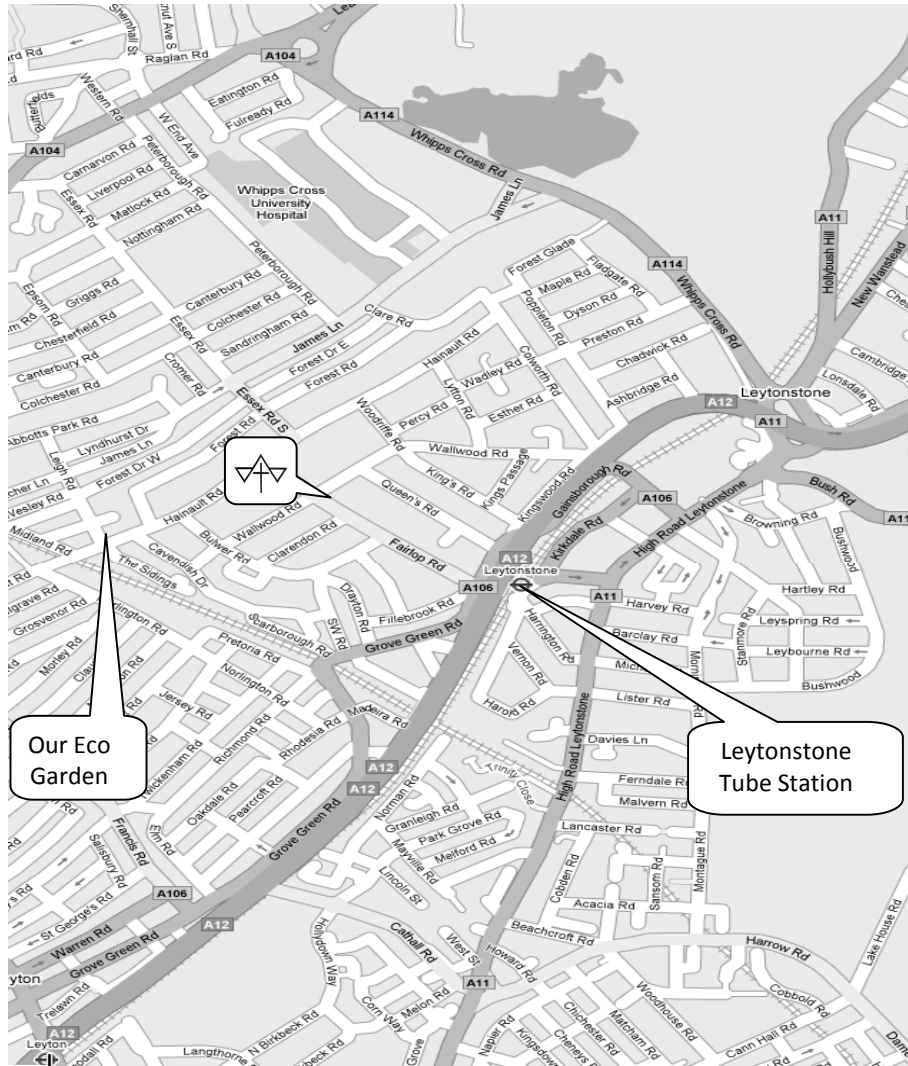


WE ARE HERE...

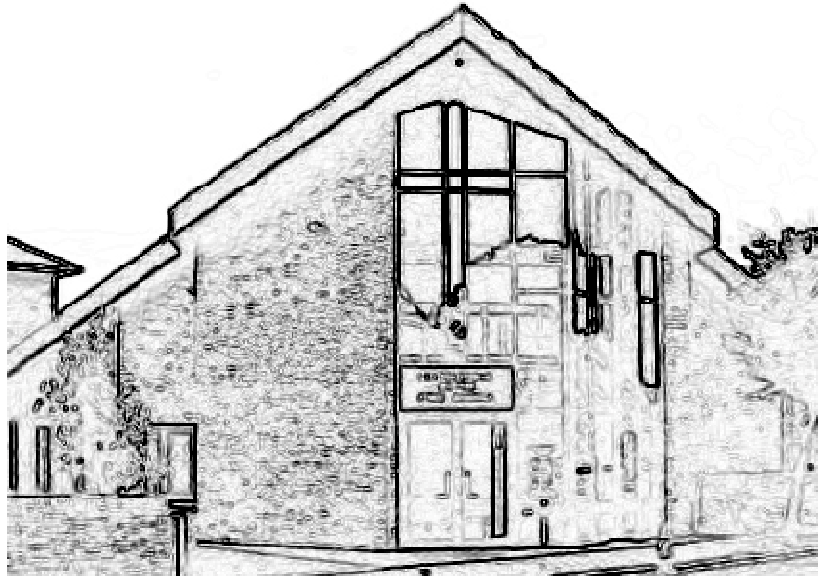


Our church is on the corner of Wallwood Road and Fairlop Road, Leytonstone. Buses **W15**, **W16** and **W19** all stop on Fairlop Road, near the church. The nearest Underground station is Leytonstone on the Central Line and the nearest Overground station is Leyton Midland Road.

FOCUS



The magazine of Leytonstone United Free Church October – November 2011



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Fiona Buddell	020 8518 7725

Leytonstone United Free Church
55 Wallwood Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 1AY
www.leytonstoneunitedfree.co.uk

Member of the South Forest URC Cluster Group with

- Grange Park URC, Grange Park Road, Leyton
- Trinity URC, Orford Road, Walthamstow
- Walthamstow United Reformed Asian Christian Church, Walthamstow

Member of Churches Together for Cann Hall, Harrow Green & Leytonstone with

- Cann Hall Baptist, Cann Hall Road, Leytonstone
- Cann Hall Methodist, Cann Hall Road, Leytonstone
- Christ Apostolic Church, Ferndale Road, Leytonstone
- Christ Evangelical Church, Cann Hall Road, Leytonstone
- Leytonstone Methodist, High Road, Leytonstone
- The Salvation Army, Southwell Grove Road, Leytonstone
- St Andrew's, Colworth Road, Leytonstone
- St John the Baptist, High Road, Leytonstone
- Wesleyan Christian Centre, Harrow Green, Leytonstone

Associates

- Friends Meeting House, Bush Road, Leytonstone
- Holy Trinity & St Augustine, Holloway Road, Leytonstone

The opinions expressed in focus reflect the diverse views held within our congregation. If your own thoughts and feelings are not reflected please prayerfully submit an article for the next edition.

WANTED – “Guest” Focus Editors

Have you got the time and skills to edit Focus next month or from time to time?

It is not too onerous a task. There is a Microsoft Word template to complete and - if the master is ready in time - the administrator will make the copies. If you think you might be able to help, please talk to Bob Park.

Geoffrey Little & Co Chartered Accountants

Accounts, Tax Advice, Business Plans
22 Orford Road, South Woodford, London, E18 1PY
For a FREE Consultation, tel: 020 8989 8077
Or e-mail Glittleact@aol.com

If you would like your advert to appear here please speak to the Church administrator or leave a message on
020 8518 7725

Church Diary

Date	Event
2 nd Oct	Church Anniversary & Harvest Family Service
16 th Oct	Youth Bowling
20-24 th Oct	Youth Café Residential Course
31 st Oct	Light Party (alternative Halloween Party) (5:30-7:30pm)
4 th Nov	Vision Opera
11 th Nov	Jumble Sale Preparation
12 th Nov	Jumble Sale
20 th Nov	Focus Deadline for December/January Issue
27 th Nov	First Sunday of Advent – Gift Service
14 th Dec	Christmas Dinner for Senior Citizens

Alison's day off is normally Friday, and Thursday is her study day.

Monthly Programme

12.15	Credit Union Collection Point (1 st Sunday)	(Joy Park)
3.30	George Mason Lodge (2 nd Sunday)	(Norman Goodeve)
6pm	Prayer & Healing Service (1 st Sunday)	(Ashley Matthews)
7.30pm	Leytonstone Labour Party Committee (2 nd Monday)	
7.30pm	Church Council (1 st Tuesday)	(Ste Fidler)
7.30pm	Leyton & Wanstead Liberal Democrats Committee (3rd Tuesday)	
7:30pm	Marsh Quilters (1st Thursday)	
7:30pm	Tastes and Tales (1st Thursday)	(Alison Mackay)

Crossword solution:

Across: 1. Autumn. 4. Tea, 5. Chestnut, 8, Cut, 10, miracle, 12. Harvester

Down: 1. Art, 2. Tractor, 3. Nuts, 6. Moon, 7. Weather, 9. Flees, 10. Mash, 11. Furr

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From the editor...

September has seen all church activities and visitors back in action. Our programme for the next two months is filling up in an alarming fashion. There are many events listed in the following pages which we hope you will be able to attend and if you feel you can take a more active role in preparations involved in this work– so much the better!

Don’t be late!

Make sure your contribution isn’t the one to be left out! Contributors to the magazine should call the office to let us know what you are sending and when it will be available. Obviously, the soon the better as we don’t want to leave out the good bits because they came in too late.

The deadline for articles for the next edition of Focus is **Sunday 20th November**

You can leave your contribution in the “Fiona” pigeon hole in the office or email it to lufc_focus@dsl.pipex.com Thank you.

Weekly Programme

SUNDAY

10:45am Morning Worship & Junior Church *(Alison Mackay)*

MONDAY

9.30am Leytonstone Learning Link (term-time) *(Tel 8988 0555)*

1.30pm Baby Space (term time) *(Alison Mackay)*

4.15pm Mary Dunne Theatre School *(Tel 8556 0069)*

8.00pm Alcoholics Anonymous *(alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk)*

TUESDAY

9:30am Leytonstone Learning Link *(Tel 8988 0555)*
(term-time)

4:15pm Mary Dunne Theatre School *(Tel 8556 0069)*

7:30pm Narcotics Anonymous *(www.ukna.org)*

7:30 pm Japanese Karate & Ju Jutsu *(Tel: 07935413845)*

8.00pm Cell Unite House Group *(Su Cornforth)*

8.00pm Alcoholics Anonymous *(alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk)*

WEDNESDAY

9:30am Leytonstone Learning Link (term-time) *(Tel 8988 0555)*

2:30pm Women's Meeting *(Freda Clark)*

4:15pm Mary Dunne Theatre School *(Tel 8556 0069)*

6:00pm Girls' Brigade (term time) *(Jenny Fidler)*

8:00pm Worship Group Rehearsal *(Mike Cornforth)*

THURSDAY

9:30am Aerobics (to be confirmed)

10:15am Laughter Group *(Lisa Moon-Little)*

4:15pm Mary Dunne Theatre School *(Tel 8556 0069)*

7:45pm Prayer Group (2nd and 4th Thursday) *(Norman Goodeve)*

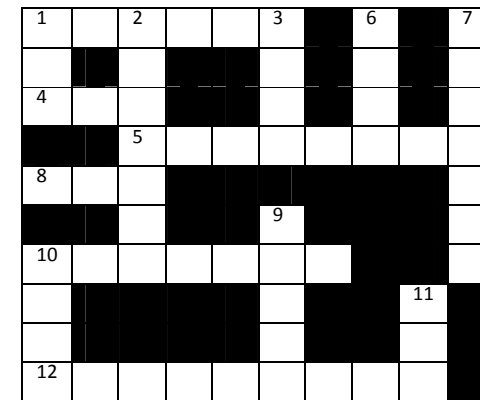
FRIDAY

11:00am Yoga and Singing for Babies and Mums *(Simon Owen)*

SATURDAY

10:00am Eco Gardening (fortnightly) *(Gordon Dykes)*

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness . .(6)
4. A nice cup of – (3)
5. Which tree do conkers come from?(8)
8. Sever, detach (3)
10. A marvellous deed (7)
12. Farm machinery or a chain of restaurants

Down

1. Painting, sculpture etc. (3)
 2. Farm Vehicle (7)
 3. Squirrels eat them (4)
 6. Shines at night (4)
 7. Try a forecast (7)
 9. Runs away: sounds like small insect (5)
 10. Eat with sausage (4)
 11. You can stroke this (3)
- (The Solution to this crossword is on p.34)*



The Minister writes...

Greenbelt

As we speed into October and the stunning autumnal colours are suddenly



to the fore, I am mindful that Christmas is peering over the horizon yet again.

At LUFC it's business as usual, yet it's good to stop and celebrate some of the good things of the past few weeks. The Church Greenbelt trip was a really great few days away. Although the original idea came from the URC Cluster group to have a trip where we could get to know each other better, the reality worked out that it was just folks from our fellowship and Rev Rosemary Tusting from Grange Park. Nevertheless, it was a really memorable time for us all. The best way to get to know about the event is to ask different people what they will remember.

Andrew could tell you he got to play his Bass in a Jazz Group; Grace could tell you she had the privilege of meeting up with her sister (??) who was one of the key speakers, Levi could tell you he had his first camping experience with his new family, Karen may tell you about the drama of a brand new tent that came ripped; Amardeep could tell you how he had the job of cooking for the young people one night, Adam could tell you how I got totally lost and how he preached a sermon to me about being a sheep who lost his shepherd! And I would rant on and on about having the privilege of one morning hearing Brian McClaren, and then going on hear Rob Bell speak. Two modern day theologians I have a lot of time for, so

that was great.

None of us had been to Greenbelt before, yet it was a really great time together. There is already anticipation that next year we can go again and hopefully more people will join us. Ste and Jenny are experienced Greenbelters – yet with Abigail this year was difficult; hopefully next year they can come too, and maybe you would like to join us as well.

I want to officially thank the tent party (Simon, Grace, Amy and Andrew) – who went ahead of us and erected all the tents prior to our arrival. That made things so much easier, and it was lovely just arriving and moving in.

I also want to celebrate a successful “*Back to Church Sunday*” and to say how great it was to see the church so full and to welcome back many folks who we had not seen for a while. I would encourage you all to make every Sunday “*Back to Church Sunday*”. Hopefully, you know by now that Sunday worship is a friendly environment and friends are always welcome to join us and be part of the family of God together.

Someone who was returning to church for “*Back to Church Sunday*” said they recognised this to be a real time of blessing for the church, and I continue to celebrate this and thank God for his goodness and faithfulness to us all.

*The **one who calls** you is faithful and he will do it.* ([1 Thessalonians 5:24](#))

Your Friend and Pastor
Alison Mackay, Minister

Colour Me in



Interactive Pages

Joke Time

Do you know any jokes? Why not let us in on the secret! In the meantime here are few we've heard recently.

Q: Help, we're being attacked by a giant fly!

A: Don't worry I've already called the SWAT team!

And Mrs Noah said . . . I don't care if it's rained for forty days
Get those elephants out of the dinghy!

First man: My wife has gone to the Caribbean.

Second man: Really? Jamaica?

First man: No, she went of her own accord.

Q: What are you doing?

A: Playing scrabble in the road.

Q: So what's the word on the street?

Word Search

V	R	A	P	U	F	R	U	I	T
P	I	V	S	E	L	T	T	O	B
M	X	N	H	A	R	V	E	S	T
G	I	E	E	C	Q	H	P	D	Z
R	G	B	V	Y	G	K	L	B	N
A	P	A	L	R	A	E	N	I	W
P	O	S	M	W	T	O	O	E	H
E	A	K	D	A	H	I	D	P	I
L	R	E	U	R	E	J	A	N	T
B	O	T	L	U	R	E	D	K	E

Vineyard, grape, fruit, basket, gather, harvest, wine, bottles, red, white

MESSAGE FROM...

From the Church Secretary

Hi folks,

I never thought I'd be writing this again but life is full of surprises. Since I last wrote, there have been many changes in my own, and in the church life. Several of these are dear to my own heart, and not least has been the birth of baby Abigail whom I am sure you have all met and fallen in love with as well as the arrival of Levi a joyful and energetic little boy. These two children, reminded me with joy of all the years I have known and been involved with Jenny and Su, and I ask you to pray for both these young families, Jenny, Stephen, Su, Mike that God will continue to bless them.

Our Girls' Brigade company is going from strength to strength, and we thank Jenny and Sue, our captains, and their new band of helpers supported by Joan. We give thanks to God that his work is continuing in this way here at Leytonstone after 106 years, and we ask his blessing on the team lead by Jenny and Su.

It was good to see some old and new friends in church at the Girls' Brigade Enrolment / Back to Church Sunday especially Angela Caincross with her daughter.

Your prayers are asked for those of our fellowship who are unwell, for all our young people and those who work with them and that God may continue to bless the work here in this place and its people.

God Bless You All
from Jacqueline Howletty,
Our Stand-in church secretary

We have a few words also from our absent Church Secretary:

It is hard to believe that it is now two months since our beautiful daughter Abigail arrived - sometimes it seems like yesterday, at other times rather

MESSAGE FROM...

longer. We have had a very steep learning curve in the subject of parenting (Abigail is not always as quiet and as well behaved as she often is on a Sunday!) and we are really grateful for everyone's prayers, support and best wishes.

So I am still on a "paternity break" from the church secretary role, relying on Jacqueline, Alison, Simon and Fiona to take on most of the role, for which I am very grateful. Please continue to bear with us, especially now the quieter summer break is over

Stephen Fidler
Our On-leave Church Secretary

From your Church Administrator:

We have now passed from our relatively tranquil summer to the bustle and activity of our Autumn Programme and we are very busy indeed.

Email Change

We are currently experiencing technical difficulties with the Church Email account enquiries@leytonstoneunitedfree.co.uk. While we are trying to solve this problem please could everyone use the Focus email account lufc_focus@dsl.pipex.com. Thank you in advance for your co-operation and patience.

Cleaning Day

We had a very successful cleaning day and treasure hunt on 3rd September and thanks go to all who took part. A great deal of chocolate treasure was uncovered and devoured. This was followed by a cream tea and chocolate buns so those who were unable to help out missed a treat but won't have put on so much weight!

Girls' Brigade & Junior Church Enrolment

Our Girl's Brigade & Junior Church Enrolment Sunday was combined with our "Back to Church Sunday" and the church was filled to capacity. It was wonderful to welcome so many old friends and who

REPORTS & COMMENTS

thought of friendships. Some never happen because they just seem one-sided and yours is the only real input. Others are fabulous and seem to be going so well then there may be a challenge and the friend is not there for you anymore because they had no depth of character with which to be a true friend. Some people are in so much negativity that friendship never really grows. Yet there are those who are with you through everything; all the good times, when you are facing challenges, when you need telling what no-one else will tell you, when you're grieving they'll be there for you as you would be for them.

And it occurred to me that in different times of my life I have been all the seeds. I've put in effort and the other parties haven't been reciprocal and I've had fabulous friends who I let pass. There were potential friends who met me when I couldn't even be a friend to myself and yet, I've walked with the same friends for decades, too. Perhaps I'm not alone in being able to recall past times.

As many of you know, one of my areas of work is in laughter. Believe it or not it's quite a challenging job to get people to use God's gift of laughter. Laughter has serious emotional and physical benefits, and its diminished amount of use as we get older has severe consequences on our health and wellbeing. When God popped this into our 'physician's tool boxes,' He wasn't just being jolly. As I go to different places to work, I see those who effervesce, and so many in that dark place of "I'm not doing this, it's stupid!" Wonderfully there are a few who laugh from their hearts, who commit to a life where happiness is the only rule and it is a choice despite life's challenges.

I've learnt so much by cogitating on the sower's parable, perhaps that's why it came my way. And it's been wonderfully strange, as what I needed to be looking at was the fabulous passage of *Mark 2;13-17*.

Liza Moon Little

REPORTS & COMMENTS

review how biofuels are affecting global hunger and land rights. In the next couple of weeks, cards will be available on Concourse tables for you to sign and send to ActionAid to join thousands of others so that the Government will get the message that the rush into biofuels is harmful to the climate and destructive of food-producing land. Please support this project by using these cards.

And if you say "But how else can we all avoid using up finite sources of fossil fuels?", the answer is simple: use your cars less. Don't be Biofooled!

Gordon Dykes
Material supplied by ActionAid

Prayer and Praise Subgroup

Worship Group

The current worship group includes:

Piano/Keyboard: Jenny Fidler, Ste Fidler, Freda Clarke, Mariella Collins, Chioma Onyechi

Guitars: Bob Park, Grace Owen, Andrew Willshire (bass)

Wind Instruments: Joy Park (flute), Chioma Onyechi (clarinet), Madia Obiwevbi (clarinet), Adam Buddell (trumpet)

Singers: Mike Cornforth, Amy Willshire and Aghogho Obiwevbi, Lydia Stanley

We are not a closed band but a group of people who are committed to praising God with our instruments and voices. Please join us on a Wednesday at 8pm to run through some or all of the songs for the next week.

Mike Cornforth

Reflections on Sowing the Seeds

Fiona had rung me to ask me to do a reading in church; *Mark 4: - -*, which I wrote on a piece of paper and put on the table. When I came back, there it was – gone! "No problem", I said to myself, at least I remember the Book and chapter so I'll read it all. Re-acquainting myself with the wonderful parable of the sowing of the seeds, I began to see a lot of wisdom in it relating to many situations in life. I

MESSAGE FROM...

were then able to witness the enrolment not just of the Girls' Brigade Officers, Seniors, Juniors and Explorers but also of Junior Church. The latter part of the service was taken by our new Youth Worker Karen Beacon who is making rapid progress in her mission to involve the Church Family in responding to the needs of our young people.

Harvest Celebrations

Our Harvest and Anniversary Service will be the first event in our October calendar and we look forward to welcoming back the Revd. John Danso who will officiate.

Barn Dance Postponed

Our much anticipated Barn Dance has unfortunately had to be postponed but the new date will be publicised as soon as we know it. So please don't pack away your dancing shoes just yet.

Christmas Dinner, Wednesday 14th December

Looking further into the future - our annual Christmas Dinner for retired people, where we work together with Gwyn Jones Primary School, will take place at the beginning of December. And while this may seem to be a long way off. It is not too soon for everyone to be checking their diaries and preparing to help.

Fiona Buddell
Church Administrator

From the Treasurer

Autumn is here, time to celebrate the Harvest.

David Pennock kindly gave me some cabbage seedlings in the spring asking 'have you got room? You can bring the produce to Harvest Offering' he said with a twinkling smile. Alas the slugs, caterpillars and things that munch had a banquet which means there is very little to bring to our Harvest Service, perhaps I shall bring some huge fat slugs instead. In this case I did not protect my investment, no slug pellets, no herbal deterrents, and no protection from the marauding

MESSAGE FROM...

butternut squash. This is a lesson on the ability to nurture, next time I will have to do something different if I want different results. To understand how to nurture and promote growth is to understand Service, the offering of time and money with a clear vision of the result. As Christians we dedicate our service to God's work, it can take any form and be present in every moment of every day as it is a state of mind. Let's pray for God's strength and direction in improving our ability to nurture; ourselves, our loved ones, all members of our church, our community and our cabbages.

How is our church serving others?

"For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men". 1 Peter 2:15

Here is a breakdown of how our church served others with donations in 2010. Normally each year the church gives away £12,500 but in 2010 an extra £9,700 was also donated to good causes. The extra money came from charity giving that had been unspent in previous years. What an amazing achievement for a small church to donate and support so many good causes. The extra money was donated to Mat-to-Fore to build foster homes (£5,000) with the rest being split between Christian Aid (£1,250), the donation to Jamaica to the church circuit which Alison visited on her sabbatical (£1,320) and the rest to smaller charities.

Our Wider Mission Donations in 2010

Baptist union	£5,567.22	Contributes to the work of the Union in the UK and abroad.
URC	£4,589.04	Contributes to the work of the URC in the UK and abroad.
Mat-to-Fore	£5,500.00	Building foster homes in Ghana West Africa
Christian Aid	£1,250.00	One off payment
Gift to Jamaica	£1,320.86	One off payment
Nightshelter	663.83	ongoing support for nightshelter
DEC in Haiti	£500.00	one off payment in response to a disaster
Bible Society	£100.00	a charity which print bibles in different languages
Spurgeons College	£150.00	preparing Christians for Mission and Ministry

REPORTS & COMMENTS

Sunday night socials

For the 11-18 we are planning some Sunday night socials this term the idea is to get together and have some fun, getting to know each other a little better. The first of these is planned to be a bowling trip on 16th October. If you want a letter about this get in touch
Youthwork@leytonstoneunitedfree.co.uk

Karen Beacon

ECO Group News - We're being BIOFOOLED!

Some months ago *Focus* carried an article asking as many people as possible to send cards to the Government objecting to the proposed increase in the production of biofuels to power industry – and of course, our cars. The reasons for such a protest were that biofuels actually release more greenhouse gases than the fossil fuels they're designed to replace, and that their production deprives millions of small farmers of their food-producing land. As a result, the Department for Transport (DfT) modified its proposals. Though it didn't scrap the UK's biofuels target altogether, the many objections succeeded in bringing hunger, poverty, and environmental damage to the centre of the debate.

But we are being Biofooled! The national charity ActionAid has reported cases where biofuel companies have broken their promises to compensate poor farmers for the loss of their food-producing land by providing roads, wells, schools and clinics. One farmer says "There is no clean water, there are no roads, there is no clinic, so all the promises they made were fake. Their promises are air. The biofuels company, they work only for themselves. They promised they would first fulfil their promises before they started using our land. That was in 2006 – and nothing has been done". Now, dispossessed farmers are struggling to survive. This farmer's community, along with ten neighbouring villages, have lost 8,200 hectares (about 20,000 acres) to a biofuel company. Here in Europe, we've been fooled by governments and the biofuel industry into believing that these harmful fuels can solve climate change.

Now we have another opportunity to get the Government to scrap its biofuels target, for in a few months' time the DfT will again ask the public what its view on biofuels should be, and the European Commission is to

REPORTS & COMMENTS

fundraising by selling Krispy cream donuts, until we were rained off. We managed to sell over £200 of donuts. Thank you so much to Onos, Amardeep, Amy and Drew who spend a long and tiring day on their feet relentlessly selling donuts and plugging youth café!

Youthwork report

The new academic year has begun, and so both junior Church and GB have been welcoming children back after the summer break. So please remember the leaders and children in your prayers. We had the enrolment service on Sunday, 25th September, it was lovely to see so many of the girls and their families at church.

Greenbelt

Over the summer 20 of us went to greenbelt including a small group of young people. We had a really great time, despite the rain. We heard some amazing speakers from Rob Bell to Brain McLaren. There was a circus, creative workshops and dancing lessons. We also went to the hardest film quiz on earth, and learnt Drew is a key member of a quiz team.

Jackdaw Treasure Trail

Earlier this month I organised a family afternoon for the under 11's in the church. We went to Hainault Forest. The idea was to eat our picnic, have a look at the farm and then follow the trail left by the jackdaw through the forest to find the treasure he had stolen. Nearly all the children and families from within the church came. Sadly 15mins into our picnic we were hit with torrential rain. We hope to re-arrange this event for a drier day! I was very impressed with everyone at LUFC who all turned up despite the rain, you are clearly a hardy lot!

Light party 5.30-7.30pm

On Monday 31st of October we are planning to hold a *Light Party* here at church to give children an alternative to celebrating Halloween. The idea is to fill the church with stalls offering activities like lucky dip, roll a penny etc. We will open the church up to children and their families to come in and win prizes. This should be a great opportunity for us as a church to connect with our local community. If you would be interested in helping out by running a stall or making tea and coffee etc please let me know.

MESSAGE FROM...

TLM leprosy mission	£100.00	supports sufferers of leprosy worldwide
Protestant dissenting deputies	£10.00	annual donation
Regents Park College	£100.00	Baptist Bible College
Retired Baptist Ministers Housing Society	£100.00	helping to house retired Baptist ministers
Send a cow	£150.00	helping thousands of African families grow enough food
Shelter	£150.00	The Housing and Homeless Charity
Mildmay	£100.00	International charity raising awareness of HIV/Aids and treatment
Mill grove	£150.00	Christian Foster Home bring up children
Naomi Rouse	£300.00	one off payment to support missionary work.
Christian Kitchen	£150.00	annual donation
Feed the minds	£100.00	believes that education saves lives and reduces poverty.
NSPPC	£150.00	child protection charity

Meeting after church Sunday 9th Oct

There will be a short meeting to discuss the Giving to Wider Mission in 2011, please come along and have your say or let Simon know your comment or suggestion.

Our church members also serve our community with time stewarding the building for the many different groups which use it and events like our Jumble Sale which is coming up in November. One such member is Gordon Dykes who for many years has travelled in from Loughton to steward the building for Learning Link. Gordon decided it was time for a well earned rest, thank you Gordon for all that time and effort, you are missed by both staff and students.

At this time of Harvest I invite us all to be generous in our offerings to God and be Blessed.

Please mark your offering' Harvest' and indicate if you are a tax payer and want to Gift Aid your donation.

Simon Owen, Treasure

Page 11 of 36

MESSAGE FROM...

From your Youth Worker

Faith that sticks?

This month at junior church one of the really interesting conversations we had was about "what makes someone a Christian?" Perhaps surprisingly, all of the young people present, who have been involved in church for many years, conveyed that they believe Christians were people who behaved a certain way. People who were nice, people who tried not to sin, people with high moral standards etc. Interestingly no one suggested a Christian was someone who was in relationship with Jesus.

Coincidentally the Fuller Institute has just published "*Sticky Faith*". This is a book which analyses 6 years of research into what causes people who regularly attend church in their teenage years to fall away as they become adults. This research found that many of these young people also defined being a Christian as way of behaving. They had a list about what Christians should do and a list of what Christians shouldn't do. One third of the young people interviewed defined gospel without mentioning Jesus, even though they had been heavily involved in their churches' youth ministries. It seems for many young people who have been in church for a long time have subscribed to a "gospel of sin management". For them Christianity is about what you do. If you do the right things, they are accepted and can feel good. If they make mistakes they feel guilty and unworthy. Many of these young people stopped coming to church because they said it made them feel bad, they felt like hypocrites for going when their lives outside church didn't measure up. After they had made mistakes they felt church was the last place they wanted to be.

All because they had misunderstood that church is not a place for perfect people but a place for people who know they have failed. Church is a place of Grace; somewhere where God calls the unworthy and the unlovable to make them his children. As the old saying goes "there is nothing we can do to make God love us and more, and there is nothing we can do to make God love us any less." Christianity differs from all other world religions

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REPORTS & COMMENTS

the choice is overwhelming but here are a few memorable moments for me.

Ockham's Razor - three aerial artists who specialise in creating physical theatre around new pieces of aerial equipment. The first piece involved haunting piano music and a square grid of what looked like scaffolding poles suspended high above the floor. The story told only in movement and music involves a love triangle which starts as a game, jealousy and betrayal take hold, anger and danger rise up yet in the end reconciliation is the winner. The dancers were skilled in making it all look effortless, hanging, swinging and moving round the grid yet only tremendous strength and flexibility made that possible.

Open-air service Sunday morning – sharing the bread and wine in a field with thousands of people was special.

The Big Band – a collection of musicians gathered for a couple of rehearsals and on Sunday afternoon gave a performance. Drew played bass in the rhythm section and we became his noisy supporters. The passion and the sound of this big band was fantastic and it was clear what pleasure the musicians had playing it.

Taize Worship – hundreds of people singing simple enchanting songs in praise of God. Silence is at the centre of the worship as time is taken to enjoy God's presence and listen to Him.

I am looking forward to my next Greenbelt experience and the chance to camp with our church family.

Simon Owen

Youth Café

We had a great time at car free day on Sunday 18th, we had over 80 young people sign up to our mailing list, and had lots of conversations with young people about the youth café. We were lucky enough to have a very good pitch this year close to the station and next to the bandstand. We were

OVERSEAS NEWS

gathered her things. "We spoke with her for a while", says Deb. "Her baby, James, was just under a week old and she also has two year-old twins – Elijah and Elisha. (Pictured: Deb with baby James)

"Her husband left her when she refused to have an abortion having become pregnant with baby James. She and her babies had been able to shelter at a nearby Pentecostal church but now had been told they would have to move on."

Rose, who works in the BUU women's department, was particularly moved by meeting with Faith, and has stayed in touch offering friendship as well as immediate relief. Deb adds, "Faith has now found somewhere to live and is slowly replacing the roof to give proper shelter to her children."

Please pray for the future of Faith and her family, and the thousands of others affected by the clearance in Nakawa. Pray that the practical and spiritual witness of Christians may continue to have a positive impact in this traumatic situation.

BMS has sent mission workers to Uganda for nine years, and currently four couples (and a total of six children) are based in the country, supporting the Baptist Union of Uganda's community projects, agricultural work and educational ministries.

Mission Catalyst - BMS WorldMission

Reports & Comment

Greenbelt 2011

There were storms, dramatic rainbows, lashing rain, amazing clouds, lots of sunshine and no mud at this year's GreenBelt Festival. It was great to camp together in a big field outside Cheltenham Race Track, so good to see big church groups and large extended families all enjoying the wide range of activities on offer, from listening to speakers, watching bands, theatre, dance, playing in the kids' corner or scootering with the teenagers. With so much on offer sometimes

MESSAGE FROM...

because of its understanding that God wants to be in relationship with us - loves us so radically, that we are transformed from the inside out.

Why have children, who have grown up in church, failed to understand this and replaced this radical life giving message with a heavy graceless imitation? Is it because they haven't been taught the gospel properly? This seems unlikely, I am sure that youth leaders and parents have been telling teenagers the gospel many times a year throughout their lives. So why? Childhood is a time when we teach children how they should behave how to make good choices. For this reason quite rightly much of the teaching children are given in church at home and at school deals with how they behave. Thus they may come to believe God is more concerned about what they do than about who they are.

"Sticky faith" also finds that teenagers don't hear about the mistakes adults have made much in church. It therefore easy for them to get the impression their youth leaders, parents and other adult church members are "perfect Christians" or at least they claim to be. This adherence to a behavioural gospel can cause teenagers to feel utterly let down if they discover an adult they look up to at church is not behaving in a "Christian manner". The Fuller institute found that young people who had regularly heard adults honestly talk about the ups and downs of their faith, sharing the messy stuff were much more likely to stick with their faith.

This has been a real challenge to me as I pray and think about how we should approach youth ministry and indeed how we should approach church in general. I hope as we go forward we can show our children God's grace at work in our lives as well as simply telling them.

Karen Beacon

Church Calendar

If you have access to the internet you can now access the church calendar online. Log onto www.google.com/calendar (you need to create an account if you don't have one but this can use any email address) and add the church calendar



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CHURCH GROUPS & EVENTS

called **lufcenq** - you will then be able to see all church events. For those with smart phones you can also access the calendar on the move via the CalenGoo app!

Seeking the Good Stewards

We are still looking for people who might be able to help out with stewarding the activities which take place in the building. We now have two volunteers for whom we are extremely grateful who can offer us occasional help but if you could join their rota this would help enormously. Please talk to Fiona or Simon if you have time to offer us.

Youth Café

You may have noticed that the youth bus has been parked outside Leytonstone station every Friday throughout September we have five sessions now (we were interrupted a bit in August by the riots). It fair to say, that the youth bus has had a slow beginning. We have so far had 7 young people come on to the bus. We have been doing a lot of advertising and hope to attract more young people soon. If you want to volunteer to help with any of the Youth Café's work, or special projects, or if you are a young person who wants to come along please contact Karen Beacon Karen.youthcafe@gmail.com.

October residential

At half term from the 21st-24th of October we are taking a group to Longridge activity centre in Buckinghamshire. We will be doing some amazing outdoor activities including water orbng and Jacob's ladder. As well as doing some creative activities and some yoga! The trip is being heavily subsidised by church welfare association to whom we are very grateful. As a result we are offering the trip to young people at the bargain price of just £30. If you are a young person who wants to come let me know ASAP. If you want more information email my Karen.youthcafe@gmail.com or ring me on 020 8518 7725

Karen Beacon

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BMS World Mission

How BMS has helped dozens of people made homeless on the Nakawa estate in Kampala, Uganda

In July we reported how the Ugandan government evicted 17,000 people from a poor area of the capital, Kampala, because it is designated for commercial development. A BMS relief grant of £3,000 assisted the Baptist Union of Uganda (BUU) in distributing aid to 100 people made homeless by the mass clearance. BMS mission workers Deb and Dug Benn have been involved in practically helping those left with very little in Nakawa.

Dug writes, "Some people travelled back to their family villages, even though they may have never lived there. Others have found somewhere closer to settle. However, even those who found a home still had no belongings."

Going for seconds

Each family helped by BUU received bags of beans and posho (maize flour), two cooking pans, a cup and plate, a jerry can to carry water, a blanket and a mosquito net. Whilst Pastor Peter Mugabi from Nakawa Baptist Church organised a registration system to try and ensure that the most needy would receive the help, sadly this scheme was not always fool-proof.

Deb says, "One man who came round for the second time was very shocked when I recognised him, denying completely that he'd already collected a share of food and equipment. I reminded him that he should get a better belt – it's not difficult to remember someone who started to lose his trousers when lifting the bags... twice!"

"I don't deserve anything, I haven't lost my home – I have very little but I have somewhere to sleep tonight." This was the response of one woman who thanked the BUU for their assistance in Nakawa – even though she wasn't personally benefiting.

Faith and friendship

A woman, aptly named Faith, asked Deb to hold her baby whilst she

Overseas News

Mat-to-Fore

Exciting progress

For the last two months there has been much activity at Mat-to-Fore, as I write this the brick walls are going up and within the month the roof will be finished. A fantastic achievement by the whole team, Osei, Florence, Chris, Emma, Gareth, Lucy and Prince and his workers. The cost of building the shell of the two semi-detached foster homes is £10,000, now to plaster, paint and fit the interiors. This will take another £3,000 and a couple of months. By January 2012 the foster homes will be operating with 10-12 children and another vision of Mat-to-Fore will become a reality. Another project which will be ongoing is the wall to enclose the compound, important for keeping the site secure, this will be made of brick pillars with bamboo panels.



The final piece of good news was the finishing of the admin block and library which will be ready for use with the return of school.

Whilst in Ghana, Chris and Gareth spoke at a conference about the biogas toilet which was well received. The plan is to use this technology all over Ghana which will turn a health hazard into energy and lead to an improvement in the quality of life. Let's pray those seeds will grow strong in the future.

Please pray for all the young people at the school and the volunteers of Mat-to-Fore.

Many thanks for all the support offered by LUFC.

CHURCH GROUPS & EVENTS

Jumble Sale 12th November 10:30 am

Here is your chance to clear the decks before Christmas! It is also a chance to pick a few odds and ends for family members from our bric-a-brac stall. We need as much help as possible in sorting jumble on Friday, 11th November during the day and in the evening. The more people who help the merrier we become so please come and make us very merry indeed.

Christmas Dinner Senior Members of Community

Wednesday 14th December

Once a year we join forces with Gwyn Jones Primary School to offer a festive Christmas meal to Senior Members of the Community.

Although this is looking ahead, by the time the December/January Focus comes out it will be almost upon us. So in order to secure the help of as many volunteers as possible we are asking you to put this in your diaries now.

Community Local Produce Stall

Every Saturday, 11 am to 3 pm *In partnership with Organiclea*

The Community Local Produce Stall can be found in St John's Church and Matalan, just off the High Road, Leytonstone. Delicious, fresh, locally grown fruit and vegetables are on sale. There are two sessions, one from about 10.15 - 1 pm, the second from 12.30 - 3.30 pm. This is a great opportunity to be part of this new venture (and chat to people!)

Weekly Programme

Baby Space (Monday 1.30pm)

Baby Space meeting will be held every Monday during term time for all babies and toddlers and their parents and guardians: £1.50 per week including teas, coffees and squash..

Alison Mackay

CHURCH GROUPS & EVENTS

Cell Unite House Group (Tuesday 8.00pm)

We continue to meet on Tuesday evenings at the Matthews' home from 8.00pm. It is a time to have fellowship with one another and to spend some time studying the word of God. Speak to Mike, Ashley or Claudine for further information.

Su Cornforth

Women's Meeting (Wednesday 2.30pm)

A warm welcome is extended to all ladies. We meet on Wednesday afternoon at 2:15pm for a prompt start at 2:30 pm and finish around the tea-table at 3:30-3:45pm. Our speakers for October/November are as follows::

Oct. 5 th	Freda Clark
Oct. 12 th	Connie Ware
Oct. 19 th	Irene Radburn
Oct. 26 th	Liza Moon
Nov. 2 nd	Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
Nov. 9 th	Alison Mackay
Nov. 16 th	Doris Richardson
Nor. 23 rd	tba
Nov. 30 th	tba

Freda Clark

Girls' Brigade (Wednesday 6.00pm)

Every Wednesday from 6.00 till 8.00 for all girls aged 5-18. New members are always welcome.

Jenny Fidler

Worship Group (Wednesday 8.00pm)

Worship Group rehearsals take place on a Wednesday from 8pm – 9.30pm. All welcome to join us in making a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Mike Cornforth

Laughter Group (Thursday 10.15am)

This is a fun time to build community through shared laughter. Laughter can help with personal wellbeing and helps us get ready for another week.

Lisa Moon-Little

What does my job involve?

If you are on the Front Door, please:

- Arrive by 10.15am; and
- Put a fresh glass of water in the pulpit for the minister.
- Welcome everyone, particularly new friends

If you are on Concourse Welcome, please:

- Arrive by 10.15am; check the books and leaflets are being used.
- Make sure the offering bags and plate are available.
- Give everyone a Sunday Link, and hymn book/s if required.
- Please show new friends to a seat.
- Collect the offering at the appropriate time.

If you are a Musician, please:

- Arrive by 10.20am to set up and practice
- Set the scene for worship
- Lead the worship, keep the focus on praising God

If you are on Junior Church; please:

- Prepare during the week
- Arrive in time to set up (know which room you're using)
- Make the session fun and relevant
- Tidy up afterwards

. If you are on the sound system, please:

- Make sure the sound desk is switched on before the amp in the Fillebrook Room. (At end turn amp off before sound desk)
- Get the microphones out for the singers, instruments, speakers and lectern
- If there is a new person leading / singing / playing try to sound check before the service.

. If you are on the sound system; please:

- Check that no one has any last minute additions to the service.

Dec	Sean Barrett, Esther Mackay	Amy Willshire, Ulrika Doyle &
4	Beverly Collings, & Karen Beacon	Simon Owen

Communion Rota

Date	Communion Servers
Oct 16	Thelma Mills, Norman Goodeve, Marion Barrett, Gordon Dykes
Nov 20	David Mackay, Ulrika Doyle, Ashley Matthews, Nelcia Hardy
Dec 15	Wendy Jones, Simon Owen, Joyce Dykes, Amy Willshire

Coffee Bar

Date	Tea & Coffee
Oct 2	Irena Radburn & Thelma Mills
9	Marion Barret & Yvonne Phillips
16	Nalini Sigh & Thelma Mills
23	Fiona Buddell & Joyce Dykes
30	Ivy Campling & Irena Radburn
Nov 6	Lisa Moon & Yvonne Phillips
13	Fiona Buddell & Marion Barrett
20	Nalini Singh & Joyce Dykes
27	Fiona Buddell & Marion Barrett
Dec 4	Irene Radburn & Thelma Mills



**“We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land.”**

Tastes & Tales

On Thursday 6th October & 3rd November Tastes and Tales will give us an opportunity to meet for a convivial evening bringing food for body and soul to share with our friends. We meet at 7:30 and please bring some food to share. We aim to finish by 9 pm

Prayer Group (Thursday 7.45pm)

The Group will be meeting at the Church on Thursday, October 13th and 27th; then, on November 10th and 17th at 7.45 pm. Please contact me (Norman Goodeve on 020 8539 4086) for information about this. Transport can be arranged; please let me know if you require it.

We would very much appreciate more support. We meet twice a month to pray about Church people, their friends and relatives, and also about church concerns and events, besides remembering the wider world.

Norman Goodeve

Baby Yoga (Friday 11.00am)

A relaxing time for babies and parents to bond while exercising - lots of songs and child-friendly relaxation. Baby Yoga will be taking a break after 5 August until Friday, 9th September.

Simon Owen

Eco-Gardening (Saturday 10.00am)

A plaque on the wall above the little public garden on the corner of Hainault and Leigh Roads says that it is members of LUFC that voluntarily look after it. There's always rubbish to clear up as well as pruning and tending of plants, so please try to lend a hand with this community outreach project. Dates for our work in the next couple of months are October 15th and 29th, November 5th and 19th, and December 3rd.

Gordon Dykes

Sunday Services

Please find over the page a week-by-week guide to Sunday involvement. If you are unable to carry out your duties, please arrange a replacement. If you would like to get involved then please do not see this list as restrictive of new involvement. Thanks for all your help.



Preaching Plan:



October

2 Family Service - Church Anniversary & Harvest
Revd John Danso (Slough URC Church)

9 A Worshipping Community
Mark 6: 30-56; Romans 12: 1-2 & 9-21.
Leader & Speaker: Rev Alison Mackay

16 Study on *Galatians 1* It's bigger than me!
Communion Service
Leader & Speaker: Rev Alison Mackay

23 Study on *Galatians 2* – And it's bigger than Him!
Leader & Speaker: Hugh Doyle

30 Study on *Galatians 3*: It's more important than the Law
Leader & Speaker: Rev Alison Mackay

November

6 Family Service
Study on *Galatians 4*. - Not slaves but Children of God
Leader: Amy Willshire – Speaker: Karen Beacon

13 Study on *Galatians 5* - Freedom in the Spirit
Remembrance Sunday
Leader & Speaker: Rev Alison Mackay

20 Study on *Galatians 6* - A life of service and Love
Communion Service
Leader: Rev Alison Mackay Speaker: Claudine Matthews

27 First Sunday of Advent – Gift Service
Jesus the unborn messiah *Luke 1: 39-56*
Leader & Speaker: Rev Alison Mackay

SUNDAY SERVICES & ROTAS

December

4 Advent Two
John 1: 1-18 The Messiah in flesh
 Leader Karen Beacon – Speaker Rev Alison Mackay

Rotas

Sunday Stewards

Date	Concourse Welcome	Front Door
Oct 2	Simon & Ben Owen	Gordon Dykes
9	Shawn & Amanda Snyman	Ashley Matthews
16	Terry & Ivy Campling	Joyce Dykes
23	Joan Pantling	Freda Clark
30	Sean & Dylan Barrett	Simon Owen
Nov 6	Ken & Fiona Buddell	Gordon Dykes
13	Amy Willshire & Karen Beacon	Ashley Matthews
20	May Brissett & Nick Harris	Freda Clark
27	Beverly & Mariella Collins	Wendy Jones
Dec 4	Shawn & Amanda Snyman	Joyce Dykes

Junior Church

Date	Infants & Juniors	Senior Group
Oct 2	Fiona Buddell & Ivy Campling	Karen Beacon & Christine Onyeche
9	Fiona Buddell & Karen Beacon	Amy Willshire & Christine Onyeche
16	Karen Beacon & Ivy Campling	Amy Willshire & Christine Onyeche
23	Fiona Buddell & Ivy Campling	Beverly Collins & Ben Gbeve
30	Karen Beacon	Beverly Collins & Ben Gbeve
Nov 6	Family Service	
13	Sean Barrett, Esther Mackay, Grace Owen & Karen Beacon	Amy Willshire, Ulrika Doyle & Simon Owen
20	Sean Barrett, Esther Mackay & Karen Beacon	Amy Willshire, Ulrika Doyle & Simon Owen
27	Sean Barrett, Esther Mackay Beverly Collings, & Karen Beacon	Amy Willshire, Ulrika Doyle & Simon Owen