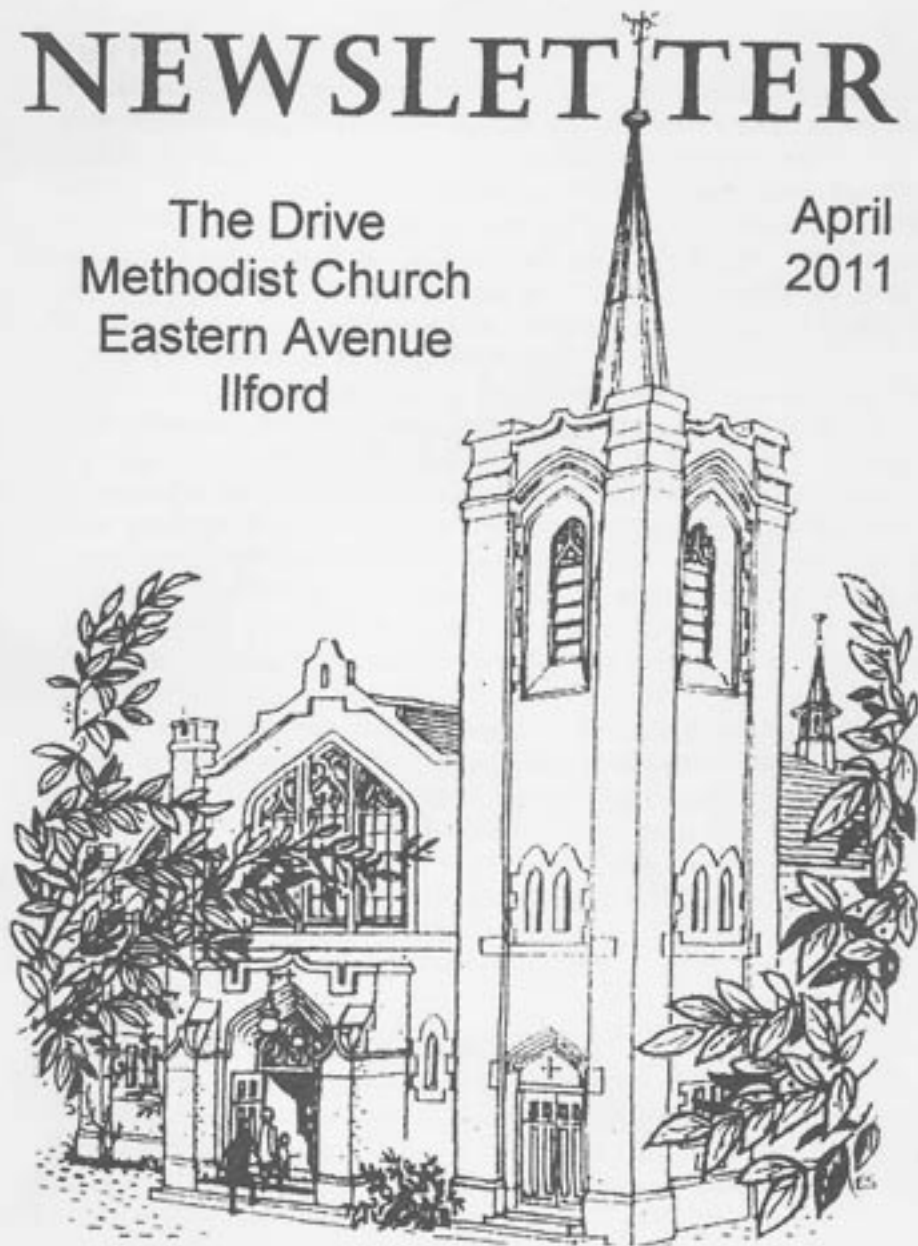


NEWSLETTER

The Drive
Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue
Ilford

April
2011



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FROM OUR MINISTER.

Dear Friends

I mentioned in my previous letters the fact that Lent is a time of penitence, a time when we reflect on our life and our relationship with God, a time when we can say sorry to the Lord for our misgivings and shortcomings.

During Lent some people fast, others choose to go without one or two things, some abstain from chocolate and all sorts of things. It is giving up something one likes. I want to suggest that more than just giving up on something one likes, we also need to give to someone, give towards those who are going without not by choice but because they haven't got anything and usually they go without most things we take for granted.

We need to be able to give. The gospel of Jesus Christ encourages us, or better still, commands us to give generously to those who are suffer need. So the idea for Lent as I see it, is the fact that you give up something and give the equivalent or more to charity or directly to those who are most in need.

May be, if you like, we could as a congregation and community, target something special for next year's Lent. We could even start saving towards something feasible before and aim to have it accomplished by Lent next year. There are many possibilities out there that we can explore.

This year for Maundy Thursday we will be experimenting with the Passover meal. The meal and all that will go with it is the service. It is meant to be what Jesus would have done with His disciples at the Last Super. As we have the meal, we will be explaining what/why things were eaten during the meal. So the service is the meal and the meal is the service. It will help catering if we know exactly how many will attend. I know some folk will come from Ilford Lane. It will be a memorable occasion. Come and experience it.

May the Lord continue to strengthen you as you continually worship Him and do your part to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

May the God continue to keep you all blessed.

Dino

Easter Tree

Most of you will have noticed the lovely Easter tree that Lorraine has provided. This is there for you to kindly give a donation for the Easter Egg Hunt and sponsor an Egg. Write your messages on cards which are by the tree and put your money in the gold box. This will

then be spent on Eggs for the hunt and your tag will be attached to an Egg for a child to find.

Thank you to all those people who have already kindly sponsored an Egg. There is still time to do it if you haven't done so already.

Jo Wright

FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Gifts towards the Easter Flowers to beautify the Church would be gratefully received by Catherine Sayers.

BUNS AT THE BUS STOP

Saturday the 9th and 16th of April 11am -1pm

It was decided that the buns at the bus stop was a good idea and so we will be handing them out again on these dates.

Could you please come and support us in this work.

We talk to passers by and hand them a bun with information about our Easter services. It was a great success last year and hopefully will be again this year.

Jo Wright

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday 23rd April 10am – 12.30pm

The Junior Church will be holding their annual Easter Egg Hunt. Do come along and have tea, coffee and a hot cross bun.

This year we have "Animal Man" coming. He will be bringing all types of animals with him for you to see and touch.

There will also be crafts and the usual Egg Hunt.

Children £1.50 entry parents/carers free!

Jo Wright

BEETLE DRIVE RESULT

Many thanks to everyone who supported the JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea on Saturday 19th March – to all those who came along and played and to those who kindly made donations. It was once again a great fun family afternoon with the beetles coming

thick and fast! The adult winner was Andy Marriott and the under-14s winner was Georgina Downes. Well done to both of them.

My grateful thanks to Peter for keeping control of the game and a huge thanks to Michelle and John for their help with preparing the tea and serving drinks.

After expenses, the splendid total of £297 was raised for JMA funds.

You may like to know our first JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea was held in 1993 which makes next year its 20th birthday – I hope you will be able to come along again to help celebrate.

Diane Foster

THE BIG-BIG BREW

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our Fairtrade Fortnight fundraiser, *The Big Brew* on Saturday 12th March.

On the day, my merry band of helpers included Jo, Lorraine, Anne and Elizabeth and I think we were all very grateful for the tasty home-made goodies that people brought in for the event (many of them made with honey, to tie-in with this year's theme) and which sold very, very quickly!

The Fairtrade stall had a lot of attention and Susan raised £17 from sales at her own stall, which she donated.

Sales of food, raffle tickets and donations mean that after costs we can send £106.66 to Traidcraft, money which will be able to help Guatemalan bee keepers, amongst others.

Michelle Garner

FAMILY NEWS

Colin & Sandra Runeckles celebrate their Silver wedding anniversary on April 19th. We wish them many happy years yet to come.

Jeanie has now been discharged from hospital and has moved to a temporary home in Manford Way, Hainault pending arrangements being made for permanent accommodation.

Janet Brunnen

A MEMORY OF MAISIE

We heard at Maisie's funeral service that she was a great reader, which reminded me that she occasionally would recite this pithy poem which she had learnt in childhood.

A wise old owl lived in an oak.

The more he heard, the less he spoke.

The less he spoke, the more he heard.

Let's emulate this wise old bird.

Frank Sayers

ILFORD METHODIST CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday 27th March 2011 some of us attended a service to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the present church building.

It was a very pleasant service, which saw a reunion of many people who had travelled from far and wide to join the celebration. Stories of the past were reminisced by visitors, and there were members of the early youth club members who we learnt now meet on a by annual basis to remember their time in Ilford which shaped so many of their lives.

Our choir joined that of the Ilford church to add much to the music and singing, which was organised and played by Andrew, our organist.

It was very pleasing to have the Revd. Peter Hudson sharing the leading of the service with Revd. Bernardino. Peter is known by so many of us here even though it is now some time since he left for pastures new.

There were Ecumenical Greetings from Revd. Canon John Barnes, Revd. John Brown, from St Luke's Parish Church, and Percy Bonney-Andrews of The Vine URC Church.

A brief history of the site and church was given by Martin Fairhurst, and we heard from The Youth Club Veterans.

The event was rounded off with a Sandwich, Cake, and cups of tea or coffee, where the reminiscences continued.

Roy Brunnen

OBITUARY'S

During the past weeks we have sadly lost two of our congregation who for many years worshipped at this and Cranbrook Park churches.

Vi Cole I met at this church, but Maisie knew my mother from her days at Cranbrook Park where I attended Sunday School.

I have reproduced the memories given at each of their funerals, as they chart some of their lives, and the life of our church.

Roy Brunnen

VIOLET COLE.

Violet Cole, known to most people as Vi, was born Violet Turner in West Ham in 1921. She was married to Roy Cole in Laindon, Essex in 1941 and enjoyed a very happy marriage until Roy died in 1980. In the early years of their marriage they lived in West Ham, during which time they endured the blitz, fortunately without any harm, and then moved to East Ham. Around 1950 Vi had a kidney removed and lived with one kidney from then on. By this time Brian had been born, and he tells me that his father and mother used to go hop picking – his father loved it, but Vi was not so keen because of all the bugs and creepy crawlies.

All her life Vi had a strong Christian faith and always attended the local Church. It was when they moved to Castleview Gardens that she started coming to The Drive Methodist Church where she has been a member for many years. She struck up a very close friendship with Beryl Toms at the Church, and, a few years after Roy died, she moved to her flat in Herent Gardens where Beryl had an adjacent flat. They were always out and about together and shared holidays, many with the group from Redbridge Social Centre, where they were founder members of the Wednesday Club 21 years ago.

Later, when the sheltered housing flats at Stoneleigh Court were rebuilt, they joined in the social life there and Vi enjoyed many a game of darts there. She also helped in the residents shop. Her Wednesday afternoons were spent playing Bingo which she thoroughly enjoyed.

In the mid 1990s Vi suffered a cardiac arrest. The hospital managed to pull her through that and she recovered very well and enjoyed her life without too many restrictions.

Vi was not one to sit with idle hands while watching T.V., and she was always knitting, mainly for charity. It started with baby's bonnets and cardigans for children in Africa, and then continued with a variety of children's jumpers, baby clothes and dolls clothes, which were donated to the Loughton Family Centre through Lorraine. We also saw many different articles knitted by Vi and Beryl at a Church bazaar and many of the congregation lie snugly in bed on a cold winter's night wearing a pair of their bed socks.

Vi was a good wife to Roy, and Mum to Brian. She was known throughout the family as Nanny Cole. She was a quiet, friendly lady, always concerned for Brian and his family and always enjoyed her visits to see them. She often said how much she missed Roy, even after so long, and we now thank God that she is reunited with him.

Brian Grinham

A FEW MEMORIES OF MAISIE

Maisie Lillian Mitchell

March 1921 – Feb 2011

But first of all it was with great sadness that on Thursday 17th Feb, Linda got a phone call at 6 o'clock in the morning from Birchwood to tell her that Maisie had died earlier that morning. We were surprised because Linda had been sitting talking to her on Wednesday afternoon.

Maisie Lillian Mitchell was born in Stratford on March 3rd 1921, one of six children, 4 girls and 2 boys. Unfortunately the boys died in infancy, so Maisie became the youngest in the family. She started school at the age of five, she did well at school and won a scholarship for West Ham High School, which was no mean feat as I believe only 1 - 12 got the scholarship. Maisie left school at the age of 18, she wanted to go to London University to study journalism but was unable to do so as all of the grants were cancelled due to the war. So Maisie went to work for Dent & Sons, A publishing firm. In 1940 the family moved to Highlands Gardens in Ilford, then in 1942 Maisie was called up and went into the air force, she started off in the orderly room as a shorthand typist, then in 1944 she was dealing with psychological aptitude tests. And at the end of her service

dealing with the return of prisoners from the prison camps. In 1946 at the end of the War, her services no longer required, she returned home. Maisie then had various jobs, until she found a job at Ilford Ltd, the photographic firm, in 1951. She became secretary to the head of research; she must have been happy with her job because she worked there until she retired thirty years later in 1981. In 1953 the Mitchell family moved to a larger house in Stanhope Gardens, by this time Gladys, Maisie's sister, had married. Maisie and her mum and dad lived downstairs and Gladys and her husband upstairs, this remained so when Maisie and Gladys were left on their own, Maisie never married.

My first memory of Maisie when I moved to Stanhope Gardens in 1970, was of seeing her walking her dog past our house to Wanstead Park every day. The rest of my in-laws of course knew Maisie and her family when they first moved to Stanhope. I remember Maisie getting a little Jack Russell from Battersea Dogs Home, she called him Chips. They used to call into the butchers shop on their way home from the park and Chips used to get a free sausage in a paper bag, he was very good and carried it all the way home before he ate it. Maisie loved her little dog very much, and when he died she could not face having another dog. Instead, Maisie got a cat which she named Ben, he was supposed to be a tom cat but turned out to be a female and had kittens, we all laughed about that.

Maisie loved to knit; she knitted blankets for anyone who wanted them, some for premature babies in hospital, people at Birchwood and many more. Maisie also loved drama and I remember some happy times acting with her in The Drive Drama Group. I was looking at some of the photos the other day, happy times indeed. She was also very well read, she loved books. The first thing that she wanted for her room at Birchwood was a book case for them. Just a short while ago she sent a list of books for Emma to order from the internet for her. Maisie was an asset to any quiz team. Maisie enjoyed going to church on a Sunday morning and was very grateful to the people who made that possible.

It eventually became difficult for Maisie and her sister living on their own at Stanhope, even with all the help from Linda and family. So again with the help from Linda, in 2006 they moved into Birchwood Care Home, where Maisie's sister died in 2008. Maisie was well looked after in Birchwood and with the help and support that Linda gave her, she enjoyed her life. She

used to say of Linda "she did not know what she would have done without her."

I would like to thank the staff at Birchwood for all the care that they gave to Maisie, some of them are here today, Thank you!

I would now like to finish with a short poem called 'Memories'.

The tide recedes, but leaves behind bright sea shells on the sand,
The sun goes down but gentle warmth still lingers on the land, The
music stops, and yet echoes on in sweet refrains, For every joy that
passes, Something beautiful remains.

There will be many memories of Maisie remaining, "God Bless and
Keep You."

Joan Hampton

KEEP A DATE

Saturday 7th May

This is the date for Scout and Guide Group's annual Plant Sale, which as usual will be held in the church hall. Please do support this if you have a spare corner, or large plot which you need to fill with seasonal flowers, or tomato plants.

Saturday 21st May.

This is the date of a concert in aid of Christian Aid. An enjoyable relaxing evening.

THIS MONTHS DIARY

Sat	2 nd	10.00am	Share a Skill morning
Sun	3rd	10.45am	Mothering Sunday. Morning Service & Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate Evening Service led by Revd. Mandlate
		6.30pm	
Mon	4 th	8.00pm	Lent course 4 at The Drive
Mon	4 th	8.00pm	Church users' Meeting
Wed	6 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Wed	6 th	11.00am	Circuit Prayer Vigil. Ilford Church
Thu	7 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	9 th	11.00am	Buns at the bus stop
Sun	10th	10.45am	Passion Sunday Morning Service led by Mr G Freeman
Mon	11 th	8.00pm	Pastoral Committee Meeting
Tue	12 th	8.00pm	Lent course 5 at The Drive
Wed	13 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Patrick Beehan
Thu	14 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri	15 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning. Gardeners Cafe, Valentines
Sat	16 th	10.00am	Share a Skill morning
Sat	16 th	11.00am	Buns at the Bus Stop
Sun	17th	10.45am	Palm Sunday. Morning Service. led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue	19 th	1.00pm	Church Lunch
Thu	21 st	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Seder meal in The Hall.
Fri	22nd	10.00am	Good Friday. Meditation on the Crucifixion Led by Frank Sayers
Sat	23 rd	10.00am	Easter Egg Hunt
		10.00am	Church working party
Sun	24th		Easter Sunday
		10.30am	Dressing the Cross with spring flowers
		10.45am	Morning Service. With Holy Communion Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Wed	27 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Wed	27 th	7.00pm	Circuit Prayer Vigil. Goodmayes Church