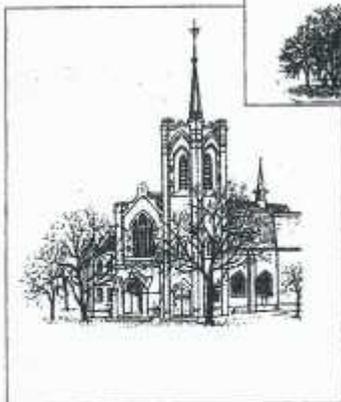
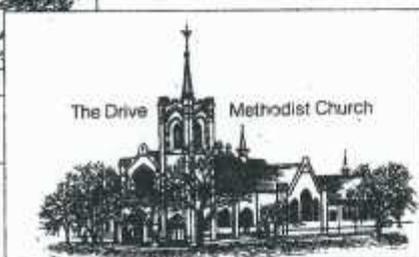
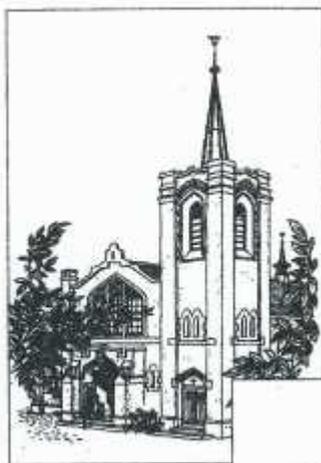


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex IG1 3PP

ANNUAL REPORT

2017/18



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate
www.drive-methodist.church

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017 TO 2018

Our Minister: - Reverend Bernardino Mandlate.

Church Stewards

Your stewards have supported the church and have always been there when we run into operational shortages on a service morning, my sincere thanks to my loyal colleagues. It has not been the easiest of years, and particularly during the winter months, when most of the stewards as well as our congregation have suffered from illness. I am certainly grateful for the support of a number of our congregation who have been willing to step in when asked. If any of you reading this are willing to add their name to those who regularly give us their availability to cover the Doors, Book distribution, car rota, etc will be welcomed. Many hands make light work! It is a fact that some of us are beginning to show our age, and I am looking to the future.

We have also been very grateful to our young people who have taken part in so many services, we look forward to this continuing.

It has been such a pleasure to have members who are taking the course to become local preachers who have been called to develop their skills as members of our church. In fact one, Janet Pearson, has now been accredited as a recognised, and qualified preacher.

My grateful thanks to them all.
Roy Brunnen.

Communion Stewards

Your communion stewards have ensured that Communion takes place in an orderly fashion, and I am grateful to them for their dedication. There is always a need for more people to volunteer to serve, retrieve the glasses, or act as stewards ensuring that the congregation takes communion in an efficient and orderly way.

My sincere thanks to all those who have assisted, especially those who are "recruited" on the day. If any of you feel able to offer your services please let me know.
Elizabeth Amah

The Drive Methodist Church Safeguarding Report

To date all 14 people involved in our Junior Church have successfully been DBS checked. There is one outstanding check to be made using the new Due Diligence Service.

Andrew Taylor has agreed to be our Independent Safe Adult as required by Methodist Safeguarding.

I am grateful that Isabella Pender continues to assist with the older/vulnerable people side of Safeguarding at The Drive; so please speak to Bella if you have any concerns.

Ultimately of course, Reverend Bernardino Mandlate holds overall responsibility for Safeguarding so all concerns are passed to him.

Brian Taylor passes on any Safeguarding issues regarding outside lettings and ensures the leaders of these groups are made aware of The Drives Safeguarding policy. I am grateful to Brian for this assistance.

Prior to Reverend Jan Atkins retiring, she delivered District Safeguarding Training which was well attended. For those in our church who were unable to attend and are required to undertake this training or want to attend for information only a further date has been arranged for 2pm on 28th April (subject to room availability).

Safeguarding information can be viewed on the board at the back of the church although I am very happy to answer any queries or talk through any concerns anyone may have.

I would like to revive the District Safeguarding Forum as this would provide support for those who take on this responsibility.
Lorraine Bendon

Junior Church

We still have four groups that run each Sunday.

-) The Grid for our senior group
-) Extreme for our middle group
-) Splash for our younger group
-) Crèche for our babies, toddlers and parents/carers

Our four Junior Church sessions run each Sunday morning. The crèche is still available, but our little ones are getting older and have moved up to the Splash group.

We are extremely pleased that Bambo is joining our Junior Church team, as a leader, and hope he will bring some new ideas to our Junior Church family.

We are always looking for more people to be part of our Junior Church team. You would be most welcome to join in the fun! Please speak to me or one of the Junior Church leaders, if you feel you could help in some way, or come and join us during our Junior Church sessions to see what we do!

The young people are a wonderfully lively bunch and they all bring different talents and skills to our Sunday morning sessions. They are very kind and supportive of each other too.

During the year the Junior Church enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt, the BBQ in the church hall, the annual Nativity rehearsal and talent show and of course the Nativity service. John and Michelle were instrumental in organising the Nativity, so my thanks go to them as well as Andrew who always supports the singing and music during the Nativity. The young people always bring joy and enthusiasm when they act out the familiar story. Well done team "The Drive".

During the year we have introduced a "chill out" session, which takes place once a month. We have table tennis and games as well as craft activities to enjoy. In this busy world, our young people need time to socialise in a safe, happy environment and they all seem to be enjoying the time they have together. This happens during the normal Junior Church session.

The Junior Church has also taken part in all age worship services and our young people have grown in confidence and ability. They are looking forward to planning more all age services for everyone to enjoy.

Thanks to Andrew, the young people enjoyed being part of the Chorale and singing in many of the services over the year too. Thank you, once again, to the Junior Church team and to all the young people who make Junior Church a fun place to be!
Joanna Wright

Music at The Drive

The Drive's musicians continue to provide weekly support for our worship, especially the members of the choir. We still manage a regular Sunday choir and sing anthems in communion services and on special festival occasions. We have

recently also started singing during the weekly offering. As part of our regular pattern of music events, which is now well established, the choir

-) led a short service of Evening Prayer to mark the end of the choir year in July
-) participated in an evening of entertainment at the Redbridge Faith Forum
-) sang with great sensitivity and style in our Christmas Carol Service

This year there there was no Small Choirs Festival, but we are planning to find another opportunity to sing with our friends from Ilford Lane Methodist Church.

The Drive Chorale, our all-age occasional singing group, has contributed to major festival services throughout the year, as well as providing musical contributions to some of our "own arrangement" services. As it becomes better known, some preachers are requesting an item from the Chorale. Immediate plans include singing on Mothering Sunday and with the choir at Easter.

We continue to explore hymns and songs old and new from our hymnal *Singing the Faith*. By the end of 2017, we had used exactly 50% of the 790 songs in the book, so by the time you read this, we will almost certainly have started to tackle the second half of those 790 songs! All hymns were new once, and it is important to add to our repertoire to keep worship fresh and relevant. We are always considering how to make new and unknown songs easier for the congregation to learn and sing with confidence.

Some of our young people are becoming very proficient at playing musical instruments, and we continue to look for opportunities to hear them play in worship.

Thanks once again to all who contribute in whatever way to

music at The Drive, especially the members of the choir who turn out regularly to practise, and to those who play occasionally in my absence.

Thanks as well to Bernardino, the church stewards and congregation who are so supportive and make my job so easy!
Andrew Taylor

Newsletter

I have now edited five issues of our Newsletter since taking over from Roy last September. Following an appeal in the Christmas Newsletter, I am grateful to Andrew for offering to undertake the printing.

Our monthly Newsletter continues to be an important means of communication. In addition to providing information about forthcoming events it gives everyone the opportunity to share news.

Please do let me have information about your family and friends as well as articles of general interest.
Diane Foster

Church Life.

The committee continues to meet to consider the week to week needs of our church, and the necessary arrangements to ensure the services meet the needs of the various seasons such as Christmas and Easter.

We meet normally twice a year to discuss the coming church events and ecumenical needs, such as any suggestions we have received to adjust the order of services etc.

We also receive any information from the Superintendent Minister, circuit office, or Methodist head office.

My thanks to all those involved for their continued support for all we do here at the drive.

Roy Brunnen.

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral committee meets twice a year to discuss the welfare and pastoral care of our members and adherents. At the end of October 2017, our membership was 78, a net increase of 6 over the previous return.

As always in these reports I appeal for more volunteers to offer their service in this very practical way, that helps us follow our Christian calling to "tend my sheep". It involves having a few of our members and adherents for whom you are the "go to" person if they have any worries or questions, and to be interested in their welfare, should they become unwell or have personal problems which they are willing to talk about.

We meet twice a year, normally on a Tuesday evening, and, unless there is anything major to discuss, we are usually finished in about an hour.

Please give this matter some prayerful thought as to whether you could offer your services in this way. None of our Pastoral Leaders, like all of us, are not getting any younger, and most of us are very committed in other roles also. It would be lovely to have some younger members willing to take on a small group, so that the older members could "retire"!

Brian Grinham,
Secretary to the Pastoral Committee.

Property Report

In 2017 the Property Committee continued to actively manage the maintenance and use of our premises for the benefit of our members and all our users.

A number of worthwhile projects were completed including replacement of the Hall kitchen gas cooker, erection of a fence cross the east side of the church and the installation of the external defibrillator. These are the more obvious projects, but to keep the premises clean, secure and compliant we also have to manage the numerous service and maintenance contracts as well as ongoing risk assessments. Contracts include the cleaning, fire alarm testing, PAT testing, gas safety inspection, fire appliance servicing, annual asbestos inspection etc. Risk Assessments cover a number of areas, but most recently we have been required to commission a Legionella Risk Assessment which we passed without issue.

One setback last year was the problem with the new Hall floor, which was found to be lifting. Whether responsibility for this lay with the contractor was difficult to establish, however we reached a fair compromise over the cost of the remedial works, which were completed over the summer. The Budget for 2017/18 was approved by the Church Council in November and includes a general overhaul of the tiled roofs, replacement of the wooden windows to the Cranbrook room, which are rotten, with UPVC units, exterior re-decoration of the Hall block as well as ongoing general maintenance.

As always, I wish to thank all members of the Property Committee (Corinne, Mike, Colin Rodway, Brian T and John H) for their continued support. I have said many times how indebted the Church is to Brian T and his recent period of convalescence has only served to confirm this. Finally, a thank you to Joel, Peter B, Mike S, John P, Colin Runeckles, and Brian

T who take turns to check the premises are safe and secure each night.

Jeremy Foster

Serving the Community

Our premises continue to be heavily used for both church activities and community events. During 2017 there were 20 children's parties, 14 community meetings and events, 3 concerts and 4 weddings; there were 16 community groups meeting weekly, including Music, Pilates, Yoga, Keep Fit, Punjabi, History and First Aid.

Also during the year a defibrillator was installed outside the hall, local homes informed of this by leaflet and two training courses held. (Thanks to Peter Bendon for arranging this.)

Brian Taylor

Church Website

Last April saw the 10th anniversary of the launch of our website and in that time achieved over 45,000 visits and over 150,000 page loads. Although current usage is less than at its peak in 2014, the decline over the last two or three years has levelled out and we are still seeing over 14,000 pages being viewed each year.

This year has seen some major changes, most notably the change of address in January which has made it more efficient and better performing on mobile devices as well as providing a greater level of security for our data.

The greatest concern remains the constant lack of new material and we would benefit hugely from having a 'Website Editor' – someone to take responsibility for collating items and photographs for publication. According to the website, the last event at the Church was the harvest festival, nearly six months

ago! Surely not? If you are involved in organising an event, or just taking part, please consider writing a few words, supported by photographs if possible so that we can keep the website up to date and more relevant.

Mike Seviour

Finance Report

As at 31st January 2018, the figures for the first 5 months of this financial year are in line with our budget. However freewill offerings have declined, mainly because of low attendance over the winter period. Income from lettings is on track and should meet budget.

Repairs and replacements are always necessary, and during the past year the Property Committee has arranged much needed work; e.g. hall floor, new range in hall kitchen. Further work is required to ensure the buildings are adequately maintained. Therefore it is important that we continue to keep a tight rein on our expenditure, to ensure that we have the necessary funds in reserve when required.

This Church operates on your freewill offering and from the letting of our premises. I would like to thank you for your continued support and generosity.

John Higgins

Treasurer

Envelope Scheme and Gift Aid Report

For the last financial year, we received the sum of £6,766.15 from the Inland Revenue in respect of Tax reclaimed on the contributions made by members of the congregation, who have signed a Gift Aid form to enable us to reclaim the tax that they have previously paid on the amount they have given to the Church in the tax year to 5th April 2017. This sum includes the

tax we can claim back on small donations, but sadly falls a little short of the budget for the year which was £7,000.

The Gift Aid Tax which we get each year is, of course a very valuable source of income for the Church, and last year represented approximately 18% of the budgeted income for the General account.

The more we can claim back, the less strain there will be on other sources of income, such as the freewill offerings. If, therefore, you are a U.K. Tax payer, and are not already Gift Aiding your contributions, would you please consider doing so in the future. If you wish to know the details of the scheme, please see me and I will be happy to explain things to you.

Brian Grinham,
Gift Aid Secretary.

Flower Arrangers

We have four flower arrangers who prepare the flowers for each Sunday, also for special events during the year.

I am very grateful to Anne Dellow, Ruth Joyce, and Lorraine Bendon for their help and dedication in providing the beautiful arrangements.

We are a team of four and thoroughly enjoy what we do, but would welcome anyone who feels they could or would like to join us to do an arrangement.

Please contact one of us if you wish.
Janet Brunnen.

Junior Mission for All

I was delighted to report at our JMA Presentation Service in November that The Drive had raised £647 for JMA funds. Of this amount, £314 came from the proceeds of our Beetle Drive in March and the rest was from our JMA collectors and donations. Receiving badges and certificates were:

Thea Garner, Rochelle Inbakumar, Feyi, Toju and Tunrayo Fadina, Paige Fordree, Iris Bennett-Wright and Yetunde Fadojutimi.

The Drive continues to give generously to JMA, money from which goes to fund projects overseas and in the UK. Thank you all for your continued support.

Diane Foster

Beaver Colony

We restarted the Beavers at 14th Ilford just in January 2017 and currently have twelve Beavers. Since we have started two of our Beavers moved to cubs as well.

During the course of last year the Beavers enjoyed a varied programme of games and activities often recognising special events and festivals. The Beavers have been working hard towards achieving a number of badges since September.

In February 2017 the Beavers made Pancakes for the Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) and made lovely cards on Valentines Day for their family.

In April 2017 the Beavers took part in various activities to learn personal safety and road safety. The Beavers also attended a session on what to do in emergency and when to call 999. To complete their Personal Safety badge we planned a visit to the

science museum. The Beavers learned to keep themselves safe while travelling via public transport and used different types of road crossings.

In July 2017 we arranged our end of year party for all the Beavers and Cubs together and all the parents and some grand parents and siblings enjoyed it too.

In the first half term of September the Beavers worked hard to earn their animal friend badge. They completed various activities and tasks. They kept the weekly diary of taking care of their own pets. They made some beautiful animal masks and as part of an activity we visited Pets at home where beavers had a first hand experience to learn how to take care of the pets. They also held, touched and fed some of the small animals too.

In October the Beavers made Divas with clay and decorated them with shiny glitters to celebrate Diwali and also made beautiful cards to celebrate Eid.

In the next half term the Beavers took part in various cooking activities, they made pizzas, decorated biscuits, sandwiches, fruit kebabs etc. they learnt about healthy eating as well and learned how to use of various tools and utensils. They did some spooky cooking for Halloween as well as scooping and carving pumpkins of their own. We ended the term with a party where Beavers cooked and made a dish to share with other beavers and earned their cooking badge. Parents attended the party too and enjoyed dodge ball parents vs. Beavers. Everyone was amazed with the lovely cooking the beavers did and the beavers earned a well-deserved cooking badge.

In January 2018, the Beavers enjoyed the District outing to the pantomime, Peter Pan, at the Kenneth More Theatre.

I am very grateful for all the help I have received during the course of the year. I am thankful for the support from Henry, our Assistant Leader, and Ayesha and Nyra, our young helpers.

Rizwana Khan – Beaver Scout Leader

Cub Pack Report

Our membership is currently at 3 boys, meeting regularly at 7 o'clock on a Tuesday. We have had a varied programme in 2017 mixing games, crafts, outdoor activities and traditional scouting skills.

Over Summer we camped at Hargreaves campsite with an explorers camp theme. The tents were pitched in a downpour on Thursday but thankfully the remainder of the camp was hot and sunny. The Cubs hiked to Hainault farm to see the lemurs and peacocks, and spent time in the woods and fields collecting and identifying plants and insects. The Cubs trampolined, went climbing, enjoyed a sing-along at the campfire and ran themselves ragged over wide games at dusk.

This autumn we've been working on a number of badges. The cubs learnt their knots and lashing to build a trebuchet and gain their pioneering badge. We also put forward a team for the district Masterchef competition and came a very creditable third-place cooking spaghetti bolognese and apple crumble. In the course of preparing for the event they all achieved their Chef Badges. As the nights drew in, we spent time gaining the road safety and artist badges. The cubs made a number of Christmassy craft things as well as tried their hand at soap carving.

I'd like to thank Tahir (a returning cub) and Zayd, who have been helping out as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. It has been great to their energy and participation.

We look forward to another fun and action packed year!
Reenit Shah – Cub Scout Leader

The Drive Pre-school Annual Report
February 2018

The Drive pre-school has now been open for 43 years and is still going strong.

The pre-school is very established within the local community and beyond, welcoming children and their families from all walks of lives.

We celebrate the diversity of our children and as we teach the Fundamental British Values, we are proud to say that our tolerance of other faiths and beliefs and our mutual respect is evident every day.

We are a very inclusive setting, and at the present time we are supporting six children with additional needs both in their learning and development, as well as in their transition to their next school. We have formed close links with some of the local schools and this ensures a smooth and happy transition for our children.

We are continuing to welcome new children at our pre-school and we will have full capacity in the summer term. This is a very busy time as we prepare the children to be ready to move on to the next part of their learning journey.

We welcomed three new members of staff in our existing team of experienced practitioners. They have settled in their new role extremely well and they have been fully supported by everybody at the pre-school.

The safeguarding of the children in our care is the most important element. We ensure that we offer a safe, happy and stimulating environment for the children to thrive and learn.

Our careful planning, offers a good balance of adult –led and child-initiated activities, which meet the needs of all the children. The rich and stimulating environment with a wide variety of educational resources, enables the children to learn and thrive. All children get a key person, who supports them throughout their stay with us. The key persons spend quality time with their key children, to build trust and positive relationships with them as well as their families, extending the support and learning in their own home.

Finally I would like to thank my staff team for all their hard work and dedication. We all work together to continue to provide the quality care and education to all the children who attend as well as their families.

We are all proud to be part of the Drive pre-school.

Thank you
Kay Whiddon

Mission Statement

The Drive Methodist Church aims to be faithful to the commandments of Jesus, and the calling of the Methodist Church.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission, and to fulfil the promises detailed in the Methodist worship book.

In seeking to be faithful The Drive Methodist Church is committed to:

-) Provide a weekly opportunity for all people to worship God in Christ, here at The Drive Methodist Church.
-) Enable people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care.

Be a good neighbour to the immediate and wider community. Sharing our faith with others through pastoral care, church activities and communication.