of Emily Jones and our Dad.

All the children were treated as brothers and sisters, but we kept our surnames respectively. I had a happy childhood. One of my fond memories being dad cooking Sunday lunch after returning from church. The older boys went for the skipping rope and stretched it from one side of the street to the other, all joining in the fun together, even with the other adults in the street!

Then we were all called for a hectic and full Sunday lunch.

Occasionally Dad used to hire a charabanc and we would all pile in for a trip to the seaside at Southend where we would play all day and then sit down with an enormous picnic basket of goodies! When I was fourteen, being Head Prefect, I was elected to attend a special school, in order to improve leadership qualities. This was a very strict school - the dormitory consisted of one line of beds, with open canvas sides. We were woken daily at 5.30 sharp! Then we would run down to the pool, strip off and swim, for fifteen minutes (no matter what the weather) then back for hot cocoa and dressed ready for assembly at 7.30 on the dot. This is where we received our forthcoming events for the day. The Head Teacher dealt with any misdemeanours in only one way - the cane - very painful if you were on the receiving end!

When I left school, I went to work for J. Sainsbury, until I was called up and I served six years in the Navy between 1939 and 1946.

I was an active serviceman with the introduction of air and surface Radar and fighter direction. As my service finished I returned to Sainburys, where my career had already begun. I then married and started a family. I retired in 1979 after 44 years with the company and saw many changes in that time.

Now, in 2009 I am the last of the Jiggins family, aged 90 and Alfie, the last of the Jones family, aged 91".

P.S. It sounds like an idyllic childhood, Leslie - thank you for sharing memories of it with us.

BARBARA

NEWSLETTER 2010 - UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

A big "Thank you" to Barbara and Frank for all their hard work on the Newsletter for many years. A team of people is suggested to continue their work. (Page one November Newsletter) .

That says it all really. SUSAN RUCKES..

FRANK SAYERS writes:-

Our thanks are due to Audrey & John Taylor who for very many years have printed the Newsletter, which is a laborious and tedious job, with much use of the long-arm stapler perhaps leading to 'Repetitive Stress Syndrome'! On those occasions when I have not been able to type the material, John has done that as well

My personal thanks are due to Catherine who has been an excellent proof reader, saving me from some embarrassing misprints. I always see what I want to see, and once typed the name 'Beryl' as 'Berly'. The lady in question did forgive me.

END OF AN ERA

Over the past 20 years that I have been involved in printing the Church Newsletter there have been some changes. When I took over from Dorothy Seviour we printed on the trusty, if somewhat temperamental Scout's Gestetner. The stencils were typed from Barbara's notes by Frank Sayers. The covers with Eddie Seviour's artwork were printed at a local shop in Cranbrook Road

In 1996 we advanced to the new technology age when the Church invested in a Riso printing machine with black or red colour options which was much cleaner to operate. The added bonus being that we could now print our own covers. We are now on our second machine which is widely used for all Church printing and outside commissions. Frank has progressed from his typewriter to a laptop. In recent times John and I have shared the Newsletter printing.

The one constant during all this period has been Barbara with her trusty pen. Thanks Barbara for keeping the news flowing.

As we enter a new decade I wish the new editorship team Good Luck.

AUDREY TAYLOR

THE BROWNIE PACK - AN URGENT NEED

We have a Pack of active and enthusiastic Brownies who need your help. Our current leaders and supporters all live out of the area – Colchester, Aveley and Norfolk!!!! Beth Daly, the Brownie leader, will shortly be working in Chelmsford so she must resign.

We are in urgent need of a uniformed leader. No previous experience required. Adequate training and support will be available.

PLEASE think carefully if you can answer this call or recommend someone.

We must not let these Brownies down. We must not be forced to close.

JOHN TAYLOR Group Chairman.

DIARY DECEMBER 2009

TUES	1	10.00 am	Morning Communion in the Chapel
WED	2	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
THUR	3	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
FRI	4	10.00 am	Coffee morning
SAT	5	10.00 am	Creative Church
SUN	6	10.45 am	A D V E N T 2 Rev. Stephen NORMANTON - Family Communion
TUES	8	8.00 pm	Church Fellowship - Christmas Programme - see page 2
WED	9	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship
THUR	10	8.00 pm	Choir Practice
FRI	11	6.00 pm	Tree Festival Preparation - see page 3
SAT	12		TREE FESTIVAL see page 9
SUN	13	10.45 am	A D V E N T 3 Mr. Allan RAMSDEN - Toy Service & Baptism Toys and donations to Loughton Family Centre
WED	16	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Christmas Music & Readings with Frank Sayers <i>Last meeting until Wednesday January 13</i>
THUR	17	1.00 pm 8.00 pm	Christmas Church Lunch in the Church Hall see page 3 Choir Practice
SAT	19	7.00 pm	Concert for Christmas - (see page 3)
SUN	20	10.45 am 6.30 pm	A D V E N T 4. Mr. Stephen FROGGATT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT, followed by mince-pies in the Parlour <i>Collection for national charity Shelter</i>
MON	21	8.00 pm	Evening Prayers in Church Parlour
THUR	24	5.30 pm 11.30 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE Songs & Stories Round the Christmas Tree United Communion at Ilford Methodist Church
FRI	25	10.45 am	CHRISTMAS DAY CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE led by Rev. Stephen Normanton <i>Collection for Action For Children</i>
SUN	27	10.45 am	Dr. Leela KNIGHT

WATCHNIGHT THURSDAY 31ST. DECEMBER

Service will be held at Barking Methodist Church AT 11.30 pm
Led by Revd. Michael Moon

At Old Dagenham Methodist Church
Refreshments from 11.00 pm
Service at 11.30 pm

At Seven Kings Methodist Church
11.15 pm LOVE FEAST led by Revd. Ken Nicholls

DIARY JANUARY 2010

SUN	3	10.45 am	Mrs. Philippa NORMANTON
TUES	5	10.00 am	Morning Communion in the. Chapel
SUN	10	10.45 am	Rev. Stephen NORMANTON – Annual Covenant Service & Family Communion
MON	11	8.00 pm	Creative Planning Group
TUES	12	10.00 am	Morning Communion
WED	13	2.30 pm	Women's Fellowship - Rev. Stephen Normanton
THUR	14	8.00 pm	Evening Prayers in Church Parlour
SUN	17	10.45 am	Rev. Michael MOON

18 – 25 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

MON 18 – FR 22	12 NOON DAILY - Service for Christian Unity at The Hospital Chapel, Ilford Hill
FRI 22	10.00 am Coffee Morning at Gardeners' Café, Valentines Park
SUN 24	10.45 am Sister Vera NICHOLLS
WED 20	2.30 pm 8.00 pm Women's Fellowship - Property Committee
SUN 31	10.45 am Rev. Stephen NORMANTON Small Choirs' Festival

AN IRISH BLESSING

May the roads rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again
may God hold you in the hollow of His hand.