

thegrapevine

NOVEMBER 2011

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



A prayer for Remembrance Day can be found on page 2

London Forest Circuit

Circuit Service

At Leytonstone Methodist Church
High Road, Leytonstone E11

Sunday November 20th at 6.30 pm

A service celebrating the

Year of the Bible

Led by members of the Circuit Staff

If you are interested in coming and would like a lift
please contact Tony Morling or Peter Moles

Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

Loving God

We remember in your presence all those who have died in war
And those who still live with the pain of losing someone they love.

We remember people who, today, live in fear of their lives
And those who fear the knock on the door or the telephone
call that heralds bad news.

We remember politicians and others who hold positions of
power and influence
And whose decisions can lead to other people's life or death.
And we commit ourselves not only to pray, but to seek and
make peace

In our relationships, in our communities, and in our world.

Lord hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

AMEN



Revd David Gamble, President of the Methodist Conference 2009-2010

Loughton Methodist Church

High Road, Loughton IG10 1RB

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Email: tonymorling@loughtonmethodist.org.uk
Children & Community Worker, Chloe Purchase, Church Office, 020 8502 3071
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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.

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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



“Where are you when you are not preaching at Loughton?”, asked someone recently. I don’t think that they thought that I was lying in bed, so I explained that Loughton Methodist Church belonged to a group of twelve churches which collectively make up the London Forest Circuit. Together we share resources for mission such as trained Local Preachers, finance and Ministerial staff. So when I am not preaching at Loughton, I am probably at one of our sister churches such as Leyton or Cann Hall near the Olympic site or one of the Chingford Churches. Likewise, our LMC based Local Preachers are often preaching at one of the other churches or we are being enriched by the leadership of another Circuit preacher at LMC.

Ever since the time of John Wesley one of the distinctive features of Methodism is that each church is bound to others in ties of commitment and blessing. Personally, I like the system. It challenges the view of splendid isolationism and forces us to think about faith from a vantage point other than our own.

Within the Forest Circuit there is great richness in cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Within the worship of the churches there can be heard the beat of steel drums, the singing of Ghanaian choirs and traditional choral anthems. And within the staff team there is also great diversity: Femi from the Gambia leads a team from South Africa, South Korea, Britain, The Republic of Congo and Jersey. A reminder of the international nature of those who respond to Christ!

Might you sometime like to visit one of these congregations? I am sure that if you spoke to one of the LMC Local preachers they would be delighted for you to accompany them. Or how about attending the Circuit Celebration at Leytonstone on November 20th @ 6.30pm. If you need a lift just speak to me or one of the stewards- I am sure that we could arrange a lift.

In a world that appears to fracture often and split into ever smaller monochromatic units, Methodism’s legacy of ‘belonging to the Circuit’ is something worth treasuring and celebrating. Don’t get me wrong the system is not perfect - but I do know that I am being greatly enriched by belonging to such a diverse, international family.

Tony

Church Services at Loughton

November

6th	9.00 am	Local Arrangement ~ Prayer Service
	10.30 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
13th	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling ~ Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mr Martin Lawford
20th	9.00 am	Rev Tony Morling~ Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Mr Jacob Adofo ~ All Age Worship
	6.30 pm	Circuit Service at Leytonstone Methodist Church Celebrating the Year of the Bible
27th	9.00 am	Mrs Christine Watts
	10.30 pm	Rev Tony Morling

Bible verse for the month

'Do all to the glory of God'

I Corinthians 10:31

Out of the Box

Informal worship in innovative ways

Wednesday 23rd November, 7.30 pm

in Wesley's Café

Loughton Methodist Church

We will watch the film 'On Golden Pond' together,
followed by a time of sharing

Light refreshments available

Dates for the Diary

November

- 1st 8.00 pm Stewards Meeting
- 1st 8.00 pm Alpha Course at Costa Coffee - see page 12
- 2nd 8.00 pm Bringing the Bible Alive - the New Testament see below
- 5th All day CTL Womens Conference see page 13
- 5th Evening Fireworks at St Johns - check The Week for full details
- 13th 12.15pm Remembrance Service at War Memorial
- 16th 8.00 pm Church Council
- 20th 6.30 pm Circuit Service at Leytonstone Methodist Church
- 23rd 7.30 pm Out of the Box Worship in Wesley's Café see page 5
- 26th 10.00—2.30 Christmas Bazaar in the Church see back cover
- 27th 10.30 am Toy Service see page 15

Bringing the Bible Alive

November 2nd 8.00pm
Loughton Methodist Church

The New Testament with Tony Morling

**How it came to be, Who wrote it, Is it still relevant today?
All Welcome**



Remembrance Sunday

13th November
12.15 at The War Memorial, Kings Green



They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them

Some Ideas to help with your Christmas Shopping that will benefit others as well

Our own Christmas Bazaar being held on November 26th, (full details are on the back cover).

Because of the building work it is being held in the church and admission will be free.

You can help by providing items for the various stalls, Nearly New Gifts, Plants, Tombola, Jewellery, Cakes, Toys, Good Bric-a-Brac, and the Raffle.

Any items for the bazaar can be brought to the church on Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th and left in the Welcome Area. On Friday 25th items can be brought into the church from 11.00 am when the setting up will be taking place. Any cakes should be brought on Friday evening or first thing on Saturday morning.

All proceeds will be shared between the PALS for Dalits project and the Whitechapel Mission. Most of all do come along on the Saturday and bring your friends and family.

Pat Perry and Barbara Martin.

Back By Popular Request –Traidcraft Christmas catalogues available NOW

A Fairly-Traded Christmas present makes a gift even more meaningful. Catalogues for Traidcraft goods are again being distributed via church groups, or get one directly from Pam Michaelis (8551 6827) and Angela Aldred (01992560455). Orders to Pam or Angela by forms, e-mail or telephone (See catalogue). No payment until delivery, post free. Good Shopping!

MAKING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING A JOY !

Christmas might be the most wonderful time of the year, but it's also one of the busiest ! So this year take the strain out of present-shopping and bring joy with gifts that keep giving. The new Christian Aid "Present Aid" catalogues are now available in the welcome area, or you will find the details at www.presentaid.org where you will find something for everyone - from fruit trees for green-fingered friends to goats, ducks and chickens for any young animal lovers in the family.

And best of all, you can be sure that your generosity is making a real difference, because each gift you buy could help to transform lives in poor and vulnerable communities and bring joy to those in desperate need.

So, this Christmas, shop the most rewarding way, with Present Aid. Happy shopping !

Alec Brown

CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING!!

PAPER RECYCLING – PLEASE HELP

Unlike our homes, LMC does not benefit from 'free' recycling collections. However, with all that goes on at LMC, a considerable amount of paper and cardboard suitable for recycling is generated by all the users of the premises. The office staff have always, on an informal basis, taken much of this home and put it in their own recycling sacks. However, it would help tremendously if, when any of us members of the congregation have our car at the church, we could make a point of looking by the rubbish bin (which was between the back door and the kitchen door but during the building works is in the car park) and take home to recycle any obvious paper or cardboard, particularly any larger items. This would be a small and painless way in which we can help our hard pressed staff. Let's try and be aware.

Thanks.

Pete Moles – Senior Steward

A ADVANCE WARNING

Storage Room Clearout

The storage room in the church corridor next to the back kitchen has become a health and safety issue! We would like to tidy it up and dispose of any unclaimed items on Saturday 19th November. The room's main users should be the Flower arrangers, Communion stewards and Roots on Sunday. Anyone else storing things in there must seek permission to do so and items should be clearly labelled and stacked neatly.

Fiona Beament

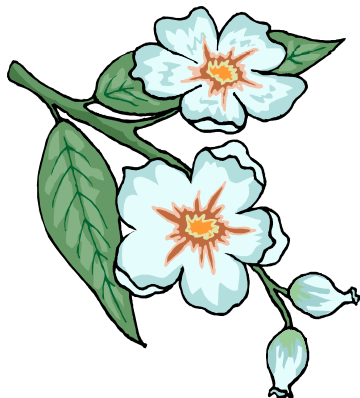
Loughton Street Pastors Update

Loughton Street Pastors is now licensed by Ascension Trust!

There has been a bit of a lull because of the birth of Wayne's son and Martin and Mary's holiday.

In the coming week or two all those who expressed an interest in training will receive an application form. This needs to be completed and returned to Mary Howarth at 16 Marjorams Avenue IG10 1PT before the end of November.

The committee was unhappy about the financial arrangements suggested by Ascension Trust to us and there are now no immediate financial implications to signing up to Loughton Street Pastors. We will have to fund-raise but that will be discussed with you during training. If anyone else who was not at the launch dinner wishes to apply for training will you either contact Mary Howarth or leave your name and address with the Church Office, please.



WE ALL THRIVE ON ENCOURAGEMENT but some people need it more than others.

That is why I am suggesting that you send a Christmas card to a Christian in another part of the world who is suffering for their faith. On Sunday 27th November, I shall be in the welcome area with a stack of cards and all the information you will need to do just that. Last year I provided 250 cards and they all went thanks to your kindness and concern and I am trusting that you will do the same this year!

If you are not going to be at church that Sunday, please let me know and I can provide you with names and addresses for you to send your own card.

Christine Watts
Church Representative
for Christian Solidarity Worldwide

Blessing of God

The blessing of God be upon you
And around you, wherever you go
The blessing of God be within you
And among you, wherever you go
Wherever you go, whatever you do
May the blessing of God go with you.

Operation Christmas Child

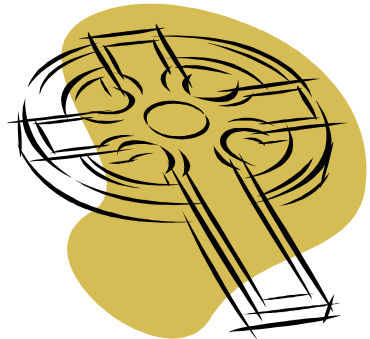
We are now ready to receive empty shoeboxes, covered shoeboxes and filled shoeboxes for this year's Operation Christmas Child. We also appreciate extra 'fillers' for our boxes – there is a large box awaiting your gifts in the Welcome Area and a list of ideas for items to put in. This year we are being encouraged to give the boxes a bit of a sporty theme to tie in with the Olympics so balls, skipping ropes, sweat bands, sports caps, and anything else you can think of are especially welcome. These are in addition to the usual pencils, paper, soft toys, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hair things, yo yo's, small games, sweets etc. If you would prefer to donate money towards OCC, please hand any donation to Fiona, Margaret or to the Church Office.

LMC is a 'Drop off point' and a checking area this year so please get involved if you can.

Girls Group will be checking shoeboxes on Nov 3rd, 17th 24th and Dec 1st and on the weekend of Dec 2nd, 3rd and 4th we will have a whole weekend of checking boxes and sealing them in large cartons. Watch out for times in The Week.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Fiona and Margaret



Creative Arts Centre Update

The 'NO NAME' building

Jill Angold-Stephens writes... As I am sure you will have noticed things are really happening on the building site now. By the time you read this all the appropriate parts of the Wesley Hall complex will have been demolished and the footings should be in (weather permitting!). The builders are doing everything possible to keep disruption to a minimum for us all and for this we thank them.

We have chosen the bricks to match the main church building and the current Wesley Hall brickwork will be faced to provide extra insulation so the present colour of those bricks will no longer be visible. We are choosing colours that will blend in with what we have already and be natural and forest colours. We have also chosen the bricks for the insert into the feature wall that will be fronting the entrance from the car park. We have samples for you to look at so please speak to one of the team who will be happy to show you what we are planning. We have also asked the builders to cut holes in their screening so that we can see what is happening behind it.

Although we have received another grant and we have other applications in the pipeline we do need you to do some fundraising for us. Anything that you can do no matter how small would be much appreciated and we are planning to give this aspect of the project more prominence after Christmas. In the meantime please do not forget to use Easyfundraising, especially as you start to think about Christmas presents. If you need a copy of how to do this let me know and I can give you one.

Why have I called the new creative arts centre the 'No Name' building – because that is exactly what it is at present. We need you to think of a suitable name for it and we would appreciate hearing your ideas. Our thoughts are that it should reflect what it is, what we are and where it is – a tall order, I know, but I am sure that someone will have an excellent idea. Please talk to me if you think of anything.

Jill Angold-Stephens

Budget and Fundraising

Martin Howarth writes... I am writing to provide an update on the funding for the new Arts Centre. On page 9 you will find the budget as at 23 October 2011 I am delighted to be able to tell you that just as we have just started the build, we can cover all the costs for both the Demountable at the back of the Wesley Hall and the new Arts Centre. This is a fantastic effort by all concerned in raising the funds so far.

We have also put together a budget to refurbish the Wesley Hall to bring it up to a similar standard as the new building. We have raised over £36,000 towards the target of £89,000. This leaves £52,500 still to go. Colin Haslam is working hard with grant-making bodies to see what they can contribute. We are also looking at a "celebrity concert" in the spring (details to follow). If you have any good ideas for raising the final amount please talk to Tony, Jill or myself.

Thank you all for your generosity so far.

Martin Howarth – Treasurer

Creative Arts Centre Budget

Cost

Arts Centre Building

Building Works (excl vat)	423,893	
Demountable (inc vat)	62,131	
Fees + planning costs (inc vat)	51,122	
Stained glass (exc vat)	10,000	547,146

Wesley Hall refurbishment

Wesley hall stage redecoration	5,000	
Staging sound and light (inc. Curtains)	40,000	
Media projector systems (2)	20,000	
Acoustic damping	10,000	
Folding/stacking chairs (Wesley Hall)	1,000	
Kitchen refurbishment	6,000	
Fittings misc. inc small Gopak tables	4,000	
Appliances for new kitchen	1,000	
Courtyard planting etc.	2,000	89,000

Funding

In hand or firm promise

Special Donation	250,000	
Interest	20,000	
Circuit Advance Fund	167,000	
Donation from CDRC	20,000	
Methodist Connexional Grant	19,990	
Gift Day 2011	44,298	
Wesley Hall Fund	37,500	
Grants from outside bodies	25,000	583,788

Funding challenges

Grants	38,500	
Special events	10,000	
Fund raising from congregation	4,000	52,500

**IS THERE MORE TO
LIFE THAN THIS?**

Alpha @ COSTA
Loughton
Tuesdays 7:45 - 9:30
starting 1st November



THE ALPHA COURSE

An opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith.
It is supported by all the main Christian denominations.
Listen, learn discuss and discover.

For further details please contact: alphaatcosta@hotmail.co.uk



This is the third time our church has teamed up with Rev Wayne Dulson from the Baptist church to lead an Alpha Course at Costa Coffee in Loughton. Please seize this opportunity to invite others and/or deepen your own faith through discussion, wrestling with the big life questions in an informal setting with a diverse group. Still not sure? Come and speak to Cathy Morling or Chloe Purchase, who will be part of the leadership team.

Trinity Church, Mannock Drive

Trinity Quiz Night 19th November

Tables of eight, or six
Bring your own nibbles and drinks
Very friendly and not too difficult
Cost £7.00 per head including a Ploughman's buffet

If you are interested in making up a table please contact Peter Moles

Saturday 5th November CTL Day Conference for Women

Spark to a Flame

9.30 – 5.00

**Epping Forest Community Church
Grosvenor Hall,
Grosvenor Drive, Loughton**

We are delighted to welcome Ceri Lees and her team from Christchurch, Fulham, this year to minister at the conference. Ceri believes that by living out the teaching of Jesus we can know who we really are and live supernatural lives. She is the women's pastor and works alongside her husband Stuart who is the vicar at Christchurch, Fulham.

Discovering what makes you come alive and defining your 'S.H.A.P.E '

Spiritual gifts - God-given abilities to share His love and serve others.

Heart - the passions God has given you so that you can glorify Him on earth.

Abilities - talents that God wants you to use to make an impact for Him.

Personality - how God wired you to fulfill your unique God-given purpose in life.

Experiences - those parts of your past, both positive and painful which God can use in a restored life.

Cost £10

**includes lunch and all
refreshments!**

Contact Cathy Morling 0208 508 1834

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

~ Juliette Harvey



This month it gives us great pleasure to introduce Juliette Harvey who has just started working as our Church Coordinator. Over to you Juliette

Hi. I was born in Cardiff, Wales and spent much of my childhood back & forth between Cardiff and Essex. I have a younger sister called Marion. We mostly lived in Chelmsford until our parents divorced. I am married to Guy who designs books for Dorling Kindersley and up until April this year, I was working at Radio 4, BBC. We have always loved to travel to strange places but since we now have two daughters Hebe (age 9) and Ava (age 6), our choice of holidays have had to be a lot tamer! We have lived in Loughton since 2001 and I was just pregnant at the time with Hebe when we moved in – you know the saying - new house, new baby! We have been very happy living here – with the forest being so accessible and I love seeing people I know from all walks of life – being able to say hello and to feel included as part of local life.

I love playing sport and used to play a lot of volleyball. Currently, I play badminton and do some occasional cycling. I absolutely adore to ski, just wish it wasn't quite so expensive and I am always up for a game of table tennis or tennis !

What is your earliest memory?

We had just driven to my Gran's house in Cardiff and I remember standing at the front door, watching her new puppy come charging up the long hallway to greet us when he trod on his rather large ears with his rather large paws and rolled over. My heart just melted when I saw him.

Which living person do you most admire and why?

Hmmm, tricky. There are many who have inspired me over the years. At the BBC I got to meet numerous musicians, authors or suchlike. I was thrilled to meet Maya Angelou as I had read some of her books but then again I was thrilled to meet Ray Davies from The Kinks especially as he kissed me on the cheek! (Their music is fab too!)

What is your favourite book?

I am in a book club with some other mums but my favourite book of all time will have to be Three Men in a Boat by Jerome K Jerome. It is that quirky quintessential English humour that I love.

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

It would have to do with the elderly. I just don't think we have it right when it comes to looking after their needs – be it in hospital or at home. We have to be more respectful as a society overall.

What would be your preferred choice for an alternative career?

I feel blessed to be doing what I am doing, perhaps maybe pursue my creative side again.

What is your best memory of school days?

None really, I have no fond days for school apart from all the sport.

What / Where is your favourite place? I have several places I adore – I love Austria and her mountains. I love being in the forest or by the sea. I also adore Italy and just mooching around looking at the architecture and eating ice cream.

How did you first become involved in the Christian faith? I have felt a need to go to church since young – and I remember being picked up in a minibus with my sister and other youngsters and taken to a local church. There was a lot of gospel singing! When we first moved to London, we tried several types of churches and it was hard to find one we felt at ease with.

What helps to sustain you in your faith journey? Simple. Friends.

What is your favourite bible passage and why?

It would have to be *Revelation 3:20* - Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will

come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. This verse combined with the beautiful 'The Light of the World' painting by William Holman Hunt is very evocative – serving as a reminder to allow Jesus into your heart.

If you were to summarise your faith in a few words, what would you say? Ever growing, ever learning, ever evolving.

What message would you want to give if you were asked to give a sermon? Can I think on that one ! It would depend on what was happening in my life at the time ...

What hymn or song means the most to you? There are numerous ones but included on my top 10 hymns would be “Be still (for the presence of the Lord)”; “I, the Lord of sea and sky”; “Colours of day (dawn into the mind)” and of course at no 1 – “How Great Thou Art”.

Toy Service Sunday 27th November

Children and adults in the congregation are invited to bring gifts of new or unused toys to the service on 29th November. These will be given to the Local Authority Family Centre at Lawton Road, for distribution to support needy families at Christmas. Tokens would also be very welcome.

Unfortunately for Health and Safety reasons the Centre is no longer authorised to accept second-hand toys.

Any gifts of cash will be sent to our Methodist charity Action for Children.

Thank you.

pals for dalits

A look back at Kasta Dip's visit to Loughton during September

This visit would not have been possible without all the offers of help, including lifts, hospitality and even a visit to Lord's Cricket Ground! Thank you all so much. I hope to provide an update on the fundraising in the next Grapevine. I am also in regular contact with Kasta. When I emailed him to say that the Indian summer was over: his reply was, "I take all the blame!"

Gill Webster

Some reflections on the visit of Kasta.

Liz Guest writes....Kasta Dip grew up in a hugely discriminatory environment and suffered daily physical and mental abuse. With the support of his family and having confidence in the absolute love of God, Kasta has, on a personal level, broken those chains of casteism. He is an educated man, respected and known worldwide.

Yet 200 million Dalits still remain uneducated, abused and forced to carry out degrading menial tasks just to survive. They are trapped by casteism - a 3000 year old system of oppression. Kasta came to us as a man with a passion to free these other Dalits from this oppression - and he works tirelessly, for the Church of North India, to make this a reality. Despite an education and intellect that would take him far in a corporate world, his choice to work for justice is at no small personal cost. And he makes this personal sacrifice because of his love of God and his love of his neighbour. He has a message -

that this discrimination is wrong; that the way to overcome it is to educate Dalits so they may have a more equal footing.

His particular message to us is that we can help by raising awareness and by financially supporting initiatives that offer Dalits better education. How many of us would have such faith as to do this? To so wholly love our neighbour as ourself. To truly put the future of our children in the hands of God.

I found Kasta Dip to be a truly beautiful man and God shines through him. It was an honour to welcome him into our home.

Liz Guest

Jayne Manning writes...Now that Kasta has returned safely to his family in Nagpur we can look back on what can only be described as an extremely busy and successful visit. Successful both for him and the Dalit community in that Kasta was able to raise awareness of the plight of the Dalit in a number of arenas, from Methodist Women in Britain to Davenant and Roding Valley schools.

Gill very ably arranged a comprehensive series of talks and meetings - sometimes three or four in a day! These meetings enabled a great deal of networking, and have provided Kasta and the Church of North India with good contacts in Britain and Ireland, some of whom will be helping in the future either in fundraising or awareness-raising.

The visit was definitely successful for us as it helped us to actually meet Kasta and hear him speak of his own experiences and of those who are benefiting from the PALS for Dalits Project. The vision of these young people cycling such long distances in order to

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(Continued from page 16)

attend their computer class and feeling so proud to even touch a computer, will remain with us always.

Jane Manning

Visit to a Sikh Gurdwara

Keith Aldred writes...One Sunday we took Kasta to Southall to visit Savio, the Dalit Christian, who came to visit us at LMC a while ago to talk about the experience of being a Dalit. Savio took us first to his own (Catholic) Church, which was very multicultural, and then on to a Sikh Gurdwara. I have no knowledge of the Sikh religion, so the entire experience was new to me. A Gurdwara is a Sikh place of worship. In the 'Church' part we heard the writings of a guru being read, and a sermon being preached in an Indian language. There are no seats, shoes must be removed, and 'holy food' is offered to anyone who comes.

Downstairs is a restaurant, where anyone, Sikh or not, can walk in and be served a free meal. We spoke to members of the managing committee, who are friends of Savio. We learned that there are many groups of Sikhs, who follow different gurus. The guru revered in this Gurdwara emphasised in his writings the equality of everyone, and is revered by Dalits, who largely make up this Sikh community. Other groups of Sikhs, we were told, ignore the writings of this guru, and look down on Sikhs with a Dalit background. Sikhs are not Hindus, and the UK is not India. Nevertheless, it appears that discrimination is alive and well among the Sikh community in the UK.

Keith Aldred

Barbara Holden writes...

- The Programme for Kasta Dip's visit was realised: it was impressive that it all happened, given the complexities of preparation and the ambition of the visit.
- It raised our awareness of world faiths and Hinduism in particular.
- Kasta is a Dalit leader who is accomplished, committed, skilled: he exemplified in his manner and ability what educational opportunities and backing could actually lead to.
- Money was pledged and the actual business of providing computers continues.
- Consciousness-raising about Dalits occurred both at LMC and in other local and national visits.

For me the link between Loughton and the London Borough of Newham is very important. It was made through the Indian Christian dancer Vijaya at LMC worship. It was there when we visited Landmark Training Agency for young people where they emphasised the importance of personal and social empowerment in addition to educational skills. And it was in the forefront when we met with some 40 youth work students at the YMCA George Williams College where he emphasised the importance of analysing caste and class in the UK.

Barbara Holden

Notes - Landmark – Skills for Growth (vocational training for young people) - www.landmarktraining.org.uk and YMCA George Williams College (a centre for professional studies in informal education) - <http://www.ymca.ac.uk/>

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

Tom Donoghue, a worker with our young people writes...

I found Kasta Dip's visit to LMC an excellent way to engage with the work that has been done by the PALS for Dalits team. It was wonderful to hear about how the project has begun in India, providing a computer classroom and training for young men who have been born disadvantaged because of their caste. It also helped me to really understand the plight of being a Dalit and although there have been some significant changes in the law, there is still a lot of discrimination from society towards the 200 million Dalits who are a minority group in India.

As a leader of SNYP it was great to be able to invite Kasta to one of our sessions and to hear with the young people about his work, the project, his life, and about the caste system and what it means to be a Dalit. I also had the privilege of taking Kasta out on one of his few rest days. We visited Lord's cricket ground and did a tour of the grounds, pavilion and media centre – with Kasta even managing to stand briefly on the hallowed Lord's ground – followed by a West End theatre trip to see 'Driving Miss Daisy.' It was a memorable day.

Kasta's visit also provided lots of opportunities to talk about the PALS for Dalits project with other people outside LMC including my colleagues in the city. It was from one of these conversations that for me provided the most lasting thought of the visit. I was chatting with a young Christian graduate who was new to the city this September about our weekends. I told him about Kasta's visit to SNYP and was explaining to him the status of a Dalit and that as a Christian Dalit you are not afforded the same rights by Indian law as a Dalit who is Hindu, Buddhist or Sikh. We discussed how it is incomprehensible to us in the UK to really

imagine what this is like and he then said it made him think of Matthew 20 v.16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." For these people who truly are last, at the bottom of the pile in this world, I think that certain hope for our Dalit Christian brothers and sisters is amazing. I am so pleased to have been a part of this visit and the project.

Tom Donoghue

As you will have read Kasta had the opportunity to visit some of our local schools.

Anna Savage, one of the Assistant Heads, at Roding Valley writes...

We were delighted to be approached by Gill who asked if Roding Valley High School wanted to be involved in Kasta's visit to the UK. We jumped at the chance and started planning what we could do with Kasta and 240 eleven year olds! We decided it would be great for our students to hear first hand the plight of the Dalits and then have time to reflect on how lucky they were. We would use the mediums of art, drama and creative writing for the day. The students were enthralled and shocked by Kasta's story and here is one of their accounts of the day.

Year 7 Dalit Experience

On Tuesday 26th September a very important visitor came in to Roding Valley to tell us about his childhood life as a Dalit. He was telling us about how he was abused because of his caste. In the morning some activities were set up to show us how life was as a Dalit. The first activity we did was making a poster about how the Dalits were treated and what sort of things they had to do in everyday life. Secondly we went on to learn how to make clay pots. Because as a Dalit being untouchable he would have to smash the cup after he drank out of it. Lastly we had to write a diary or a poem on a leaf to put on a bare tree.

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Dalits experienced lots of violence and nasty things to them. India is put into 4 castes, Dalits are one of the biggest castes and are treated the worst! They lived mostly out in the countryside, in fact 80% of Dalits lived in the countryside. We found all this information from a man named Kasta, He has experienced all of this torture before when he was a child. They also lived in slums in dirty streets. There are over 200 million Dalits in India, over 3 times bigger than England. We found out that everyday 2 people get murdered, 2 houses get burned down and 6 people get beaten by other castes! India is known for a lot of Dalits, this has been going on for over 2000 years. In India there are roughly 1.3 billion people, round about 4 times the amount in Great Britain!

Kasta experienced lots of horrible things when he lived in his village as a child. He was able to go to school but he could not mix with the normal kids. Sadly he was treated very badly and instead of the teachers slapping him for disciplining him, they had to whip him because he was so untouchable. He was born into a poor family and struggled to live a normal life. Eventually, he overcame this torture and was the first Dalit in his area to graduate from university. He now lives in an Indian city and is treated as equals to everyone else. He still feels anxious when he enters the countryside as he is still considered 'untouchable' but believes that he does 'not experience the same discrimination' and that it is his 'responsibility to allow my fellow Dalits to have a dream'...'I was never allowed dreams when I was young'.

Meeting Kasta was an amazing experience that we will never forget. By Alanya, Lucy, Jack, Jake, Max and Sam in 7X.

Kasta's Visit to Davenant

Sarah Perry writes.... Pupils at Davenant enjoyed Kasta's visits, both to assemblies and individual classes. In the assemblies, pupils of all ages heard about Kasta's experience of growing up in India as a Dalit. For many, this was the first time they had heard about Dalits. Kasta also spent time with several individual classes, where children were often surprised that discrimination of this scale still exists today. Most of all, they were impressed by his positive attitude and lack of bitterness at being so badly treated. Many wrote letters to Kasta expressing how much they had enjoyed meeting him and how much they had learnt. Finally, Kasta spent a lunchtime with Davenant International, a group of pupils who meet regularly to discuss important world issues, where they were keen to question Kasta on the importance of education in challenging people's attitudes. I think we were all really blessed by Kasta's visits.

And lastly Kasta himself writes...

Memories of being at Loughton Methodist Church in September 2011 are still fresh - lovely people, wonderful hospitality, and common concern for Dalits. Before coming to Loughton I was anxious about how the people would react to my presentations when I talk about caste based discrimination and practice of untouchability in Indian society. Maybe, it was a spontaneous thought as I am myself a Dalit. But my friends at Loughton have surprised me. The warmth of friendship I have received from them is everlasting. I believe that earlier they had heard about Dalits but now they have seen a Dalit – a human being!

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The plight of Dalit or caste based discrimination is a difficult subject to comprehend in a country like the United Kingdom. I could sense this when I was speaking to the students in Davenant Foundation School, Roding Valley School, Landmark Training Centre and YMCA College. My audiences were always curious to understand in details how a society or a nation can continue to treat inhumanly a particular community of people because of their social status which is absolutely based on a divisive caste system. However, I feel satisfied to have answered their questions which resulted from my presentations.

Thanks to Gill Webster, Tony Morling, Barbara Holdon and Chloe Purchase for organizing my visits to different places that provided me with opportunities to get connected with wider ecumenical circle for the benefit of my fellow Dalits, especially the youth for whom we have started the Computer Training projects in Gujarat and Maharashtra. It was an honor for me to speak at Churches Dalit Support Group in Derby, World Mission Forum, Central Finance Board's Advisory Committee on Ethical Investment, Friends of Churches in India and Methodist Women in Britain. It was all possible because of my friends at Loughton

Methodist Church who invited me to build awareness on Dalit issues in the UK. With such a wider network of contacts that I developed during my visits my confidence to do more has grown. I could see that everybody in Loughton Methodist Church was talking about Dalits and the Pals for Dalits. I am grateful to the children in the Junior Church who probably do not understand what it means to be a Dalit in India but still fundraise for the computer projects. May God bless them!

I would like to record my appreciation for Gill and Paul, Liz and Adam, Keith and Angela, and Tony and Cathy for being cheerful hosts and making me a delighted guest when I shared a week with each of them. I am also touched by the hospitality rendered by others in the congregation who invited me to have a meal with them.

As a Dalit it always feels good to be cared for. I am deeply moved by the way LMC is fundraising to support our project for the benefit of Dalit youth. By supporting the projects you are creating ripples in the lives of many in my country and making a difference. I believe that my visit to LMC has strengthened our partnership as parts of body of Christ who loves, cares and liberates his people from all bondages. God bless you all!

News and dates from Roots

Reach Prayer Group.

Wednesday 2nd November in the Tower Room 8:30pm - 9:15pm.

This is open to anyone who would like to pray for the young people, the leaders and the content of Reach sessions.

If you are interested, we would love for you to be there. (We're hoping to do this once a month).

Sunday Night Youth Fellowship:

Sunday 6th November 2011 - Firework's.

7:30 - 9p.m. at the manse.

Please bring a contribution of £2.

(Open to all in years 7 - 13).

IMPRESSIONS OF AN AWAY DAY IN CAMBRIDGE

– by those who were there

On Saturday 15th October just over 30 adults and children gathered in Wesley Church Cambridge. ‘Fan into flame’ was the theme and Timothy the focus of our bible study and worship. Chloe led the worship sessions and we congregated round a beautiful candle-lit worship display prepared by Chris Watts. The children immediately went to the art table and made profuse paintings, pictures and collages of flames, while it was mostly the adults who went to decorate wonderful cookies! Painting, writing bible verses, sending letters to persecuted Christians – the choice was varied. Lunch was in the sunshine for most of the families and a gentle afternoon stroll with less mobile friends gave them fresh air too. Although in the end we didn’t get to evensong because of traffic problems it was nevertheless a lovely warm (atmosphere as well as weather) and peaceful day. The love, prayer and care shown to Christine after her accident was so evident and bore out the passage– ‘See how these Christians love one another’ - Andrea

It was a wonderfully relaxing day with possibilities to study, create, sight-see and just catch up with friends. It also showed the essential caring nature of our church over the accident Christine suffered. Thanks to all organisers. - Mary

It was a really good ‘Awayday’ in Cambridge in a nice relaxed atmosphere at a lovely church. (It was a great pity that there were so few of us). The theme ‘Fan into Flame’ was very good and we were given plenty of opportunity to express our understanding of

the relevant Bible passage in the various craft activities. We particularly appreciated the way that Chloe led the 3 worship sessions; and really enjoyed the short tour round some of the Colleges led by Tony who knows the area so well. - Heather and Michael

We were few in number but the fellowship was great – Pauline.

It was good to have a choice of things to do and just ‘play’ with creative ‘stuff’ – a lovely peaceful day – Chris.

If the sun shines on the righteous, how righteous must we have been as the sun sure did shine that day! Its warmth percolated through the autumnal crispness of the day and filled our hearts as we busied ourselves together, played together, worshipped together, ate together and showed how we cared together. - Pete

Apart from Christine's accident, I thought it was a brilliant day and I much enjoyed it. The preparation was thoughtful and fitted us all. It was participatory; we could all do that suited us and the range was remarkable; the worship and activities blended beautifully. There was time to talk with one another and it was so good to be able to talk to those we do not often come across; The numbers were about right, I thought, though one does not plan that sort of thing. Everyone cared for everyone, old or young. I thought there was real fellowship. Even if plans did not work perfectly, such as the Evensong at Kings, it did not matter as we all enjoyed one another's company.

I am most grateful for all the hard work done before as well as on the day. Those of us who had lifts were especially grateful. All involved were magnificent. - Patricia

All can be saved

**“All need to be saved.
All may be saved.
All may know themselves saved.
All may be saved to the uttermost.”**
Traditional summary of Methodist teaching



Methodists have always been clear that no-one is beyond the reach of God's love. Salvation is there for everyone who turns to God, and not just for a chosen few.

Why do we need salvation?

As human beings we find ourselves part of an unjust, sinful and violent world, which we may feel individually helpless to change.

We may feel driven by urges such as anger, lust or greed, that we wish did not control us.

We may have personalities which are difficult to manage, for instance being prone to despair.

We may be enduring poverty and hardship.

The demands of modern life leave many of us stressed and overloaded, or isolated and feeling useless.

Loss, fear, grief or guilt may be weighing us down. We need salvation.

What do Christians believe?

Jesus preached the Gospel - the good news of the Kingdom of God. Through Jesus' death on the cross, and his resurrection, Christians believe that God has broken the power of all that is evil, in the world and in ourselves. If we accept forgiveness and liberation, and are willing to be open to the Holy Spirit, God can enable us to resist evil and to live life to the full.

Lord, make us more effective witnesses for the gospel and deepen our understanding of the faith; that our convictions may be so strong that we shall want to share them, and so lucid that we shall know how to communicate them; for the honour of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A glimpse into JAM Bible study:

We're studying Women of the Bible at JAM and the first woman we're looking at is Ruth. Ruth is such a short book in the Bible, but it is full of truths and lessons to be learnt. This is an artwork we chose as our favorite, depicting the relationship between Ruth and Naomi.



Prayer

Wherever I go,
Eternally Present One
You go before me,
behind me,
within me,
and I find strength in the knowledge
that I will never be alone.
Like a pillar of fire
that lights my way
or a pillar of cloud,
day after day

I depend on You
for all I need
for comfort
and survival.
Be with me tangibly,
speak to me audibly,
show Your love visibly,
so that now and forever
Your people will be my people
and You always be my God.
Amen.
*Miriam Therese Winger,
WomanWitness, 60*

We meet in different homes on alternate Monday and Thursday mornings at 9.30 – 11.30 am and are for anyone that has the ability to do Bible study, entertain a toddler and change a nappy at the same time!

Contact: Diana Page 020 8505 2617

SMILE LINES

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon: when with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." and then sat down.

The worship leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing "Shall We Gather at the River."

Children's Page with Fiona Beament

Hi Everyone,

Last weekend, as I was thinking about what to write to you, my quiet evening was suddenly shattered by a massive bang followed by lots of coloured lights. I looked outside and saw that my next door neighbour was letting off fireworks in his back garden.

I must confess that I am not a great lover of fireworks as I think they are far too loud and go on for too many days, but I'm sure this weekend there will be a lot more lighting up the sky as people celebrate Bonfire Night.

However the fireworks did make me think about how such a small object can produce so much light in the sky and if you have ever been out somewhere when it is really dark, you know what a difference a small candle flame or the light from a torch can make.

In the bible, light is mentioned many times. Jesus is sometimes called the Light of the World, and followers of Jesus are encouraged to be like lights in the darkness showing people the way to God and how he wants them to live.

Now that Christmas doesn't seem that far away, one thing we can all do to spread some light and make a difference is to pack a shoebox full of gifts for a needy child in another country. Some of you may be doing them at school, but if not then why not join with a friend or other members of your family and together buy some things that another child would like to receive this Christmas. Boxes can be left in the Welcome Area at church and there is a really big box where you can put any extra items you want to be used for filling shoeboxes.

Six years ago I travelled to a country called Belarus in Eastern Europe as part of a team of people who went to hand out some of the shoeboxes to the children.

I have never forgotten the little girl with poor eyesight who spent all the time we were with her playing with a small plastic mirror that had probably come out of a cracker.

Or the child who sat on the floor with her box for an hour just opening the lid and peeping inside then closing it again. Or the children in an orphanage who thought they had to give their boxes back after they had looked at the toys, because none of them had ever been given a present before.

We have all received many gifts in our lives and have so many things to be thankful for.

Let's take this opportunity to share what we have with others.

Prayertime

Dear God,

Thank you for Autumn; for coloured leaves and frosty mornings, for busy squirrels and bright sunshine, for fireworks and warm fires.

Thank you for our homes and families, for friends at school and the knowledge that we are loved by you.

Help us to spread your light to people around us and to bring some happiness in to the lives of others,

We ask this for your name's sake,

Amen

Puzzletime

Can you solve this riddle?

My first is in car but not in van
My second is in jog but not in ran
My third is in race but not in win
My fourth is in cake but not in tin
My fifth is in red but not in pink
My sixth is in boat but not in sink
My whole will go far up in to the sky
Don't stand very close cos it might make you cry!

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

Time for a laugh

A collection of Interesting facts revealed by young people in Sunday school!

The first book of the Bible is Guinness, in which Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.

Unleavened bread is bread made without ingredients.

Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 commandments.

David fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

The people who followed Jesus was called the 12 decibals.

The epistles were the wives of the apostles.

Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Christian should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

Lynn's travels

Lynn Jones completes her travels, going to the former British colony of The Gambia and the former French colony of Senegal.

This section of the cruise was called 'Colonial Cities of West Africa'. As there had been such political unrest there, we were unable to go to Ivory Coast, but now, having visited Accra and Freetown, we called in at Banjul, formerly Bathurst, capital of The Gambia. This is the smallest country in mainland Africa, and is predominantly Muslim, with a concentration of Christians in the capital, and some animists. We visited a crocodile pool, with over 100 animals, considered sacred by the local people. Like many of the places we visited, there was a lively and colourful market, this one noted for delicious looking smoked fish.

The stop was only a brief one, as we moved overnight for our next port of call, for two days, at the capital of Senegal, Dakar. This was the most westernised of the places we had seen, with high rise buildings and much French style architecture, including a wonderful Hotel de Ville and railway station. There was a real French feel about the city, and we enjoyed a tour of the capital, including a brief stop at the enormous Grand Mosque, full for Friday prayers. The IFAN Museum of West African Culture was a very interesting place to visit. On the second day we were free to explore on our own and my husband and I

stopped at a patisserie for a delicious coffee and pastry, greeted by the local people, who were enjoying dunking their croissants in their coffee. We went to look at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, a fine building of the 1930s in Art Deco style with very modern stained glass windows.

Unfortunately on leaving Senegal we were told we were unable to continue with the scheduled programme of visiting Mauritania and Moroccan Sahara because of the political unrest which was by then affecting so much of North Africa and the Middle East, so our cruise continued to the Canary Islands and we returned home from Madeira.

Nevertheless we had had a marvellous time visiting so many unusual and interesting destinations. Travel is a wonderful education in itself, and we are very lucky and privileged that we are able to take advantage of such travel opportunities and to meet people, however briefly, from other religions and cultures.



Dakar RC Cathedral, Senegal

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
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

Fortnightly 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,
although this sometimes changes..
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
7588

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.



Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday 26 November
10.00 am to 2.00 pm**

**Loughton Methodist Church
High Road, Loughton
Admission Free**

Stalls include

Cakes & Preserves

Hand crafted gifts

Santa Claus in his Grotto

Plants

Toys

Jewellery

Bric-a-brac

Gifts & Xmas novelties

Games and Raffles

Books

**Come and buy your Christmas
presents and have a fun time**



Refreshments will also be available,



Proceeds in aid of PALS for Dalits and Whitechapel Mission

