



CHALKWELL PARK METHODIST CHURCH

DIAMOND JUBILEE : 1930 - 1990

GREETINGS from the Minister

The Rev. Roger C Larkinson MA

A week is a long time in politics, but 60 years is next-to-nothing, in the whole history of the Church. It may be - it is - a long time for us, as individual people, but as the radar-beam sweeps across 2,000 years of the Church's history, 60 years is a fairly small blip. As we mark the Diamond Jubilee of Chalkwell Park Methodist Church, therefore, we would not succumb to vanity, or get above ourselves. We are a small part of Christ's Church, alongside millions like us.

But - it is of such small parts - bricks, pillars - that he builds his universal and eternal Church. Our place in it is his gift and his calling. By his grace - his life-giving love - we are here to work with him in his Church and in his world. And so we rightly give thanks for the sixty years in which our Chalkwell Park premises have been a centre for worship, a base for mission and service, and a resource for the local community.

However, we do not rest on our laurels. The living God moves on and does new things. With our friends in the rest of the Circuit, and in the Chalkwell Group of Churches, we want to move on, in response to him. God who has led us so far will lead us by his Spirit into new dimensions of worship, outreach and service. Eagerly, joyfully, we follow his lead.

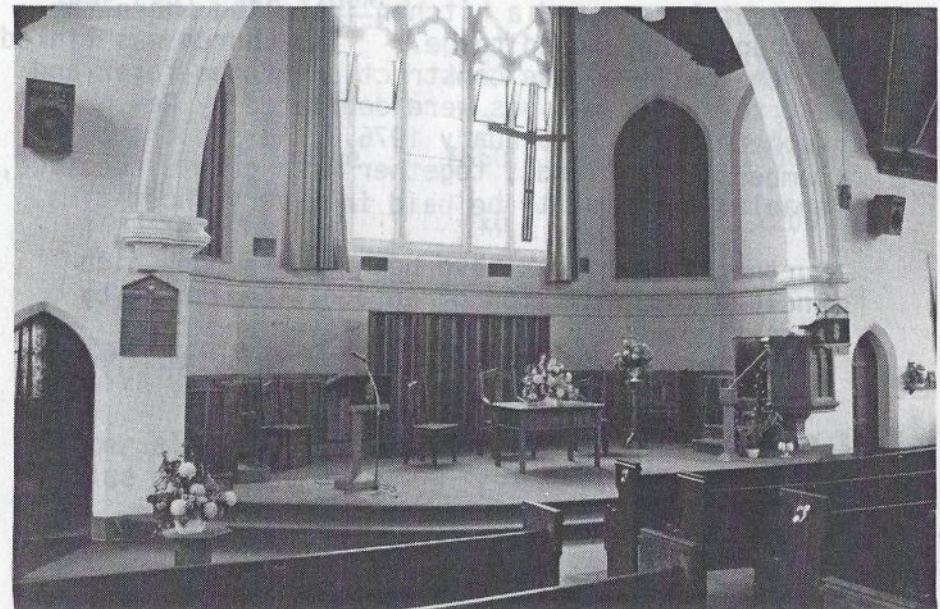
"We'll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that's to come."

Yours sincerely,

ROGER LARKINSON

This is our story so far -

There was a place of worship on this site from 1911 but it was not until a young enthusiastic Minister (Rev. Bryan H Reed) was appointed here in 1928 that plans were made to build a permanent Church. He visited regularly every house in this then rapidly growing area and in 1930 the Church was built. The Sunday School halls were erected in 1931. It was an act of considerable faith to build a Church here to hold 500 people. Bryan Reed sends us this message from the Methodist Homes for the Aged at Muswell Hill - "I'm afraid that it will not be possible for either Connie or me to visit you during your Diamond Jubilee year. It will have to be sufficient to recall the very happy times we spent at Chalkwell and send our most sincere good wishes.".



The faith was severely tested in the early days Methodist Union in 1932 brought changes in Ministerial oversight but the biggest blow was the Second World War. Large-scale evacuation of the area meant losing most of the members. However a very loyal but small band maintained the premises and kept the witness alive during the war period.

After the long years of war there remained outstanding debts on the building and the few members worked loyally through some lean years until in 1958 the debt was cleared. Even then progress was slow but gradually things began to happen. Much needed redecoration of the Church and halls took place in 1963 when a legacy from the estate of Miss Clara Salmon provided money to pay for it and for future development. Later, the sanctuary area was altered, a screen constructed across the middle of the Church creating the present lounge and a kitchen installed where the entrance lobby used to be. The Church was linked to the halls by the construction of the foyer and all these alterations were dedicated by Rev. Kenneth Price in January 1976. The support of members and friends, together with grants received, enabled the cost to be paid in a very short time.

Further alterations have been made since which include the provision of an additional room by partitioning off part of the foyer and the installation of a modernised and fully equipped

kitchen in the halls. We have had to spend a lot of money on exterior work on the Church including extensive repointing. More remains to be done.

In 1983 the Light Band was created and Mr Laurie Ward presented copies of "Songs of Fellowship" to the Church.

Some progress has been made in our relationships with other Churches. We are members of the Chalkwell Group of Churches and four times a year hold united services in one another's Churches. On Good Friday we come together in a March of Witness to Chalkwell Park where a united service is held. There are regular meetings of "Serendipity" or House Groups.

Noel Cox

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

| | <u>1930</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1990</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Membership | 137 | 86 | 136 |
| Total Annual Income | £560 | £1154 | £19500 |
| Average Weekly Collection | £6 | £10 | £200 |

Total income of £560 in 1930 would have been equivalent to £1,987 in 1960 and £21,300 in 1990 after allowing for the changes in prices and in the value of monies over the last 60 years.

MINISTERS WITH PASTORAL OVERSIGHT AT CHALKWELL PARK

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1928 - 1935 | Rev Bryan H Reed, BD |
| 1935 - 1938 | Rev Maurice H Giddings |
| 1938 - 1940 | Rev Charles E Penrose |
| 1940 - 1946 | Rev S James Adie |
| 1946 - 1948 | Rev Cecil G Dunkerley |
| 1948 - 1950 | Rev Ernest W Fitch |
| 1950 - 1954 | Rev A Edward Banks |
| 1954 - 1957 | Rev Henry A H Arnett |
| 1957 - 1962 | Rev Owen R Johnson |
| 1962 - 1968 | Rev Deryck U Adams |
| 1968 - 1970 | Rev Kenneth V Price |
| 1970 - 1971 | Rev Albert C Mortlock BD |
| 1971 - 1976 | Rev John E Stanfield MA |
| 1976 - 1983 | Rev Stanley J J Field |
| 1983 - 1988 | Rev Peter J Perowne BA |
| 1988 - | Rev Roger C Larkinson MA |

For some years prior to 1926 Chalkwell Park had been under the pastoral care of the minister of Argyll Road, which was then in the Forest Gate Circuit of the United Methodist Church.

Following upon Methodist Union in 1932 the three branches of Methodism in Southend came together to form the Southend Circuit in April 1935. Thereafter, pastoral oversight of Chalkwell fluctuated between a local minister and one appointed elsewhere in the circuit.

In 1940 the local minister was withdrawn and our church was placed under the care of the minister at Argyll Road. In 1948 a supernumerary minister assumed oversight of Chalkwell, living in a manse in Nelson Road.

In 1954 we were again linked with Argyll Road. In 1970 the minister at Park Road had charge for one year, until the appointment of a minister to Chalkwell once more in 1971, and the purchase of the Westbourne Grove manse in the same year.

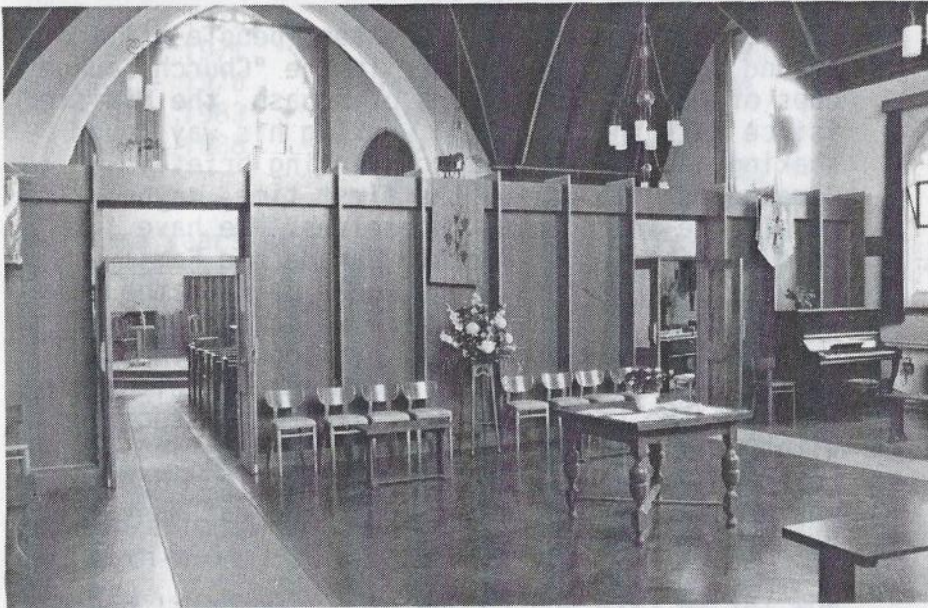
CHALKWELL TODAY

A threatening subject, if ever there was one! There's far too much of it! from Cubs and Brownies to the Wednesday Club, from the Young People doing up the old boiler-room as a kind of "den" to the new kitchen adjacent to the hall, opened two years ago. It's not possible to give you a blow-by-blow account of it all, so let me instead zoom in on one or two scenes from our Church life.

First, Sunday morning. Chatter, people milling around greeting one another in the "Church Lounge", cups of coffee and beakers of squash, the Minister (since 1979 the "Super.") working his way round shaking hands with folk, conversing briefly. Somebody's with us for the first time, maybe: people are introducing themselves. We have just been sharing in our monthly Parade and Family Service, though this scene would be much the same any Sunday. In that service we have been using our "new" (! six-year-old!) hymnbook, "Hymns and Psalms" - and also "Songs and Hymns of Fellowship", in which the Light Band (a Folk Group associated with Chalkwell) accompany us on guitars and keyboards - so many great new gifts from God to enrich our worship, alongside the great many gifts he gave in previous years.

Now let me take you to one of our members' houses, where a "Serendipity" House Group is in progress. The meeting starts with prayer, and then one of the groups leads off the conversation. This time, they are in the middle of studying the book of Revelation, a challenging book, and easy to misunderstand - and therefore important to get right. They are working with it and reflecting upon it, asking themselves what it means in itself

and what it says to Christ's followers today. Discussion is lively. How could a Church become neither hot nor cold? How would we face up to persecution? Why was there silence in heaven for half an hour? And what does John's version of heaven prompt us to think of life on earth?



We move on through the week, to Saturday. It is the first Saturday of the month, 7.30 am, and a few members have met early for prayer Now, it is 10.00 am, and everything is getting into gear for the Saturday Fellowship Club - 15 years old last December, and can't wait to come of age in

1992! People who can't get out and about very easily are being wheeled, or helped, in by an army of volunteer drivers (always room for more, of course!). Once in the hall, chat, coffee and entertainment: time passing quickly till 11.45, when the drivers begin to arrive again.

Time would fail me, as the author of Hebrews remarks, were I to talk of the Foyer Room, Local Arrangement Services, our special link with St. Andrew's Church, Westborough Road, the Parent and Toddler Group, Guides and Scouts, Ladies Monday Club, Youth Club Let me bring you back to worship, the central activity of Christ's Church. It is an October evening, and the Church is full up - hardly a seat to spare. The Chalkwell Group of Churches have come to us - as it happens - this evening. Roman Catholics, Anglicans, United Reformed, Methodists from Trinity as well as Chalkwell, we have come together to worship God, and hear about homelessness in Southend. Our Young People at Chalkwell have begun a scheme to collect food for the Southend Homeless Centre, and one of them thanks the folk from other congregations as well as Chalkwell Park for their generous contributions. We hear a Senior Probation Officer speaking about homelessness, we reflect about it before God in prayer, pray for others and ask him to strengthen our resolve to do what we can. We sing a modern hymn about Christ turning us, and the world, upside-down, bringing new life and freedom

That new life, and that freedom, are for us to receive and for us to claim, today, tomorrow and for the next sixty years.

Roger Larkinson

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS DURING 1990

APRIL

- Sunday 15th 10.45 Civic Service attended by His Worship the Mayor of Southend on Sea, Councillor John Armitage and the Mayoress, Mrs Barbara Armitage.
Preacher: Rev. Roger Larkinson MA
- Saturday 28th 7.00 Informal Reception "This is Your Life - Chalkwell Park".
Recollections of past and present members; exchange of greetings; exhibition; entertainment. Buffet Refreshments.
Compere: John May
- Sunday 29th Jubilee Services
10.45 and 6.30 Preacher:
Rev. Brian E Beck MA, Secretary of the Methodist Conference. The Vicar and congregation of St. Andrew's Church will be joining us for the evening service

MAY

- Saturday 5th 7.00 Concert by John Pantry
Contemporary Gospel Singer; has appeared on Television; recorded many albums
- Sunday 6th 10.45 Youth and Parade Service
Preacher: John Pantry
- Saturday 19th 2.30 Reunion of past and present members with Rev. Peter J Perowne BA (Minister 1983-88) and Mrs Pat Perowne
Buffet Refreshments
- 7.00 Organ Recital by William Davies
BBC Television and Recording Artist
- with Delphine Cole, Soprano
- Sunday 20th 10.45 and 6.30 Preacher:
Rev. Peter J Perowne BA

JUNE

- Sunday 10th 10.45 Sunday School Anniversary.
Preacher: Rev. Roger Larkinson MA
6.30 We will be joining the congregation at Trinity for their 90th Anniversary Service.
- Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th Flower and Flour Festival with Arts and Crafts. Coffee served from 10.30 on Saturday. Throughout the weekend we display our floral, culinary and artistic talents.
- Sunday 24th 10.45 and 6.30 Preacher:
Rev. John E Stanfield MA
(Minister 1971-1976)

JULY

- Sunday 1st 10.45 75th Anniversary of 1st Leigh-on-Sea Girl Guide Company
Preacher: Noel Cox
- Saturday 21st Church Picnic at Little Baddow

- Sunday 22nd 10.45 and 6.30 Preacher:
Rev. Albert C Mortlock BD
(Minister 1970-71)

AUGUST

- Sunday 26th 10.45 and 6.30 Preacher:
Rev. Brian J N Galliers, MA, MTh,
Chairman of the London North-East District.
At the evening service we will be joined by members and friends from the other Circuit Churches for the Annual United Circuit Service

SEPTEMBER

- Saturday 15th 7.00 Buffet Harvest Supper. Entertainment by the Light Band
- Sunday 16th Harvest Festival
10.45 Preacher: Mrs Rachel Larkinson
6.30 Preacher: John Low OBE

Continued overleaf

OCTOBER

Sunday 14th 10.45 and 6.30 Preacher:
Rev. Deryck U Adams
(Minister 1962-1968)

NOVEMBER

Saturday 10th Jubilee Fair and Gift Day

OUR WEEKLY CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------|-------|--|
| Sunday | 10.45 | Family Worship and Sunday School (Family and Parade Service first Sunday in month) |
| | 6.30 | Evening Worship |
| | 8.00 | Youth Fellowship |
| Monday | 7.00 | Girl Guides |
| | 8.00 | Ladies Monday Club meet alternate Mondays |
| Tuesday | 6.00 | Brownie Guides |
| | 8.00 | Youth Club |
| Wednesday | 2.30 | for 3.00 Wednesday Club |
| Friday | 9.00 | am First Friday in each month - Church Shop |
| | 6.00 | Cub Scouts |
| | 7.15 | Air Scouts |
| | 7.00 | Junior Choir Practice |
| | 8.00 | Senior Choir Practice |
| Saturday | 7.30 | a.m. First Saturday of each month - Prayer Meeting in Minister's Vestry |
| | 10.30 | Chalkwell Fellowship for elderly, handicapped and lonely people |

GREETINGS from the

Chairman of the London North-East District

Rev. Brian J N Galliers MA, MTh.

Sixty is no age these days. I have to say that, moving through my fifties yet still feeling a young man! But put alongside churches nearly a thousand years old, the Chalkwell Park Methodists are set fairly in perspective.

However, those sixty years since 1930 are truly significant. They cover quite astounding changes in our society and in our understanding of the universe in which we live. They cover thousands of people at Chalkwell, finding faith in Jesus Christ, worshipping week by week, ministering to each other in Christian love and seeking to serve the local neighbourhood. God's unknown saints have been - and are - the salt of his earth.

So, congratulations! May you as a church be youthful in God's Spirit, adventurous for your Lord, obedient to him in all things and concerned only for the doing of his will and the coming of his kingdom.

Brian Galliers