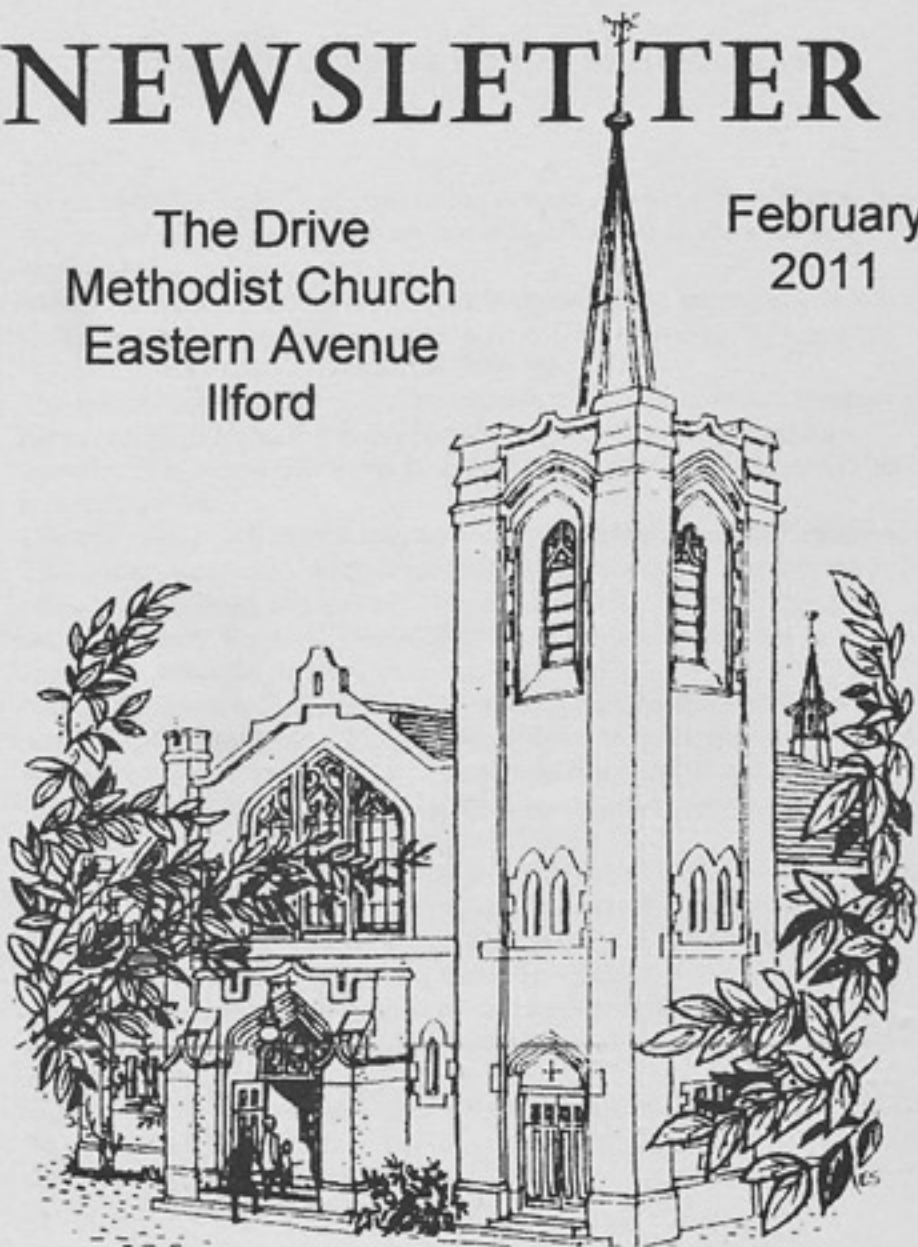


# NEWSLETTER

The Drive  
Methodist Church  
Eastern Avenue  
Ilford

February  
2011



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate  
19 Bethell Avenue, Ilford, IG1 4UX Tel 020 8554 4949

<http://www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk>

## **Church Repairs**

The church building will be closed for about a month from Sunday 6th February whilst repairs are carried out. During this period Sunday services will be held in the Hall.

The main work to be done is to replace the section of ceiling that fell down some months ago and to check all the other ceiling panels. Scaffolding will have to be erected for access and while it is in place the whole ceiling will be painted, ledges cleaned and some electrical rewiring undertaken.

It has been decided that services should be held in the Hall rather than the Parlour so that Junior Church and Creche can use adjacent rooms rather than having to move to another building.

All possible help is requested for 10 am on Saturday 5th February to clear the church and move items needed to the Hall. There will be another call for volunteers to clean and put everything back when the work has been completed.

Please note that for safety reasons there will be no access to the church once the work has started.

Brian Taylor

## **ADVENT AT THE CONVENT.**

The course was held on several different days and times this year. I attended on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December. There were about ten of us who met from 10am to 1pm at the Coventry Road Convent. The session included a short communion service, discussion, Bible reading and a time for meditation.

Susan Ruckes.

## **GRANGE HILL CHURCH 50<sup>TH</sup> /60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.**

Revd. Stuart Jordan was the preacher at the service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am. He is the chairperson of the London District (North of the Thames) Revd. Jordan told the story of a little boy who wandered on stage just before a concert given by the Polish Prime minister & Pianist Paderewski. The little boy played "Twinkle Twinkle little star". Paderewski crept quietly up to the piano and added an elaborate accompaniment. This story illustrated how something that seems small and insignificant can be used to achieve something important.

Susan Ruckes

## **Shameela Jemeellee**

It is with regret that I have to report that Shameela is leaving the circuit due to family and other commitments. We have only seen her on a couple of occasions, but I believe most of us enjoyed hearing her and are sorry she is not able to stay a little longer. However, we do wish her and her family Gods blessing as she continues her ministry.

Roy Brunnen

## **CHURCH LUNCH**

Because of the many Christmas festivities, the staff of the Church Lunch were given a break in January. Our next lunch will be in the Cranbrook Room (during the Pre-School half-term), on Tuesday February 22 nd. at 1 o'clock. Catherine will be taking names from EVERYBODY in due course.

Cathrine Sayers

## **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP**

Our February meeting is on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>, when we are pleased to say that our own minister, the Revd. Bernardino Mandlate, has agreed to tell us about himself. The meeting begins at 8 00 pm.

Refreshments are served.

Even if you don't usually come to these meetings, make an exception this month for what will be an interesting time.

Frank Sayers

## **TABLE TOP SALE**

On Saturday 26 February we are holding a table top sale in the Hall from 10.00am to 12.30pm. We are hoping to "rent" 10 tables for £10 each to anyone who wishes to take one either for themselves or for a charity of their choice. Apart from the £10 rent, all proceeds go to the table holder. In addition, there will be bric a brac, book and media stalls selling the surplus stock from the Autumn Fayre.

Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits will be served all morning plus bacon and sausage rolls which were very popular at the Autumn Fayre.

Please put the date in your diary and make a note to come along and support this event. If you would like to rent a table please let me know as soon as possible.

Jeremy

### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2011.**

The service, written by the Christian women of Chile on the theme "How Many Loaves Have You?" will take place at St. Alban's Church, Albert Road, Ilford, on Friday 4th March at 2 pm.

Chile has been much in our minds during the past year and this service will tell us more about Chile, its mixed people and their way of life.

St. Alban's can be reached by taking a bus to the Central Library and going through the underpass to Albert Road.

C. Sayers

### **ALBERT GRANT**

A packed Ilford Methodist Church said farewell to the much loved local preacher, Albert Grant, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Albert died unexpectedly just after Christmas. When circuit administration officer, Diane Lilley went back to her office after the holiday, there on her desk was a letter from Albert listing his preaching availability for the next quarter.

The service was a thanksgiving for his life, and emphasised his positive attitude. He will be much missed, not only by his sons Kevin and Stephen, but also by the many people whose life he touched. Susan Ruckes.

### **MARJORIE GEE (Williams)**

I have received a Christmas card from Marjorie Gee (nee Williams). She has asked me to remember her to any "Eastern Avenue folk who were there when I left in 1955". She and her husband Dennis, moved to a retirement village last January not far from their daughter & family.

In August she had a hip replacement and had an eye problem, but they are both fine now.

If anyone should want her address then I have it.

Brian Grinham

## **REMEMBER**

Just going to church does not make you a Christian,  
Any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

### **Mary Parkin**

Wife of Revd Harry Parkin (deceased) who was at the Drive in the  
1960s.

Since Christmas I have heard from friends of Mary Parkin in Yorkshire to say that Mary had several strokes last year and is paralysed down her right side. She spent several months in hospital. Mary has moved into a residential home as it would not be possible to manage on her own in the bungalow. Mary's speech has much improved but not enough for her to have her own phone line, but she still enjoys listening to music and reading.  
Peter Mitchell.

## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

The daily midday services took place at the Hospital chapel in Ilford Hill, as in previous years. Revd. Bernardino Mandlate took the service on Tuesday, the turn of Ilford Methodist Church. The Vine URC, St Andrews C of E, St Peter & St Paul R C took the services on other days. Thursday is always the turn of the Hospital Chapel, followed by the regular Thursday Eucharist. Members from each church are responsible for making the tea after the half hour service.  
Susan Ruckes

## **NEW WINDOW AT ST ANDREW'S C of E CHURCH**

A new window depicting the story of Abraham was dedicated on November 30<sup>th</sup>, which is St Andrews day. Reverend Rosemary and John Enever had travelled from Devon for the dedication. The family of the late Vic Zoers were also there. Vic had encouraged the idea of a window, and at his funeral donations were given to the window fund.  
The designer of the window was present. It is good to know that the skills of medieval craftsmen and the William Morris school are still around today.  
Susan Ruckes

## **A SIGN ON A CHURCH**

Feeling down in the mouth ?  
Come in for a faith lift.

### **Meet the congregation Stan Singleton's Story, so far....**

I was born at 15 Stanley Road, Ilford on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1920 – just 90 years ago. I was the third son, following Bill and Les who were 10 and 8 years older than me. No doubt my mother was hoping for a girl, but alas, she got me!

By the time I arrived, my father was a Constable in the Metropolitan Police but continued service earned him promotion to Sergeant and then Inspector. As a result, we moved to police accommodation in Walthamstow and then Bow, each for 5 years. When Dad retired in 1931 we moved to the house he bought in Redbridge Lane, which became our home until Mum's death in 1969 and Dad's death in 1970.

After school, I was employed in the electrical industry and my girl friend, Olive, lived opposite my house. All seemed set for steady progress towards marriage, parenthood and grand-parenthood, in succession of course, until retirement. However this happy forecast was interrupted in September 1939 by the start of the Second World War. I was nearing the end of an electrical engineering course and on completing it in July 1941, was conscripted into the Royal Air Force. Twelve months later, I was given provisional warning for overseas service, which somewhat hastened my marriage plans. Accordingly my wedding took place on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1942 and on the following day, Olive and I travelled to Bournemouth for a seven day honeymoon. However, within two hours of reaching our hotel, a telegram arrived with the directive "return to unit immediately". We, of course, assumed that my overseas posting had been issued and travelled back to London and thence to RAF Station Bradwell Bay on the Essex Coast with no further information. On arrival at base, I learned the recall was in fact an application deadline for a Commission that I had applied for. Deadline now met and we were able to return to our honeymoon three days later.

My first overseas posting was to Sierra Leone in 1944 as Flying Officer, Engineer Branch, responsible for the repair of aircraft electrical and instrument equipment. This appointment was unaccompanied and ended in 1945 after 12 months.

However, in July 1951, I was posted as Flight Lieutenant to Singapore for 2 ½ years and this time accompanied so was delighted to have Olive, Frances and Ruth with me.

My next spell overseas was in August 1964 to Labuan Island, off the coast of Borneo for 12 months unaccompanied. This tour was shorter than usual because of the Indonesian emergency. However, during this posting, I was promoted from Squadron Leader to Wing Commander.

During my RAF service, Olive and I decided that two of the most common courses of action for service personnel was not acceptable to us i.e. to move children every 2 ½ years with my postings or to put them into boarding school. Therefore, we purchased a house where Olive and the children (Frances and Ruth now having been joined by Rosalind) lived close by my parents and, except for overseas trips; I was able to get home every weekend. That house was in Grangeway Gardens and it is still my home.

I have been blessed with excellent health and good fortune during my whole life. My eldest brother, Bill, was injured and taken prisoner of war for most of the conflict and my other brother, Les, suffered severe ill health whilst serving in the Army, finally being invalided from National Service in 1942. I survived my wartime service unscathed and on being granted a Permanent Commission in the RAF, continued serving until 1975 when I retired at the compulsory age of 55 after 34 years. I had a heart valve replacement in 1994 and colon cancer in 2006, both of which I am pleased to say have caused me no problems due to early detection.

Olive's and my decision to buy our own home all those years ago when all my RAF colleagues were living in married quarters proved most fortuitous as my house was paid for by the time I retired whereas former colleagues were having to work to pay a mortgage. Therefore, at 55, I was fit, financially comfortable and keen to volunteer my services wherever it might help. Being a committed mason for many years, I offered my services to the

Essex Provincial Grand Lodge and for the next 18 years occupied the position of Secretary of the Loughton Masonic Hall Company, which provided the necessary facilities for 58 Masonic organisations including 34 Craft Lodges which I found most satisfying period.

However, by about 1995, my domestic commitments had dramatically increased due to my wife's health problems (Parkinsons Disease, Diabetes and ultimately Cancer) that she coped with magnificently and with the utmost dignity. Alas, she lost her fight in November 1997 and I feel privileged to have shared 55 years of happy marriage with such a special lady.

Having just celebrated my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, I am delighted to still be able to travel and thoroughly enjoyed visiting Australia, Tasmania and Hong Kong earlier this year and hope to have more exciting trips to look forward to in the future.  
Stan.

**Thank you very much Stan.**

What a great contribution. There are a number of us in the church who after reading this should come to attention and salute you. (but we do not wear hats)  
Roy Brunnen

**JAKE STAINES 1989 – 2010**

You may not recall the name Jake Staines, but I am sure you will recall Dinner with Decajazz at The Drive in 2007. The connection is that Jake was the Band's very talented drummer and member of the Barber Shop quartet. Jake and Matthew were close friends from their time at Coopers Co & Coborn School, their mutual support of West Ham and in more recent years as members of Decajazz. Tragically, Jake was killed in a motor accident just before Christmas.

On Thursday 6 January Matthew, Diane and I attended Jake's funeral and celebration of his life. The funeral was held at City of London Crematorium and whilst not intended as a religious service it was one of the most meaningful funerals I can recall.

Jake was a highly talented musician. He composed, sang, played piano, saxophone and of course the drums. During the service there was no congregational singing, but we heard recordings of Jake accompanying his younger brother singing "Only My Love is Blind"



composed by Jake. Matthew read a tribute to his friend and we then heard "Me and My Shadow" sung by Jake and his father Bob. Later we heard "All the Kings Horses" composed and sung by Jake's sister which contained some very poignant lyrics. At the close, we heard the drum roll section of "Anvil Chorus" played by Jake and recorded by me at the Decajazz concert at The Drive. I never imagined that my recording would be used at the celebration of Jake's life.

At the end of the service we were given a CD of eight songs recorded by Jake. Whilst the tragedy of Jake's death is undiminished, the CD and our memories of Jake will live long.  
Jeremy

### **THIS WAS PASSED TO ME BY ONE OF OUR CONGREGATION**

Christmas comes but once a year,  
And when it's done we raise a cheer,  
Mince pies, cake, turkey and pud,  
Blown out feeling, not so good.

Did we really spend our time,  
Making cards? (which turned out fine)  
Yes – we did, twas such a pleasure,  
Lovely ones, made at leisure.

We did them – mainly to show our love,  
And respect for the season, Heavens above!  
Gifts, and drinks, lots of good cheer,  
To celebrate, the end of the year.

But – mostly for all of us to reflect,  
What Christmas means, though not perfect,  
We do our best, with age old traditions,  
Thinking of others, and their ambitions.

So – a merry Christmas, success too,  
Joy and Peace in all you do,  
May the following year be the very best,  
That eventually surpasses all the rest!

## Where is it?

In the December/January newsletter I challenged you to identify where in the Bible is Chloe found, as she is mentioned only once. A few people telephoned me and correctly identified that it is in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 1, verse 11.  
Brian Grinham.

## FEBRUARY DIARY ALL THIS MONTHS SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH HALL

Tues	1 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm	Church Fellowship. Our Minister, Revd. Bernardino Mandlate tells Us about himself.
Wed	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Sat	5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Creative Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service with Holy Communion</b>
			<b>Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate</b>
Mon	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church Finance Committee
Wed	9 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service Led by Mr J Arinze</b>
Wed	16 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Morning at the gardeners cafe, Valentines Mansion.
Sat	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Share a skill.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service. Education Sunday Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate</b>
Tue	22 <sup>nd</sup>	1.00pm	Church Lunch
Wed	23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Wed	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00pm	Church Life Committee.
Sat	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Table top sale.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service Led by Miss J Tweedale.</b>

## **BIRTHDAYS**

We were glad to be able to sing Happy birthday to Stan Singleton on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December, as he reached his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the following day.

Included with Stan was Lorraine Bendon, whose Birthday was on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, but as I do not give ladies ages away, I will only say that she is 12 years behind me. It was also Peter and Lorraine's 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> December. We wish them many more years together.



**ADVANCE NOTICE!!!**

Watch Out!....There's a Beetle About!

***(Yes, it's almost that time of year again!)***

**Our annual JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA (and raffle)  
will be held on:**

**SATURDAY 19th MARCH 2011**

**2.30 pm for 3 pm START  
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL**

Raising funds for JMA (Junior Mission for All)  
for projects both at home and abroad.

**Come along and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food  
and fun!**

***Tickets will be available shortly...more details to follow  
in March newsletter***

With thanks  
Diane Foster



# PRAYER VIGIL

Please make every effort to attend these  
to pray for the deep needs of our Circuit.  
If you are unable to attend, do set  
aside time to pray with us at home.

**Daytime:- 11 – 1pm**

**Evening:- 7 – 9pm**

**Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> February daytime - Gantshill**

**Wed. 16<sup>th</sup> February evening – Old Dagenham**

**Wed. 9<sup>th</sup> March daytime – Barking**

**Wed. 23<sup>rd</sup> March evening - Barkingside**

**Wed. 6<sup>th</sup> April daytime – Ilford**

**Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> April evening - Goodmayes**

**Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> May daytime - Beacontree Heath**

**Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> May evening – Seven Kings**

**Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> June daytime - Grange Hill**

**Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> June evening – The Drive**

*Jesus said 'If you believe, you will receive' Matt.21:22*