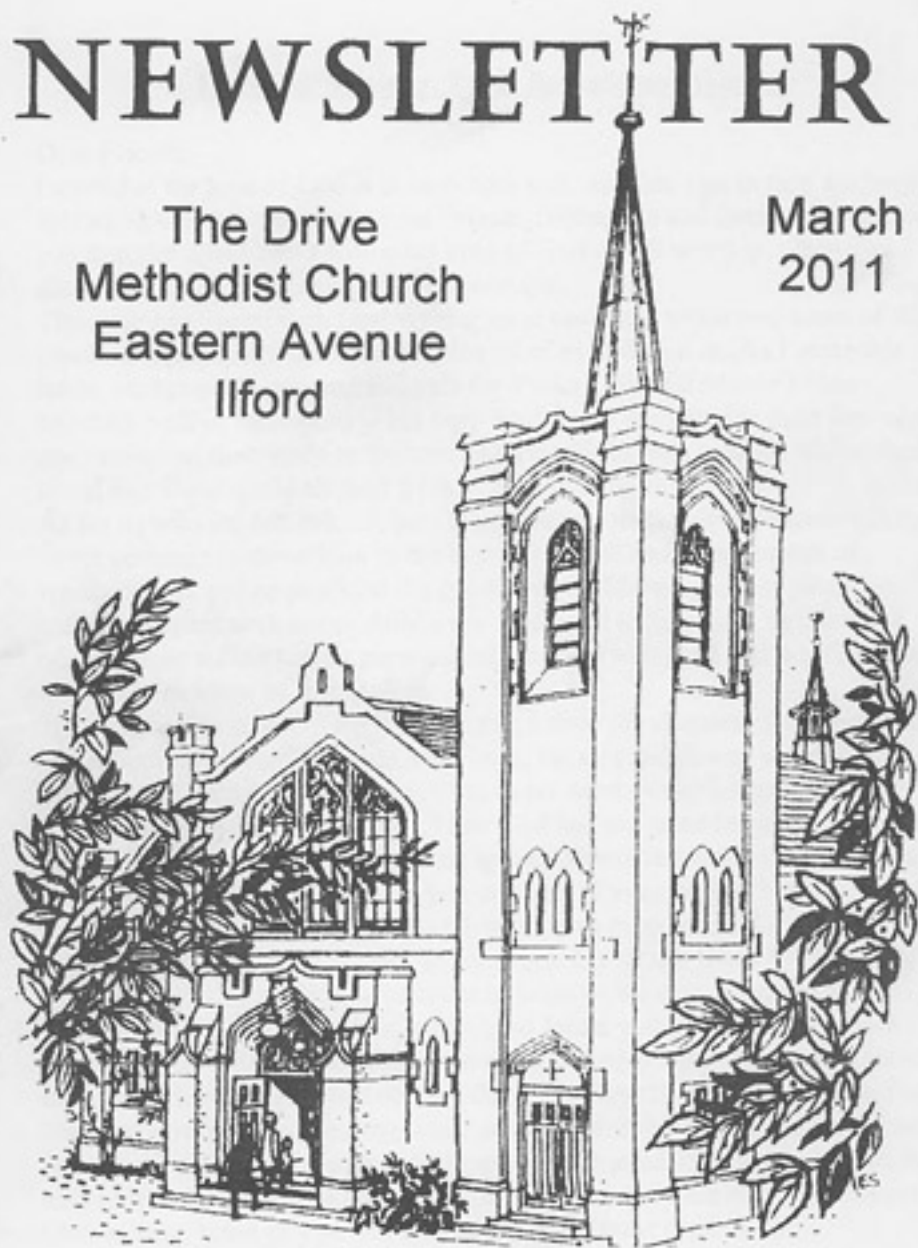


NEWSLETTER

The Drive
Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue
Ilford

March
2011



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

FAMILY NEWS

Leotta Alleyne

Jo visited Leotta recently and she sends her love to all at The Drive. She is still waiting for an operation on her hip, and is in a lot of pain. She would welcome visitors, but would prefer that she is telephoned prior to your arrival as it takes her a long time to answer the door. Her phone number is available from Jo.

Violet Cole.

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Violet in such sad and tragic circumstances. We had only seen her at Church the previous Sunday, and she had been a regular member of our congregation for many years. Many of us learnt of her accident from the front page of the Recorder, and were most shocked. Her funeral was held at the City of London cemetery on Monday 21st February.

Maisie Mitchell

We were also very sad to learn that Maisie died early in the morning of February 17th in Birchwood Home. She had been unwell for some weeks, suffering from a chest infection. Her mobility had also become very painful and difficult over the last months. Maisie had also been a very regular member of our congregation, being collected by car each Sunday, and always insisting on walking to the car even though she was in a lot of pain doing so. Her funeral will be held on March 10th in our Church parlour, (due to the Church being closed for repairs) at 11am, then on to the crematorium in Forest Road, Hainault for 12 noon.

Edith Chapman

Edith has undergone an operation and is now recovering at her son's home in Billericay.

Daphne Stanley

Daphne has had an operation on her shoulder, and is now recuperating on Heron Ward at the old Wanstead Hospital site in Hermon Hill.

Jeannie MacDonald

Jeannie is back in King George Hospital following another fall which occurred in the home where she was staying, and has been diagnosed with a Heart and lung condition.

Church Lunch

The next monthly Church lunch will be held on Tuesday March 22nd in the Church parlour at 1.00pm.

Annual Church Meeting

This will take place on Sunday March 27th. It will be followed by a lunch in the hall. A list will go up and you are asked to put your name down promptly, indicating whether you would like to come, and if you require a vegetarian lunch.

Catherine Sayers

Share a Skill

Share a skill are very pleased that Peter Benden has offered to run a basic First Aid training course on 12th March. All 12 places have been filled. Thank you Peter.

Our next meeting is on the 19th March, (finishing the figures for the Lords supper)
The 2nd and 16th April will be a quilling course

Fancy a nice cuppa? Come along to the BIG BREW fundraiser

Join us on Saturday 12th March from 1.30pm to 3.30pm in the parlour to enjoy delicious Fairtrade products and hear stories of lives transformed! The Big Brew is a nationwide initiative to raise awareness and funds and this year will be focussing on honey; by working directly with beekeepers, Tradecraft helps them improve the quality and quantity of their honey and lives of their families and communities.

Serious outcomes, but it all starts with a cup of tea (or Coffee), so please join us for ethical food and drink and good conversation. Please contact Michelle for further details.

Michelle Garner.

Handwritten Bible Project

Do you suffer from writer's cramp? If you do, this is not for you!

Extract from "The Handwritten Bible Project" by Jenny Ellis.

As part of our Methodist celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible and the Biblefresh initiative, Conference 2010 resolved that the

Districts would work collectively to handwrite the Bible during the course of

2011. This will be done using re-cycled paper, and with encouragement to express maximum creativity, and cultural diversity to create a 'Bible of the People'.

"The hand transcription will take place in the Districts, Diaconal Order, Connexional Team and Methodist Recorder between January and the end of May 2011 (5 months) during the first half of the Methodist Year of the Bible.

Each District etc, will present their handwritten sheets in an act of worship at Conference 2011. The approximate 8000 sheets will then be bound in the summer of 2011 into a number of hard bound volumes, which will be displayed, celebrated and used in various ways throughout the connexion."

Questions and suggestions about the project to:

Jenny Ellis jenny.ellis@methodistchurch.org.uk

Frank Sayers.

Late News

For some reason which is not obvious to me, I have received and email on February 18, which was sent to us on 16th November. But it is always better to be late than to never get information. The email is from Pam Murphy, who until she and her family moved to pastures new in Devon regularly attended our church, and was a local preacher. Her message reads as follows :-

"I thought there may be folk who would like to know that Toby (her son) is being presented with his certificate of chartership by the institution of Structural Engineers in London next Friday, 18th November (2010). I and his godfather, Philip Pearson are going to the ceremony with him. Toby is still working in Bath for Integral Engineering Designs who deliver creative and sustainable structural and civil engineering design solutions' – natural materials and sustainability are key."

Pam Murphy

The Valentine Singers with the Jericho Ensemble

present a performance of Handel's oratorio

Judas Maccabaeus

on Saturday 2nd April 2011 at 7:30pm

in St Gabriel's Church, Aldersbrook.

This dramatic oratorio tells the story of the Maccabaeen Revolt in the second century BC, when the Jewish people fought to regain Jerusalem and the Temple from the occupying Syrians. Within this story lie the origins of the Jewish festival of lights, Chanukah. The music includes the famous chorus "See, the conquering hero comes" which many will recognise as the tune used for the Easter hymn "Thine be the glory".

Tickets are £13, £11 (seniors) and £6 (students/benefit holders)
(£2 more if bought on the door)

Tickets are available from Andrew Taylor

Property Matters

The property committee has fixed the following dates for Saturday work mornings.

Saturday 23rd April 2011

Saturday 25th June 2011

Saturday 22nd October 2011.

We start at 10.00am and all help will be greatly appreciated.

We are disposing of the piano in the Cranbrook Room which our piano tuner advises is beyond economic repair. However, there is occasionally a need for a piano in the hall building and we would like to replace it. If anyone has a piano available please let Brian Taylor or myself know.

Jeremy Foster.

Flower Rota

The new flower rota covering the next year is now available for our members to add their names to any date for which they to sponsor flowers.

Redbridge Night Shelter

Jose Jiggins has received a thank you letter from the above for our church's donation of cash and goods to assist their ongoing work with the homeless in our borough.

MEET THE CONGREGATION BRIAN GRINHAM

In 1930 my parents, who had previously lived in Seven Kings, moved to 9 Lincoln Gardens with my Maternal Grandmother and my two sisters – I did not arrive until 1934. I am not sure why, but they went to Eastern Avenue Church although Cranbrook Park would have been nearer. It may be that as Revd Ashby Howe was

minister for a while, and he had been their minister in Seven Kings, that they decided on Eastern Avenue.

I was brought to Church as a baby and have been coming now for 76 years, so I guess that makes me one of the longest serving (you notice that I didn't say oldest) members. Having gone through the Sunday School from infants to seniors and then helping out in the office before becoming a teacher in the Junior Department, I was received into membership about the age of 17. In those days Mr Ernie Evans led the Junior Department, and we had 10 classes of about 10 in each class!

Having left School after taking my School Leaving Certificate at the age of 16, I got a job at Westminster Bank and started at Ilford Broadway branch. I was with the Bank during the merger with National Provincial and then Royal Bank of Scotland, until I was offered early retirement at the age of 54 ½.

Most of the time I served in local branches apart from one spell of about 4 years in Cheapside.

At the age of 18 I was called up to do my National Service, which was delayed for a time due to appendicitis. I was accepted for the R.A.F. and spent most of my two years at Hendon aerodrome, where I served as an air wireless mechanic, servicing the radios installed in the aircraft. This involved a certain amount of flying when the pilot wanted to test the radio that had just been repaired or retuned. Great fun – especially when one of the sergeant pilots wanted to do some aerobatics and let me fly the plane for a while! I was demobbed in August 1954 having got nearer home with each posting and sometimes coming home in the evening to play badminton or at a weekend to play tennis on the church courts – now Whitfield Court.

Of course, at that age girls played a part in my life, and eventually I asked Pat if she would like to go out with me – she was also a teacher in the Junior Department and Tawny Owl in the Brownie Pack run by my sister Jean. I don't know whether it had any effect

on our eventual marriage, but I actually asked Pat out for the first time in Church almost in front of the pulpit!

We got married on 6th September 1958 and went to Guernsey for our honeymoon. It was not a particularly good start to our married life as there had been a very big storm the night before our wedding – the actual day was glorious – which had disrupted rail travel in the south east of England.

We had booked the first night at The Strand Palace Hotel, which was very crowded with people being unable to travel home, and the service at breakfast time, and checking out, was terrible. We caught the train to Gatwick that should have got us there in time (although we had planned to get an earlier one), but arrived too late for our flight, which meant a four-hour wait before they could fit us on another flight. Pat had not flown before and it was a bit bumpy until we got over the coast, when the cloud disappeared and Pat eventually opened her eyes! There was me telling her that she probably would not feel the landing because the pilots were so good – I did not know that Guernsey still had a grass runway!

We had planned a fortnights honeymoon, but unfortunately had to come home after one week as Pat's Father had died. We went back to Guernsey the next year and finished our honeymoon!

In 1961 we moved to Highcliffe Gardens, having started married life in a maisonette opposite Gants Hill Church. Our eldest daughter, Susan, was born in 1963 –on the same day and in the same hospital as Andrew Taylor (Andrew is about 12 hours older)– with Janet and Mary following in 1966 and 1967. Peter, our son, was not born until 1978 and seemed to have 3 mothers with Janet and Mary only too pleased to change nappies, play, bath and generally look after him. Susan, who was studying for her GCSEs, was not so impressed as she wanted quiet for her studies and, of course, Peter was not particularly quiet sometimes. I am pleased to say that they are all best friends now.

We went through a very agonizing time when Pat was diagnosed with cancer in 2004 and, although she was very up beat about her

treatment, she went into depression after her chemotherapy was cut short by one treatment, because her kidneys were showing signs of stress, and lost her fight at the end of 2005. She is still greatly missed by all the family and I have had to get used to living alone and looking after myself. I could not have asked for a better or more loving wife for the 47 years of our marriage, and am eternally grateful for her love and support during our time together.

The one thing I am sure of is that it would have been a struggle to cope without my faith and the support of all the Church family here at The Drive.

Brian.

Small Choirs' Festival 2011

When we went to the Small Choirs' Festival 2009, I asked the organiser, Philip Norman, if he was looking for a venue for 2010. He told me that was already organised, but could we host the 2011 festival? After a couple of emails, the date was in the diary – then quietly put on the back burner.

Suddenly it was nearly two years later and more emails began to fly around as the date drew nearer. In reality, most of the organising was done by Philip, but there were still details to sort out, mainly hospitality. And then January 30th arrived and so did around 70 singers from churches in East London and Essex.

The festival is designed for church choirs with few or no men, so all the music is arranged in three parts (soprano, alto, bass) instead of the traditional four (which include tenor). This time the music ranged from the 17th century to the present day, and included pieces suitable for use at different times in the church year, which means that you are likely to hear several of the pieces again at some stage! Therein lies the beauty of this festival – the music is accessible and reusable, and coming together with so many other singers gives everyone a boost of confidence as well as celebrating the service that church musicians continue to give each week in their own places of worship. For our part, we were delighted to be joined in our rehearsals for the festival by singers from Ilford Methodist Church.

The organ was played by Glynne Williams, a co-founder of the festival. The third co-founder, Chris Stevenson, died last year, and Philip gave an eloquent tribute to Chris during the service.

There is not usually a large congregation for these festivals, but Philip noted in his thanks to us our efforts to persuade people to come and listen. There was a good sized congregation present, including many from the Drive, and they were able to join in lustily with the hymns. Thanks in particular to Jeremy Foster and Susan Ruckes amongst others for encouraging people to lend their support.

Thanks also to Catherine Sayers, Audrey Taylor and the team of tea-makers who provided the choir with refreshments between the rehearsal and the service, and to Bernardino, who led us through the service and gave a short address which went down very well with everyone present.

Next year's festival is a bit of a departure, being on a Saturday afternoon and in central London – Saturday 4th February at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church. Keep an eye out for more details!

Andrew Taylor



**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
Adult: £5; Children (under 16): £2**

All profits go to JMA (Junior Mission for All)
raising funds for projects both at home and abroad.
Come along and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun!

***Tickets are available from me now
so please tell all your family and friends.***

Diane Foster



ILFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Invites you to join in a
Celebration of the
50th Anniversary of the present church building
On – Sunday 27th March 2011 at 4pm
The preacher will be: Revd. Peter Hudson.
Refreshments will be served after the service.

CHURCH DIARY

Wed	2 nd	7.30pm	Circuit meeting
Thu	3 rd	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri	4 th	2.00pm	Women's world day of prayer
Sat	5 th		Guide Training day
Sun	6th	10.45am	Morning service with Communion led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate.
Wed	9 th	11am to 1pm 2.30pm	Circuit Prayer Vigil. Barking Church Women's Fellowship
		8.00pm	Ash Wednesday service at St Andrews Church.
Thu	10 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	12 th	10.00am	Share a Skill. First Aid course. In the Church parlour
		10.00am	Creative Church
Sun	13th	10.45am	Morning Service 1st Sunday of Lent led by Christina Hebb
Tue	15 th	8.00pm	1 st Lent course session at The Drive
Church			
Wed	16 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
		7.30pm	Circuit Stewards meeting
Thu	17 th	8.00pm	Church Council meeting
Fri	18 th	10.00am	Coffee morning in the Gardener's Cafe Valentines Mansion.
Sat	19 th	10.00am	Share a skill in the Church Parlour
Sat	19 th	2.30pm	Beetle Drive in aid of Junior Mission For all. In the Church Hall.
Sun	20th	10.45am	Morning devotion 2nd Sunday of Lent led by Frank Sayers and Church members.
Tue	22 nd	8.00pm	2 nd Lent course session at The Drive
Church			
Wed	23 rd	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
		7pm to 9pm	Circuit Prayer Vigil. Barkingside Church
Thu	24 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	26 th	10.00am	Share a Skill in the Church parlour.
Sun	27th	10.45am	Morning service 3rd Sunday of Lent led by Mr Ian Sheach . Followed by Annual Church Meeting, and lunch.
Tue	29 th	8.00pm	3 rd Lent course session. Cranbrook Park Baptist Church