

the grapevine

JULY 2011

Keeping you in touch with Loughton Methodist Church.
A member of Churches Together in Loughton



The feeding of the five thousand

John Reilly (1928-) Oil 1958

from the Methodist Church Collection of Modern Christian Art. Copyright: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, used by permission of Trustees of the Collection (commentary on the painting on page 2)

biblefresh
It could change your world

The feeding of the five thousand **John Reilly (1928-)**Oil1958

Methodist Collection of Modern Christian Art, No.23

Commentary by Francis Hoyland

This painting is in a blue key, and it modulates through various shifts and changes towards a yellow shirt. This time the shirt is worn by Our Lord.

The drawing is strongly, and quite openly influenced by Picasso but it is painted, or coloured, quite differently as the colour seems to slow down the linear rhythm which might otherwise have become hectic.

Largely delineated areas sweep across the picture space. The two main areas represent times before and after the miracle.

In order, perhaps to make the pattern clearer and so as not to impede the linear interactions of the piece, the various forms are reduced to signs. That is, a hand and eye, a foot, a head and so on, are abstracted sufficiently to be digested by the pictorial pressure exerted by the rest of the piece.

This reduction of forms to a language of signs with which the artist is then able to compose

freely was something rejuvenated by Picasso - it is particularly apparent in *Guernica* - and it restates the common language of Byzantine and Romanesque art.

So if we take a long view of this idiom it goes Byzantine and Romanesque - Christian - Picasso - strongly secular and Reilly Christian again.

Shapes can in themselves be expressive. Look at the joyous, four pointed star between the central figures on the left which is almost repeated a fifth lower, as it were, in a darker blue, between the two heads on the right of the group.

Triangles and diamonds proliferate and all emphasise the joy of having enough physical and spiritual food. The geometry and colours of the 'before' hungry group are equally expressive in a different way.

The coloured patches are frequently qualified by subsequent patches - which are nearly always lower in tone. Our Lord's shirt, across which the division of the two main areas lies, has darker yellows tinged with a complimentary violet laid across its underlying yellow.

This gives the colour a slowly smouldering quality that takes us directly into the required mood.

Please note the next Grapevine will be published on **7th August and will cover August and September.** If you have any advanced items for early October please be sure to get them to me before the end of July to get the maximum publicity. Keith Watts

Loughton Methodist Church

High Road, Loughton IG10 1RB

Minister: Rev Tony Morling: Tel: 020 8508 1834
Email: tonymorling@loughtonmethodist.org.uk
Children & Community Worker, Chloe Purchase, Church Office, 020 8502 3071
Email: chloe@loughtonmethodist.org.uk
Church Co-ordinator: Mr Martin Lawford, Church Office. Tel: 020 8502 3071
Email: coordinator@loughtonmethodist.org.uk
Office Manager: Mrs Barbara Hills, Church Office. Tel: 020 8502 3071
Email: administrator@loughtonmethodist.org.uk
Sunday Services 9.00 am, 10.30 am and 6.30 pm
Roots on Sunday 10.30 am *Superintendent* Mr Michael Hall
Toddler Church, 10.00 am Tuesdays (in term time)

LOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH is one of the 12 Methodist Churches that form the London (Forest) Circuit.

We are one of 6,000 Methodist Churches in Britain committed to increasing the awareness of Christ's presence in society and working for the good of all.

We believe in a God of diversity and creativity and seek to reflect that in our worship and membership which ranges in age, background and opinion.

Our premises are designed to serve not only the congregation but the wider needs of Loughton.

- ❖ We welcome people at all stages of faith, whoever they are and however life has treated them. Those who worship come with a mixture of joy and pain, struggles and achievements in their lives. We aim to be a community which is honest with God and with themselves and which gets support from others as they face the demands of everyday life.
- ❖ Many find in Church a place where our deepest questions about life can be explored and hope is revealed in Christ's life and teaching. But it is also a place where people get involved in practical concern for others as we look for ways to show Christ's love in action.

Across the world Methodists have joined with others to make a real difference to major social evils like human rights abuses, pollution of the earth and Third World Debt.

There are about one million people in Britain who have an active connection with the Methodist Church. There are 70 million such people across the world. To find out more about the national church contact: -

www.methodist.org.uk and for LMC www.loughtonmethodist.org.uk.

Articles for publication in the Grapevine can be left in the Church Office or sent to the editor, Keith Watts, 238 Buckhurst Way, Buckhurst Hill, Essex. IG9 6JG.

Tel: 020 8504 6064: E-mail: keithwatts@btinternet.com

The views expressed in articles in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the editor, minister and officers or the church generally.

Letter from the Manse



I can hardly believe that it is seven years since the Morlings arrived in Loughton. I remember it vividly. It was a very hot July day, the boys were two and six months, and Cathy and I arrived wondering what adventures we would have in this new place. The Pickford's van had just started to unload, and then I received a telephone call - an invitation to 'pop' into Holiday Club and say hello. And so I did. Holiday Club was my first introduction to LMC!

And what a great introduction it was too. I was immediately impressed by the scale of the work and the fantastic dedication of the staff. When I came back to the Manse I said to Cathy, "This is fantastic. There is just such great energy down there".

Well, with seven years of hindsight those first impressions have been evidenced time and time again. Within so many aspects of the church life there is fantastic dedication and service. And what continues to gladden my heart is that those energies are not primarily about keeping the church going. It is mission that really drives us. The new building for the support of CDRC and Christian Arts is just one example of innovative mission work. It is about reaching out to Loughton with the Gospel of Christ which has the power to transform communities, lives and attitudes.

So, as I reflect upon these seven years I just want to say thank you. Thank you for the privilege of being part of your lives, for sharing in the ministry of this church and together learning more about the Gospel of Jesus. Together you have immeasurably enriched, stretched and challenged my faith. I know that I have grown because of being the minister at Loughton Methodist.

As we prepare for this year's Holiday Club and the start of the new build I give thanks to God for all His blessings. If you are not already committed to helping out at the Holiday Club or CDRC it is not too late. And please do pray for these two wonderful projects.

Wishing you all a very happy summer,

Tony

Bible verse for the month: Matthew 28:18b-20

Jesus said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Dates for the Diary

June

29th 8.00 pm Waltham Abbey Bible at LMC

July

9th Love Loughton event see back cover

16th Restore Fun Day at Roding Valley adjacent to Oakwood Hill Estate

25 - 29th Mission Rescue Holiday Club

Church Services at Loughton July

3rd	9.00 am	LA Prayer Service
	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
10th	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mr Peter Dawe
17th	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling
	6.30 pm	Circuit Service at Lighthouse Methodist Church Farewell to Rev Andrew Fielding
24th	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
	10.30 pm	Mr David Bowers
31st	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ All Age Worship

A future date for your diaries.

Wesley Church, Cambridge has been booked for us to hold a **Church Away Day on 15th October 2011**. This Church is set in a lovely position in the town and will be perfect for our needs.

Many who shared the Away Day last year at Mulberry House, Ongar found it worthwhile and asked for something similar this year.

The programme for the day has yet to be completed but further details will be published soon.

Please put the date in your diaries now to avoid disappointment.

FORTHCOMING WEDDINGS

The Beaments and the Moles invite all the church family to join them on Friday 2nd September at 1 O'clock at Loughton to celebrate the wedding of Claire and Jon. After the service light refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome to stay.

Andrew and Marilyn Graves write We would once again be delighted if our church friends could join us to help celebrate the wedding of Julie Graves to Ed Maule at Loughton Methodist Church on Friday the 9th of September at 12.30pm.

Thank You.

The family of Jenny Casey would like to thank you all for your generous donations to Cancer Research UK in her memory, the total amount raised was an amazing £1,660.

Elise will be running the 10k Epping Forest Race For Life for her Mum on 13th July, if you would like to sponsor her please go to: www.raceforlifesporsorme.org/eliselaker

Whitechapel Mission breakfasts on Wednesday 17 August - Steve Perry

I am again organising a team from LMC to visit the Whitechapel Mission on 17 August to cook and serve breakfasts to the poor and homeless people of London. It is an early start as we have to be there by 6.00 am to prepare the food before serving starts at 8.00 and we will be finished by 11.30. It is both a humbling and rewarding experience. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Race for Life

Rosemary Haslam writes...Jane and I are walking 10 kilometres in the Race for Life at Finsbury Park on Saturday 23 July (10.30). If anyone is interested in joining us, please let us know.

Rosemary Haslam (020 8504 8000) Jane Gooding (020 8502 3732)

Whitechapel Mission 10k run - 10 July

Steve Perry, Deborah Davies, Paul Davies, Cathy Morling, Claudien Everson, Simon and Victoria Williams are again running in the British 10k London fun run starting in Hyde Park on 11 July in aid of the Whitechapel Mission. They want to raise as much money as possible to support the work of the Mission with the poor and homeless of London and therefore if you would like to sponsor one of the 'Team LMC' runners please see them at Church or fill out the sponsorship form on the door near the Welcome Area kitchen.

We welcome more runners so if anyone else would like to run please see one of us.



Creative Arts Centre – Its happening!!!!

Work is planned to start next Monday 27th June on laying the concrete base for the demountable. This will then need time to cure and weather permitting the actual building will be erected before the start of Holiday Club on 25th July or immediately afterwards if the weather is bad. It is planned that the fit out and finishing will take place during August.

I would, therefore ask you to park off our site and leave the remaining spaces for those who have blue disabled badges and are unable to walk. I am about to issue LMC permits to anyone who need these (please contact [me on 020 8281 0674](tel:02082810674)). This will help us to keep track of the spaces that are available. There will always be one space for unloading/loading but I would ask you to collect this permit from the office when you arrive and return it to them when you move your car after unloading so that others may use the space. If you have problems please contact me so that they can be discussed and hopefully, resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

If you have things stored in the Wesley Hall complex either in the foyer or in the walk-in cupboard at the back of the main hall these must all be removed before the end of August as both these areas will then be demolished!

We also need some men to help clear the under stage area as this will then be used to store the bowls equipment for the Chigwell Disabled Group. If you know of anyone with the skills to make two trolleys for the bowls mats (John Hart is working on the design) please speak to John (phone 8281 7118).

Please do not assume that somebody else will volunteer as that invariably equates to nobody! Lots of people offering their help means that it is not too heavy a burden for anybody.

Thank you for your help and co-operation.

Jill Angold-Stephens and the Project Team

Gift Day Appeal

Martin Howarth, our treasurer, reports that the amount received for our Gift Day so far, in aid of the Creative Arts Centre is:-

£13,610. Gift Aided, Gift Aid rebate totals £3,403 plus non gifted donations of £73 giving a total to date of £17,086.

If you have not responded so far, it is not too late. Gifts can be left with the Church Office and Gift Aid envelopes are available if appropriate.

STREET PASTORS

Why and who are Street Pastors?



Why are Street Pastors wanted in Loughton?

Why are local churches prepared to be involved?

Is God wanting YOU to be a Street Pastor?



COME TO A MEAL AND MEET PEOPLE WHO ARE STREET PASTORS, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM OUR POLICE, CHURCHES AND COUNCIL WHO WILL ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.

***TUESDAY 19th JULY from 7:30 pm
Loughton Methodist Church***

There is a need for people who are trained to go out onto our streets to care for others as our pubs and clubs close on Friday and Saturday. There is a need for people to support them by prayers and coffee. There is a need for people to administer the background organisation to support the active pastors. Are YOU one of those people?

This is NOT an evangelistic campaign, it is practical caring to keep vulnerable people safe and to help keep our town peaceful.

You MUST be over 18, but there is no real upper age limit - some of the most effective street pastors are senior citizens.

To book your meal, please phone LMC Office 020 8502 3071

Churches currently involved include St Mary's, St Michael's and Loughton Baptist and Methodist.

Roots Anniversary

We were pleased to welcome One Way UK Puppet Ministries to LMC for the weekend 18th/19th June. On the Saturday they ran a Puppet Workshop which was a great success it was open to more than just LMC and some old friends met up and some new friends were made. The participants were given ideas about how to set up a puppet ministry and were coached in the handling of the puppets. In the afternoon two groups learned a different routine each and then presented it to each other. Great fun but hard work! Everyone was assured that "You get used to it". There was also the opportunity to buy puppets and other resources.

On the Sunday they joined us for our first anniversary service since the renaming of our children's and youth work to 'Roots'. It was great to see so many at this All Age worship, ably led by Chloe. Ian Jones, the MD of One Way UK, with the aid of his team of puppeteers, treated us to worship that was both meaningful and fun. The final puppet song, with accompanying DVD about the crucifixion, was very moving and a fitting end to an amazing service about the great love of God for us all.



Caption Competition

What is Tony doing or saying here?
Suggestions to the editor please. Drop them into the Church Office or email to keithwatts@btinternet.com by 31st July

GETTING TO KNOW YOU ~ Paul Heather



I was born in St Margaret's hospital in Epping in August 1967, and lived with my parents, older brother and younger sister in Theydon Bois. My parents still live in the same house and have

been there about 45 years.

I am married to Sharon and we have been married for six years, we moved into Loughton from Epping two years ago, we didn't know at that time that we were moving into a house opposite the Manse.

I work as an Account Manager for an Insurance Brokers, in the City. I cover various types of Insurance from Pest Controllers in the USA to Market Traders at Billingsgate Fish Market. As a Company we are also the proud sponsors of Manchester United (sorry Tony). *(Tony, our minister is an ardent Chelsea supporter! Ed.)*

We have been attending LMC for almost three years, we love the fellowship, the sense of oneness, friendship and community. From the first moment we walked into LMC we were made to feel so welcome, and felt part of the church almost immediately

What is your earliest memory?

As a child I remember my school holidays, spending time in the forest, having picnics, climbing trees, making a dam in the brook, riding my bike and hopping on my Spacehopper. Also spending time with my grandparents who spoil me rotten.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

This is a tough question, I greatly admire those people who have overcome adversity to achieve great things. I am also so thankful for having been brought up in a Christian family and the love, care and spiritual input my parents gave into our lives.

I thank God for bringing Sharon & I together, we met in our previous church and at first we really didn't like each other (it's true God moves in a mysterious way). Sharon is good for me and helps keep me on the straight and narrow, we love working together in the Church and particularly amongst the children.

What is your favourite book?

Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett. He writes about the building of a Cathedral by a Master Builder in the 12th Century; it describes the battles and the struggles of life in those times. An epic read.

If you were Prime Minister, what would be your key policy issue?

There would be numerous policy issues. The NHS, would have more nurses, more doctors, more hospitals, & less bureaucracy. Our war heroes would be cared for and looked after as they deserve. Our pensioners would live with dignity. Our children would be safe, have a great education, and grow up to be responsible, caring people. And lastly free chocolate for everyone.

What would be your preferred choice for an alternative career?

Maybe a doctor, air sea rescue pilot, chef, or Ice Road Trucker. Something more action packed than Insurance....

What is your best memory of school days?

I hated school, so my best memory would

probably be the day I left school for good or going on school holidays

What / Where is your favourite place?

I think my favourite place is where we go on holiday in Portugal. It is a small villa with it's own pool in a village up in the hills about a 20 minute drive from Villamoura on the Algarve. The peace and quiet, the sunshine, the tranquillity of the place, a real escape from the stresses of everyday life. This year will be my 12th visit.

How did you first become involved in the Christian faith?

I was brought up in a Christian family, however, when I was about 10 years old I was given a book as a Sunday School prize which told the story of CT Studd who played cricket for England but gave up his career to be a missionary in China. The thing that spoke to me the most was that he gave everything to the Lord, his career, his wealth, fame and fortune in order to serve the Lord. It was after reading this book that I gave my life to Christ and ever since have tried to serve and follow the Lord in the way he would want.

What helps to sustain you in your faith journey?

Knowing that Christ is with me, dwelling in me, guiding me and leading me day by day and the fact that he is a 24/7 God. Also having the Bible which is the best guidebook you can have. No Sat Nav is required

What is your favourite bible passage and why?

I love the story of Noah and the relationship he had with God, the way he never questioned God, but just followed his every command. I also love Galatians 5 which speaks about the Fruits of the Holy Spirit,

being Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control; these are fruits that I desire to have in my life

If you were to summarise your faith in a few words, what would you say?

Faith is simply believing that God will do what he says and knowing that he will never leave you. It's great having that Father and Son relationship with him

What message would you want to give if you were asked to give a sermon?

I would say, that you have tried your life without God, now try it with God and see the difference. Yes there may be ups and downs but with God by your side, you simply can't lose. Who wouldn't want a loving Heavenly Father who you can call on whenever, wherever you need him, a Father who loves you, cares for you, protects you and wants you to be one of his children and gives you the promise of eternal life, if you believe in him. I certainly want that.

What hymn or song means the most to you?

I love the hymn O Jesus I have Promised. I had this at my baptism and the words are just so poignant

O Jesus I have Promised
To Serve thee to the end
be thou forever near me
my master and my Friend
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side
Nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide

Methodist Conference

It's Methodist Conference time again, and some of you must wonder what it actually is and what it does. What follows gives an overview:-

The Methodist Conference meets annually in June or July, hosted by a different district or group of districts each year.

It first met in 1744 under John Wesley, who gathered together his assistants (both ordained ministers and itinerant lay preachers) to confer together about 'what to teach, how to teach, and what to do, i.e. how to regulate our doctrine, discipline and practice.'

The contemporary Conference is a gathering of representatives from each Methodist district, along with some who have been elected by the Conference and some ex officio members and representatives of the Youth Assembly.

There is a mixture of lay people, ordained presbyters and deacons. Presbyters and deacons also have their own separate gatherings before the main, decision-making session.

The Conference is the body that agrees policy for the Methodist Church.

Business for the Conference to decide upon is prepared by the Methodist Council, an elected body that meets regularly. Memorials to Conference may be sent by districts ahead of time, and representatives to Conference may introduce Notices of Motion.

This year the Conference is being held in Southport between 30th June and 7th July.

Cathy Morling, Martin Lawford and Hannah Miles (our previous ministers daughter) will be at the Conference taking part in a piece of drama connected to the BibleFresh initiative in this 400 year anniversary of the King James Bible.

The President and Vice President for 2011 will be inducted on 2 July with Rev Lionel Osbourne as President and Mrs Ruth Elizabeth Pickles as Vice President.

Among matters being considered at this years conference is The Big Society and how churches might respond to this initiative.

London Forest Circuit

Farewell Service

for Rev Andrew Fielding, Superintendent Minister
at Lighthouse Methodist Church
Markhouse Road, Walthamstow
6.30 pm
Sunday 17th July

Successful Christian Aid Week for LMC

We are very thankful that we have had a successful Christian Aid Week this year at LMC.

Activity for the Week started two weeks in advance of the collection. LMC held a special Christian Aid 'breakout' style All Age Worship on 1st May.. While some of the congregation listened to a sermon from Tony, another group watched a Christian Aid DVD, from an excellent new series produced in conjunction with the Guardian, some went to Morrisons to see whether they could live on £1 a day, the younger children made a food collage, a group produced a banner with the **POVERTY** slogan and another group created a prayer tree. A good time was had by all.

Collecting started on 14th May at Sainsbury's in conjunction with the other CTL churches. Thanks to the excellent response from collectors we were able to keep going from 8am to 8pm and raised £511. This was a real boost as last year we could not get permission for this collection and in 2009 we raised £407.

We were grateful that 6 new House to House collectors came forward this year, as we have lost our stalwart supporter John Robins who did 6 roads. Despite the rest of us not being as persistent as John at going back to houses we nevertheless raised £1662, an increase of over £100 on last year. £642 was gift aided, which will allow Christian Aid to reclaim another £160. In the current economic climate this is a great total.

The bulk of the organisation this year was done by Alec Brown (Sainsbury's) and Cecil Everson (House to House). I am very grateful to them and we are all very grateful for the help we have received from so many Church members.

Keith Aldred

Holiday Club

Holiday club this year is taking place between July 25 & 29, it is anticipated that, by the time this is published, all of the places will have been taken. The theme this year is Mission Rescue. It promises to be wonderful experience for all who will be attending and for those who will be leading.

Please pray for all the children who will be on our premises during the week, that through the activities on offer seeds will be sown that will bear fruit in the years to come. We would also remember all those working with these children, that God may inspire them in all that they do, to give them the strength and the energy for what is always a very busy week.

We can look forward to experiencing the joys of that week in morning Worship on Sunday 31 July.





Wesley Day 2011

We met at St Paul's Cathedral for Evensong on Tuesday 24th May. It was a lovely evening, sunny and warm with a breeze.

We were given an order of service and sat under the

dome looking at the wonderful mosaics.

After 10 minutes the choir began to form and were led in procession into the stalls. The clergy processed in and we were greeted by a raised eyebrow from Rev Leslie Griffiths.

Evensong began with Charles Wesley's O Thou Who Camest From Above. We were welcomed as Methodists and the celebration of the lives of John and Charles Wesley was included in the welcome and Bidding prayers. It was mentioned that members of conference were with us including the President and Vice President. Evensong then proceeded as usual but the President Rev Alison Tomlin read the Gospel, the anthem was by Samuel Wesley (John's nephew) and the final hymn was Charles Wesley's O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing.

We followed the procession of clergy out of the North door to the copy of the statue of John Wesley that is in the graveyard there (partly hidden by overhanging trees). Here the Canon in residence, Rev Mark Oakley and a few other members of St Paul's joined a band of about 40 Methodists in singing Charles Wesley's Behold The Servant of the Lord, being reminded in readings from John Wesley's diary that he had begun that evening by going to Evensong at St Paul's and hearing the Psalm 130, 'Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord'. Then came a prayer and the wreath of yellow and purple flowers was laid at the foot of the statue.

We sang Charles Wesley's My God I am Thine and left with the blessing of the Canon. Talking to Leslie as we processed (or straggled) along, it has taken a number of years, but now St Paul's ring Leslie (rather than the other way around) and ask him what should be included in the celebration for this year at Evensong!

We walked some 400 yards or so and arrived at the roundabout that is the Museum of London. Martin and I have not been there for years and had really forgotten about it. The main entrance is at first floor level and we pounded our way up the steps from street level (some got the lift) and across the road bridge to the main door. There we were greeted by a museum curator and just to the right of the door is the 'Flame' monument. This is sited as close as can now be determined to the house in Aldersgate where John Wesley had his experience of God.

I have seen photos of it several times but never seen it in the flesh and was surprised at how huge it is. I'd imagined it as about shoulder-high but was unprepared for the 15 foot slab of metal that faced me. It is shaped to resemble a rather square flame and has the extract from John Wesley's diary about his heart being 'strangely warmed' in raised lettering on it. Here we sang Charles Wesley's Give Me The Faith That Can Remove, we listened to the extract from John Wesley's diary, said a prayer and the curator laid the wreath at the foot of the 'flame'. We finished with Charles Wesley's Come Holy Ghost, our Hearts Inspire. Then we were off again, about 30 of us by now, walking along at first floor level.

Leslie had introduced the vicar of St Luke's church, where John Wesley went for Communion and we paused to acknowledge the building as we passed. Then we continued in the direction of Moorfield's and

veering to the left. It was lovely walking through the Barbican area at that height able to enjoy the water features and gardens. Finally we descended steps (or a lift) to ground level, past the building that claims it will be the tallest living accommodation in London (City?), and arrived at the north side of Bunhill Fields, the dissenter's graveyard. This contains the graves of Susanna Wesley (John and Charles's mother), John Bunyan, Isaac Watts and Daniel Defoe as well as many thousand others. We had a group with us including about 12 women called Sisters of Susannah - or something like that - they wore a distinctive purple and white uniform with hand-sized round black and white pictures of Susannah Wesley and other notable women printed on it. Their dress was a blouse and long skirt. They sang at the grave of Susannah Wesley. We had readings reminding us of just how significant Susannah's teaching and witness had been in John's life - including showing him that local preaching was a gift from God. We sang What Shall We Offer Our Good Lord? which had been translated by John Wesley and the Vice President Deacon Eunice Attwood laid a wreath at Susannah's headstone, we had a prayer and sang What are these arrayed in white? (fortunately to a tune we knew), said the Grace together and left the graveyard.

As we walked along the President and Vice President had mingled and chatted with people. Martin had a good chat with the President and I had a talk with the Vice President's husband and discovered that she is a Street Pastor in Newcastle and also sits on the board of the Ascension Trust, the body that administrates the funding and support for Street Pastors. She briefly paused in a tight schedule to encourage and commend our efforts in Loughton to work towards being involved.

When we arrived at Wesley's Chapel, there was a welcome break for a tea or coffee and biscuit and then we assembled inside the Chapel for the main service. Eunice, the Vice President, led the service and Rev Alison, the president, preached. The main downstairs area of the church was full and there was a Ghanaian choir who sang an introit and an anthem and almost upstaged the whole thing! The President, however, was up to it. She looked as though she had enjoyed the whole event and led our thinking to see that John had done the 'head-work' in studying his theology, that the event we were celebrating was the 'heart-work' in making it personal to him, that this then fed back into 'informed hard-work' on John's part. She explained that John had thought this was a once-for-ever event when it happened but that the years of experience show in his diaries that it is more of a cycle of refreshment and we all lose the immediacy of the heart experience but should then be working and thinking towards the next experience of God for us. It was such a powerfully explained sermon.

The service ended with us leaving the Chapel singing We Are Marching in the Light of God and moving round to the back of the chapel where John Wesley's grave is. We sang I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath and heard a reading from G J Stevenson detailing the death of John Wesley - especially his words, 'The best of all is, God is with us'. The president laid the wreath on John Wesley's tomb and we returned to the Chapel to sing Captain of Israel's host and Guide of all who seek the land above', then after the blessing we finally left. It had begun at 5 pm and finished at 9 pm but had been a real pleasure throughout.

Mary and Martin Howarth



THANK YOU L.M.C. from E.S.

The volunteers who work for the Loughton branch of Essex Savers Credit Union take this opportunity to thank Loughton Methodist Church, High Road for their continuing interest in, and support in the promotion of, the Credit Union.

We are privileged to have the use of the church's Coffee Lounge for our collection point from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. on alternate Thursday afternoons where we are able to meet our existing and prospective members in a friendly and safe environment.

For more information please call 07504 759606

Maybe you know of somebody whose circumstances could be helped by this service—more details follow (Ed)

Local net Credit Union reaches £1 million loan milestone

Started just four years ago, the local credit Union, Essex Savers, has made during this time over 2000 loans totalling £1,024,000.

Staffed mainly by volunteers, this 'ethical' bank was set up to help the socially disadvantaged avoid the crippling interest rates of credit companies and loan sharks and help save for the future. The poorest pay more for their services including credit. By providing affordable loans, Essex Savers gives access to banking services, creates financial inclusion, offers an alternative to payday loans and doorstep lenders, promotes money management, provides access to money advice and education and reduces the burden on local taxpayers.

Essex Savers is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that provides a safe place to save money and obtain loans at reasonable interest rates.

Members save small amounts regularly. These savings then provide affordable loans to members in need. Loans range from £50-£7,500 and are typically used for re-training course fees, interim loans whilst between employment and to improve accommodation.

Anyone who lives or works in Essex can be a member. To find out more or to become a member visit your local collection point at

The Coffee Lounge, Loughton Methodist Church, 260 High Road, Loughton, IG10 1RB

30th June (2-4pm)

14th, 28th July (2-4pm)

11th, 25th August (2-4pm)

Debden Library, Borders Lane, Loughton, IG10 3SA

7th, 21st July (2-4pm)

4th, 18th August (2-4pm)

Membership joining fee is £4 with a minimum saving £1, please bring 'photo identification and proof of address.

Essex Savers is supported by Essex County Council and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority; Firm Number: 230859

www.essexsaversonline.co.uk



Next year, with London hosting the Olympic Games, should give churches a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community and also those who will be visiting to attend the games. Our

proximity to the stadium may well mean that we will have many visitors in the area. An organisation that helps churches at times such as this is 'More than Gold'. It could be that with their help and expertise we as a church could reach out to our local community and beyond.

Below More than Gold describe their mission and structure.

The churches in the UK have a **once in a lifetime opportunity** thanks to the 2012 Games being awarded to London. We are here to be a **one-stop-shop** that helps the churches seize the moment.

Our mission

Put simply, the reason we exist is -

To enable the UK churches to engage with the 2012 Games

Our vision

When the dust has finally settled we hope to have fulfilled our dream for the 2012 Games to have enabled –

Thousands of churches to taste the excitement of reaching their community in fresh and ongoing ways in Jesus' name

We are doing it by –

- Helping people catch the vision for the impact that can be made and the role they can play
- Making connections between the many agencies and thousands of churches that can

make it happen

- Coordinating the production of the resources and action needed

●

Serving our land

All too often the churches are seen negatively, as out of touch and only interested in themselves. The 2012 Games provides a unique opportunity for UK churches to be **seen for what they really are.**

More Than Gold is like scaffolding – existing on a **temporary basis** so something permanent can exist.

Our 'permanent' dream is **the legacy we want to see left behind** – a growing and more relevant Church that is continuing to engage with its community through sports and service.

Our structure

As 'scaffolding', More Than Gold has already created a structure involving **over 200 people from churches and organisations.** They make up a series of strategic Programme Teams, one centralised Executive Committee and a Board of Trustees.

To provide maximum support for churches we are developing **host coordinators** in each of the UK's nations and regions. Their role is to –

- Host 'engagement events' for local leaders this coming October
- Help local churches to explore ways to work together

Our approach

We serve the Church by -

- Being a **catalyst** for activity. The word describes us perfectly – 'Catalyst: something that causes an important event to happen'

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

- **Casting vision** so as to open eyes to the opportunities – based on what has happened at past major sports events and the special opportunities 2012 offers
- Working to **connect** Christians and churches across the country and globe – generating strength through unity and partnership.

- Working to **coordinate** the opportunities and resources – reducing duplication and maximising opportunities

Throughout we echo **the values of Hope 08**, one of our key partners. That the good news about Jesus will be expressed in both word and action.

Further information can be found on their website <http://morethangold.bpweb.net/>

Lynn's travels

Lynn Jones continues her travels, this time on to the former Portuguese colonies in West Africa.

Angola – we all remember reading about this country during the civil war which finally ended in 2002. The war began in 1975 when Angola gained its independence from Portugal, which had held it since the sixteenth century. The country became a pawn in the Cold War raging at the time - the United States, Israel, South Africa and Cuba all had points to score off each other and used Angola as a base for their war games. The country is now at peace. The capital, Luanda has a large natural port where we moored for the day. Luanda has a population of around five million people, most of whom live in great poverty. There is a considerable building boom going on, but most of the money the country gains from trade in oil, diamonds, coffee, iron and salt, goes into the hands of a very small elite. We noticed that surrounding the building sites are high

metal fences for security and safety, and these are topped by narrow platforms which act as shades for pedestrians as they walk along the rough pavements. However we also noticed that on top of the platforms are hundreds of bedrolls – the 'bedrooms' of the building workers who cannot get back to their villages at night.

Corruption is a serious problem and so is an obsession with 'security' – it was very difficult to get permission to take any photographs at all. We managed to visit the Museum of Ethnography, situated in a magnificent Portuguese colonial building, and we saw many more such buildings in various states of repair, including the 'Iron Palace' built in the heyday of Luanda by Gustav Eiffel. We were also shown, from a distance, the Mausoleum of the first President of independent Angola, Agostino Neto, who was chemically preserved when he died, although we were not allowed into the compound, nor were photographs permitted.

(Continued on page 19)

We had two guides, a young woman called Miriam who was an example of the new Angola – elegant, confident in several languages (Portuguese is the official language of the country) and keen to portray her country as modern and developing rapidly (like most young people she found the mobile phone company buildings the most interesting and essential in the city); and Cypriano, a man of 28 who had very recently ‘found Jesus’ and was most keen that we should all do so too. He had produced a CD of religious songs and was keen to point out the Evangelical Church to which he belonged. There are of course a number of Roman Catholic Churches left by the Portuguese but the young seem to be attracted to the evangelical movement emanating from Brazil, a country with which Angola has many links, both in terms of the language and Portuguese colonial history, but also racially – many Brazilians have Angolan ancestry through the slave trade. Our guides were both excellent dancers and gave a demonstration at the museum, where a pair of musicians showed us the local musical instruments.

Our next port of call was scheduled to be Libreville in Gabon, but at the last minute it was considered unsafe because of political unrest, so we diverted to São Tomé instead.

The independent and Portuguese speaking country of **São Tomé and Príncipe** consists of the two islands and the capital is the town of São Tomé itself. It is named after St Thomas, as it was discovered as an uninhabited island by the Portuguese on St Thomas’s day around 1470. We were shown around by a young man named Elvis, whose normal job was with the Department of Statistics. We were taken to a fishing village with its own small Catholic Church, and the main Cathedral in the city, notable for its Portuguese azulejos, or blue and white tiles. The islands were used to grow sugar in the early days and they were a base for the slave trade. The Portuguese fort of São Sebastião is now the most interesting São Tomé National Museum. The country is now a prominent exporter of cocoa, used for making fine chocolate.

Next stop- Cameroon!

For your information

Jill Geddes writes following her article on her charity activity in the May Grapevine:

“In the light of the accusations of financial mismanagement that have been laid at the door of the Central Asian Institute, I am sending the money I raised from the swim and tea party to “children in crisis”. This is a British charity with transparent finances that works in Afghanistan as well.”

Children's Page with Fiona Beament

Hi Everyone,

I hope that lots of you managed to come to the Roots on Sunday celebration service when we enjoyed watching and listening to the incredible puppets. Wasn't it fantastic the way the puppets moved, spoke and sang so realistically – they really did become the people and animals they looked like!

I'm sure we will all remember their message that God loves us all, even when we do things that make Him sad, because He is our Heavenly Father who never lets us down.

I was lucky enough to go to part of the training workshop where we began to learn how to make the puppets work. When I first went in, all the puppet faces lined up at the back of the church looked amazing but without help they couldn't do anything to speak, sing or bring themselves to life.

It was only when we used our hands and voices that they became alive and could be used to share the good news about Jesus.

Recently we have celebrated Pentecost when we remember how God sent his Holy Spirit to give the disciples power, courage and special gifts to carry on teaching people about Jesus. They became His hands and voices when they allowed Him to work through them.

That same Holy Spirit is there for us all today if we choose to live our lives for Jesus. The Spirit helps us to use the gifts that we have and shows us the work he wants us to do. We can ask for His help every day, at home, at school or when we are out with friends or on holiday. He wants to share in every part of our lives so that we can be the best that we can be wherever we are and whatever we are doing.

As the Summer Holidays approach and you enjoy spending more time with friends and family, may you allow God's Spirit to help you be his helping hands and caring voice to those around you.

Prayertime

Dear Father God,

Thank you for the puppet team who took part in our family service recently.

Thank you for their time and skills which they shared with us so generously and for your message of your love which was spoken through them.

Help us too, with the help of your Holy Spirit, to be your hands and voices to those we meet day by day, so that they may come to know your love for themselves,

In Jesus name, Amen

Puzzletime

Can you unjumble these holiday words?



IDASEES

SHENISNU

HABEC

VRACANA

TELCANDASS

LOTHE

CIPINC

NIGWIMMS



Children's activities

Toddler Church

A time of worship for pre-school children and their parents/carers.

Meets Tuesdays in term time in the church at 10.00 am.

Contact - Cathy Morling, 8508 1834

Girls' Brigade

(Christian Uniformed Organisation)

For girls 5-14 years old

6.00 to 7.30 pm

Thursdays in term time.

Lots of fun, activities, badges work and awards

Contact:- Andrea Moles 8508 0258



Guy Chester
Centre

We are a centre for spirituality,
prayer, hospitality and encounter

Here you can find space to reflect, to be,
to think, to recover, to learn and grow, to
feel welcomed and valued. We offer a
lovely place to be and able leadership of
events that are well organised. We hope

you will find something here that you will feel able to come to. We
look forward to seeing you...

The Guy Chester Centre is situated in Muswell Hill and offers both training
and spirituality, they have a wide range of courses available throughout the
year. These come under various headings such as Toolbox for Life and
Church, with courses for listening skills, understanding loss, bereavement and
grief, exploring our own losses, and Pastoral care in the contemporary church
Retreat Courses and Workshops: Divorce recovery workshops, an Advent

Retreat, Creative Retreat - 'Be still and know that
I am...', A journey to Easter,

There are courses with a Methodist Focus, for
'You Called?' exploring vocation, retreats for lay
church workers.



Quiet Days are also
provided throughout
the year.

Full details can be found on the Notice Board in Wesley's Café,
or by going on line at www.chestercentre.org.uk

Guy Chester Centre
Training and Spirituality
Chester House
Pages Lane
Muswell Hill
London N10 1PR
Tel: 020 8883 8204

Fellowship Groups

Monday@11

Mondays 11.00am - 12 .30
Fellowship Group meeting
at the Church
Leader - Rev Tony Morling
Tel: 8508 1834

Emmaus

Mondays 8.00 - 10.00 pm
A fellowship group that
enjoys sharing and
bouncing ideas off each
other
Venue - various homes
Leader - Peter Moles &
Irene Sampson
Tel: 8508 0258

JAM - Just a minute

Monday mornings
For busy mums, meets for
discussion, prayer and fellowship
around the kitchen table. on
Thursday mornings in different
homes.
(children welcome.)
Tel- Diana Page on 020 8508 2617.

Prayer & Praise

Tuesday 8 - 9.30 pm
A group that enjoys worship
and prayer together
Meets last Tuesday of the
month
Leader - Chris & Fiona
Beament
Tel: 8508 9983

Cover to Cover

Wednesday 1.30 - 3 pm
A group that enjoys
fellowship and discussion.
Contact:- Pat Perry,
Tel: 8508 9014.

Seekers Group

Wednesday 8 - 10 pm
A group that enjoys fellowship,
support and learning together, meets
on 1st & 3rd Weds in month.
Venue - various homes
Leaders -
Chris Watts & Barbara Hills
Tel: 8504 6064

The Girls of all ages

Meets on Thursday mornings.
You are invited to join us for
fellowship, prayer and
discussion.
We meet in Wesley's at 10.30
am for coffee and move into
the church until 12 noon.
Do come and join us.
Leader - Barbara Griffiths
Tel: 020 8508 4624

Oasis

Thursday 8 - 9.30 pm
A group that enjoys
singing, fellowship, and
study
Venue - various locations
around Loughton
Leaders - Mary Ford &
Derek Clarke
Tel: 8504 6700 & 8508

Omega

Meets monthly in the
afternoon by arrangement
A group which meets for critical
discussion on Christianity in our
technological and pluralistic society.
Contact: Patricia Smith 8505 5291
or Keith Aldred 01992 560455

Other Church Group details

Butterfly Club

A weekly gathering on Mondays for carers and
pre-school children, meeting in the Wesley
Hall in term time, 1.30 to 3.00 pm. Contact -
Victoria Williamson 8502 2339

LMC Singers

Meet to practise 7.45 pm on Friday evenings
at the church.
New singers, of all standards, are always
welcome to join.
For more information please contact Michael
Hall on 020 8502 3690.

'Come and raise a joyful sound'

Double YY's, (Yesterdays Youth)

meet monthly for fun, & fellowship. It is
open to anyone who was young whenever
but is still young at heart. Meetings can be
talks, bowling, walks, visits to places of
interest, eating or anything that the
members wish to do.
Please check The Week for details each
month and come along.

LOVE LOUGHTON FUN DAY

LOUGHTON

LOUGHTON

SATURDAY 9th JULY 2011

12-3pm

**CENTRIC PARADE (HIGH ROAD) & ST.
MARY'S FRONTAGE**

"Church at the Heart of Community"

Partnering with local churches, voluntary groups, organisations, schools, businesses and others, we are going to celebrate our town together.

The LMC Family and other Christians from the area are the 'salt and light' of the celebration (Matt 5:13-16) - giving it a distinctive flavour by showing and telling everyone that we Love Loughton because Christ loved it first...

Among the activities that will be on offer at St Mary's there will be Graffiti Workshops by Can Control, a 5-a-side football tournament, a Bungee Run, and Bouncy Castle. On Centric Parade there will be displays, Olympic White Water Rafting Park stand with a Rowing Machine competition.

There will be plenty of fun, with activities for all ages, Come along with all the family and don't forget to tell your neighbours and friends