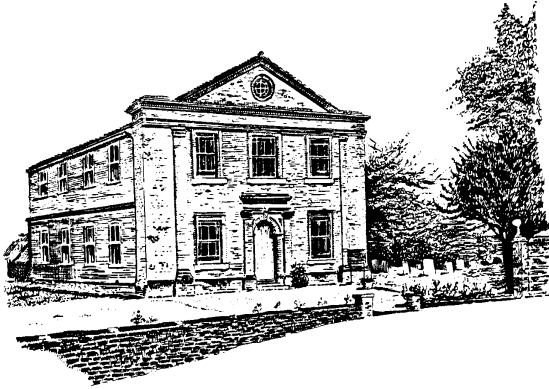




Fairland News

No. 491

March 2010



Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham

**Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham**

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38 Bentley Road
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Wymondham NR18 0SZ
Tel (01953) 603979

Bookings for Mrs Jill Brown
Fairland Hall and
Fairland Church Centre

Services are held every Sunday at 10.30 am
On the first Sunday of the month, the Service includes **Holy Communion**

Fairland Searchers Youth Club meets at the Fairland Hall every Monday at 6.30 pm

Dear Friends,

Lent is here, traditionally a time of self denial and fasting, a time of preparation for Easter, a time when our thoughts are focussed on the wilderness. Sometimes it is a desolate season of the year and although as I write the sun is shining, we had snow earlier in the day and despite the lengthening of the days, winter is still here. In my garden the spring bulbs have only just begun to appear, it's been a long cold winter.

But we have much to celebrate. This last week, the 7 congregations of the Norwich Area met in church meeting and voted as one, the first time that has even happened. The event was a calling of a new minister; one of our vacancies has been filled and Matt Stone will be joining us in the summer. The recent issue of the Interdependent has a profile of Matt, if you haven't yet read about him.

As we rejoice in the news about Matt, we also have the opportunity in Lent to reflect on the goodness and grace of God and all that God has given us. Some of us will be using again this Lent Christian Aid's "Count your blessings" Lenten calendar, which challenges us about waste of food, poverty, injustice and misuse of power on a daily basis.

A Lenten message linking in with the temptations that Jesus faced in the wilderness, temptations we face as we seek to live out the gospel in today's individualistic, materialistic society.

However to return to the 7 congregation church meeting last week, that meeting, short though it was, showed the growing relationships that exist between the congregations, what a sign of hope and a positive building block for the future, whatever that holds for us all.

Alison

Weekend of 13th/14th February

What a wonderful weekend we had, meeting Matt Stone, who came to 'Preach with a view'.

Saturday at Fairland from 12pm there was a lovely lunch laid on - soup (made by Jennifer), rolls, cheese, pate, cakes and fruit. Several of us helped to serve. We had no idea how many would come from the Norwich churches but thirty-six of us enjoyed a lovely time of fellowship over our meal, and meeting and chatting with Matt. He was so friendly and easy to talk to.

On Sunday morning Matt was preaching at Jessopp Road, where the Church was full, and at the end of the service Matt was asked questions.

In the evening, Matt was preaching at Ipswich Road. Nine of us from Fairland were able to go, and again the church was full. It was a moving service, and the singing was great! It was good for us from Wymondham to share in a larger gathering and lusty singing. Again Matt was asked several questions, and gave very sound answers. It was good to see such an enthusiastic young man, very keen to preach the gospel, to be part of a team, and minister to all people.

On the following Wednesday, we went to Trinity to cast our votes. I'm thrilled to say there were 119 votes for - and one against! I'm even more pleased to say that Matt is looking forward to joining our Ministry Team.

Let us remember him, and everyone in the seven churches, in our prayers, as we welcome him to Norfolk.

Ruth

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February Lunches

First Friday Lunch

Thirty-three people came along to this lunch and a profit of £79.40 was made. Thanks to all who helped to prepare and serve.

Community Lunch

A tasty meal was enjoyed by 48 people and the results were: Tickets (after expenses) - £101.25; Bring and Buy - £18.26; Raffle - £49; making a total of £168.51. Thank you Elizabeth and her team.

Communion Collection

The charity chosen to receive the collections in March and April is '**Star Throwers**', which featured in a recent issue of the Wymondham and Attleborough Mercury.

Star Throwers has been set up to help people with cancer in Norfolk and elsewhere through various means:

1. To make information available on the understanding and treatment of cancer and the choices of both conventional and complementary therapies.
2. To provide medical care by doctors and nurses who understand cancer problems and give time to explain why specific symptoms occur and their management.
3. To supply a place where people with cancer can receive all types of complementary therapies which will produce a sense of well being.
4. To have access to a place where cancer patients can feel relaxed in a positive friendly atmosphere and share their experiences with people who are in a similar position to themselves.
5. To provide help to other members of the families of cancer sufferers who also suffer serious emotional and physical stress looking after their loved ones.
6. To educate school children on the prevention of cancer in general and teach self examination for the early signs of testicular cancer in boys and breast cancer in girls.
7. To raise funds for the development and research of new cancer treatments that concentrate on substances that are less toxic than conventional chemotherapy and already have shown evidence of an anti-cancer effect.
8. Star Throwers home is at 30 Melton Road, Wymondham Norfolk, and is open to anyone who feels they or their loved ones will benefit.

The above information is taken from their website www.starthrowers.org.uk

Flower Rota
March / April

7 March Netta Darkins
14 March Margaret Coldham (Mothering Sunday)
21 March Jennifer Shakesby
28 March Dorothy Evans

4 April Sheila Eaglen (Easter Sunday)

* * * * *

Gifts of flowers from the Communion Table have been passed on to Alison Chalcraft; Joan Whitehouse; Irene Baker and Pat Newman.

Letters of appreciation for flowers received recently have been sent to Netta from Alison Chalcraft and Iris Elliott.

We heard recently of the death of Betty Hann, whom some of our members may remember. When she lived in Wymondham, she attended Fairland URC . She was a member of the Young Wives and her children came to Sunday School. She was also once editor of this magazine. We send our condolences to her family.

* * * * *

Sponsored Slim

Madeleine Morgan is doing a sponsored slim in aid of East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices - a very worthwhile charity. If you would like to sponsor her or give a donation, please contact her.

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Thanks

We would like to thank one of the regular readers of this magazine for her donation of £5 towards printing costs. Your support is much appreciated.

Secretary Wanted

for Wymondham Bridewell Preservation Trust

When Wymondham Heritage Society bought the Bridewell and established the Wymondham Heritage Museum there, it formed a Wymondham Bridewell Preservation Trust (W.B.P.T.) to manage and care for the complex. Tenant organisations include Wymondham Heritage Society, the Red Cross Society, Stonham Housing Association, Orbit Housing Association and, until last month, the Citizen's Advice Bureau (now moved to Griffin Court, Market Street).

The Trust, which is a non-profit making body and is a registered charity, consists of eleven local people elected at a public meeting annually. The current Chairman is Bernard Stuteley. The secretary has had to resign and the Trust is now seeking to appoint a Secretary to record the minutes and send out agendas, etc. An honorarium is payable. The Trust meets quarterly at the Bridewell at 5pm and meetings finish by 6.30pm. Anyone interested should contact the Chairman on 01953 602061.

Horace

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Hope and Homes for Children

A letter has been received from Caroline Cook, thanking our church for the recent donation of £200 to the above charity. The following are excerpts from her letter:

‘We really are enormously grateful to everyone concerned in giving generously for the appeal raising money for the family of Elwira and Nisveta so that we can build a house large enough to accommodate the whole family and to re-unite Elwira and Nisveta with their parents and siblings....’

‘We are so grateful to Joan Green for bringing this project to the attention of others in order to raise enough money. We are delighted by the results and grateful for everyone’s response to help.

Once again, thank you so much. We really do appreciate the support from your church.’

A Choirboy in the 1930s

St Bartholomew's parish church in Sydenham, south-east London, is a 'low' church with a strong musical tradition.

I attended Sunday School there and went to the nearby Church of England school. When I was in my last year at the school, aged 10, the Church organist and choirmaster came to the school to see if there were any boys who could sing and sight read music and might be considered to fill vacancies in the church choir.

The choir consisted of 14 boys and 10 men. Boys met for practice on Tuesday evenings and again on Fridays when, after their own practice, they would be joined by the men. Attendance on Sundays was required at 11am (followed on the first Sunday of the month by choral communion) and at 6.30. Attendance was recorded on a chart displayed in the choir vestry.

After a series of tests and a period as a probationer for three months, I was found to be acceptable. Influenced by the fact that I would be paid 'pocket money' I duly enrolled. Initially I was paid two shillings and sixpence (12½p) a quarter but eventually rose to be leading choirboy at fifteen shillings (75p) a quarter. Weddings, quite frequent, earned a payment of two shillings and sixpence. On pay nights there was always some disappointment as deductions were made for unexplained absences, arriving late, and such misdemeanours as running tame mice along the choir pews during services and talking during the sermon,

After my voice broke, I became a Server at Communion services until my voice settled down when I rejoined the choir as a tenor.

Both as a treble and as a tenor I thoroughly enjoyed being in the choir and it gave me a great sense of achievement to take a leading role in singing great works like the Messiah and the Creation a number of times. Listening to choral music can give great pleasure but to be involved in actually producing it to a high standard can be even more rewarding.

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VANISHING KNOWLEDGE

Following John Adams' interesting articles on the five senses, and how they remind us of past events, I have been thinking of the different kinds of knowledge possessed by our members. When the Today programme featured a discussion on Shorthand, I thought how useful Pitman's Shorthand has been to me.

When my plan to go to university on leaving school fell through, I was in a quandary. I had to make a definite career decision there and then, rather than in another three years' time. A friend recommended the London College of Secretaries. Pitman's Shorthand really appealed to me and was unlike anything else I had studied. I achieved a respectable speed of 130 words a minute, and stayed on at the College as a teacher, while taking a correspondence course on the principles of teaching applied to Pitman's Shorthand. At one stage I found myself mentally translating everything I heard into Shorthand outlines! I still find it useful to be able to jot down the odd phrase from time to time.

Maybe other people could tell us about some valuable knowledge or piece of advice that takes them back to earlier years and has influenced their lives.

Patricia Lithgow

Leprosy Mission

Do you have any used stamps, coins, postcards etc
you could donate to this very worthy cause?

It has been another record year for the Leprosy Mission's Stamps and Collectables team. Since 1983 over £770,000 has been raised through the sale of stamps, coins, postcards and other small collectables.

The Leprosy Mission, which works in 28 countries, is an international Christian development organisation, transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy. Their goal is to eradicate the causes and consequences of this disease.

Please keep saving your stamps and postcards. I take them to a man at Attleborough, who takes them to The Leprosy Mission at Peterborough.

Ruth

Fairtrade in Wymondham

Arising from a public meeting held in the Fairland Church Centre, a Wymondham Fairtrade Committee was formed with the object of getting Wymondham accredited as a Fairtrade Town - to be the first in Norfolk after Norwich. This was achieved and there is ongoing work to ensure that the number of Fairtrade retail outlets and the number of organisations using Fairtrade products is maintained and, if possible, extended. Several churches and local organisations are represented on the Committee.

This year, Fairtrade Fortnight is to be marked by a public meeting at the Fairland Church Centre. This will be at 7.30pm on Monday 1st March when Diana Manasseh will talk about growing pineapples in Ghana and how Fairtrade is making a difference to her community. The evening will include a Fairtrade Swapshop as Swapshop is the theme for National Fairtrade Fortnight. There is no charge for admission but you are asked to bring a Fairtrade product to the Swapshop and take away something which you choose. Refreshments will be served during the evening and there will be a performance of African drumming and dancing by the group Drumskin. Fairtrade tinned pineapple will be on sale.

A further Fairtrade public meeting will be held at the Fairland Church Centre at 7.30pm on Monday 26th April when the Annual General Meeting will take place.

Horace

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WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Our service in Wymondham will be on March 5th at the Roman Catholic church at 2.00 pm. Please come and join us in this service, which is usually so interesting, and this year will be no exception. All are welcome, men and women, young and not so young. It is a unique opportunity to be part of a truly world wide experience of sharing in the same worship on the same day. If you have not been before, what about giving it a try this year?

March / April

7 March (inc Communion)	Revd Ron Bocking
14 March (Mothering Sunday)	Mrs Trixie Dye
21 March (service followed by Church Meeting)	Revd Alison Davis
28 March (Palm Sunday)	Mrs Marion Nevill
4 April (Easter Day)	Revd Alison Davis

Dates for your Diaries

Details of these events can be found within the newsletter

March

1 March (2.30pm)	Lent Group (Church Lounge)
1 March (7.30pm)	Fairtrade Public Meeting (Church Centre)
1 March (7.30pm)	Meditation Group (Town Green Centre)
2 March (2.30pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)
3 March (10am)	Midweek Service (Church Lounge)
4 March (12.30pm)	Lent Lunch (Catholic Church)
4 March (7pm)	Elders' Meeting (Church Lounge)
5 March (12-1.30pm)	First Friday Lunch (Fairland Hall)
5 March (2pm)	Women's World Day Prayer (Catholic Church)
8 March (2.30pm)	Lent Group (Church Lounge)
11 March (12.30pm)	Lent Lunch (Fairland)
12 March (10am-2pm)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
15 March (2.30pm)	Lent Group (Church Lounge)
16 March (2.30pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)
18 March (12.30pm)	Lent Lunch (Methodist Church)
19 March (12.30pm)	Community Lunch (Fairland Hall)
22 March (2.30pm)	Lent Group (Church Lounge)
25 March (12.30pm)	Lent Lunch (Hope Church at Methodist Church)
26 March (10am-2pm)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
29 March (2.30pm)	Singing Group (Church Centre)

April

1 April (7pm)	Maundy Thursday Service (Church Centre)
3 April (4-6pm)	Farewell Tea for Rev Ken Lynch (Ipswich Rd)
* Advance Notice *	
15 May	Away Day - at Home! (Church Centre)

Items for inclusion in **April** newsletter (to be available on 28 March) should be given to Ann Scott **by 21 March please.**