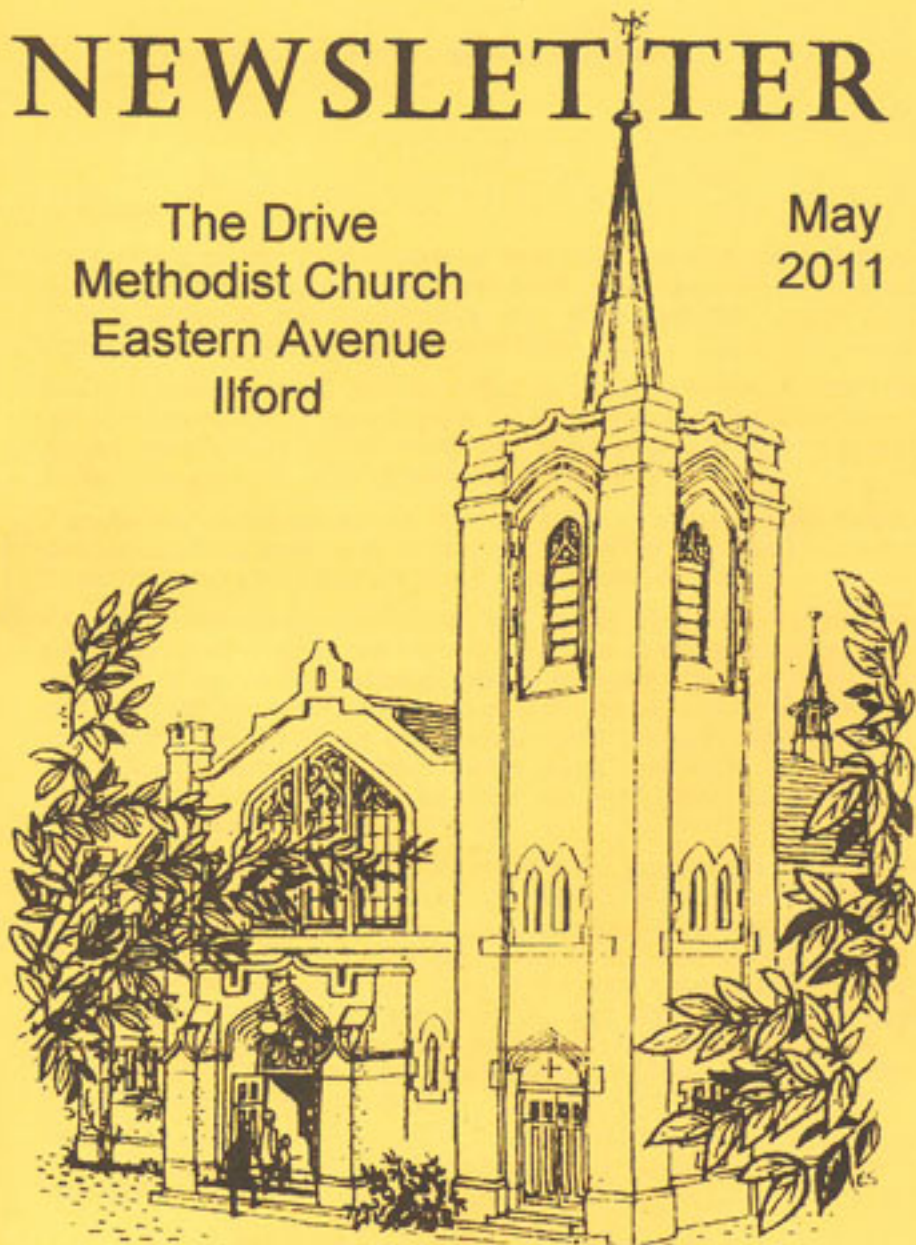


NEWSLETTER

The Drive
Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue
Ilford

May
2011



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From our Minister

Hi friends

I am writing to you in the height of Easter. I hope that you will all had a good Easter season and that you will have used the occasion to reflect on Christ's suffering and resurrection and what that may mean to your personal life and your relationship with God.

Easter is always a good time to reflect on the birth of the church. I like it mostly because Easter always picks me up when I am down. Because I am always remembering that however bad things may be, there is always an Easter morning when life is renewed and amended.

I would like to suggest to you too that when you find yourself down and everything falling apart around you, just remember that there is always the Easter morning where God can make things happen for you.

The period between Easter morning and Pentecost is the time the disciples spent, on the one hand meeting the risen Lord as He appeared to them on different occasions and different places to assure them of the fact that death did not hold Him and that God is in charge, and on the other hand working through their fears and doubts, remembering the teachings and all that Jesus did while with them. As we know they came out of this time strengthened and energised to start the work that Jesus Christ had entrusted them with.

It is that which we need to do. What did Jesus teach about the kingdom of God and what our role is in making it happen. We need to believe in the testimony of those who saw Him once risen, those who talked and ate with Him, those who made sure the good news of Jesus Christ does not get lost in oblivion. We are part of the relay of the good news of Jesus Christ. We know about it, we have read about it, and some have had a special encounter with the Lord. We have to pass it on in words and deeds. Don't let the good news slip through your fingers. Tell others about it. He is risen indeed. We worship a living God.

God bless

Bernardino

Family News

We congratulate Beryl Evans on her 90th Birthday on May 4th.

Beryl has not been able to attend church for a while now, but that does not mean we forget her.

Martin Runneckles celebrates his birthday on May 1st. We wish him many happy returns.

Many of you will remember Elsie's sister Ella Compton.

Ella's husband Maurice had been poorly for some time and passed away in hospital in the early hours of 25th April aged 91.

We remember Elsie, Geoff, his son and Lauren and Ben his Grandchildren in our prayers.

Jo

Evening Services

I bring to your attention the fact that due to poor attendance the Monthly evening services have been suspended until a decision to cease this practice or not is made at the next meeting.

Junior Church and Crèche

We are fortunate at The Drive to have the Junior Church and crèche sessions most Sundays of the year. At the major festivals it is good to have all the Junior Church staff and children joining in with the service. This occasionally brings problems in that the children may be a little noisy at the back of the church which means some of our older members can't hear the service.

I feel there are a number of solutions to this to help young and older members feel comfortable in our church.

- Parents/ carers must sit and supervise their children at the back of the church.
- If you feel that your children are restless you can take them into the parlour to play and you can still hear the service through the loud speaker in there.
- If you are sitting at the back of the church and are able to move nearer the front then the stewards or Junior Church staff will be more than happy to help you.

The toy area at the back of the church is specifically for the parents and carers with babies. This means they can stay in the service and have an area for the babies' prams and play mats etc.

I hope these ideas will enable all people to enjoy the services.

If you have any further ideas/questions then please speak to me or one of the stewards.

Jo Wright

A Prayer for Easter Day

By Hilary Stevens

It must have been exciting Lord when they shouted "Hosanna" whilst waving the Palm branches, but perhaps in your head you only heard the shouts of "Crucify" and the hammering of nails for you saw it coming. You must have seen it for ages – The Cross rising up before you, for you knew your father wouldn't let you off – there would be no happy ending. You must have been tempted to turn back. To say "do I really need to die ?.

Surely it would be better to live a long life and Preach to many more people". But you knew the die was cast. Did you know that the stone would be rolled away and the sunlight flood into the cave – that there had to be a happy ending after all – that the cross was the Beginning not the end.

Lord as we have travelled with you through Holy Week on your road of agony to the cross we have seen what it cost you to Love us and what it may cost us to love others. May we see always beyond the cross to the resurrection and the coming of your Kingdom, and rejoice that we belong to you. AMEN

Our thanks to Hilary for allowing us to reproduce this thought provoking prayer.

Frank & Roy.

Easter Egg Hunt 2011

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Easter Egg Hunt a good time was had by all.

Stuart "The Animal Man" showed an exciting range of creepy crawlies and animals. The children and some adults were brave enough to actually hold them too.

As always this wouldn't take place without the efforts of the Junior Church staff who prepared all the crafts so a big thank you to them and to Janet Wragg who along with Priya manned the refreshments.

Susan and Peter brought a lovely St Georges Day cake which everyone enjoyed and we had a visit from the Pearly Queen too.

A HUGE £62.00 was raised by the generous people of The Drive through sponsoring the Easter Eggs. This year Michelle ordered them from Traidcraft

THANK YOU EVERYONE

Jo Wright

Share A Skill - 10am in the Parlour

Dates for your Diary

7th May - Knitting and crochet

Quilling – making the cross

The young people will also be teaching how to make peppermint creams.

21st May – Knitting and crochet

Quilling – making the cross

The young people will also be teaching how to make peppermint creams.

4th June – Knitting and crochet

Laptop and computer skills.

18th June - Knitting and crochet

Laptop and computer skills.

2nd July - Knitting and crochet

Laptop and computer skills.

ALL SESSIONS £2.00 - CHILDREN FREE

The Junior Church BBQ

The next whole church event will take place on **Sunday 3rd July** after the church anniversary service. This will be a BBQ down at The Rodings.

Put the date in your diary.

Jo Wright

Church Fellowship

The Church Fellowship meets again on **Tuesday May 3rd** at 8.pm in the Church Parlour. We did not meet during Lent, as we took part in the joint study course with St. Andrew's and Cranbrook Baptist Churches.

This month Kathleen and Brian Taylor will choose and play 8 pieces of music which they would take to that famous Desert Island. Do come along for an entertaining evening. Refreshments are served.

Iford Methodist Church 50th Anniversary – 2

Roy wrote an excellent report for the April newsletter. I should just like to add a few details. Ken Depledge prompted the enquiry about the anniversary at the September Circuit meeting. Ken was ill and unable to attend the service on 27th March 2011 but sent a letter, on behalf of the youth club veterans. This letter was read out by my brother, John Ruckes, who now lives in Eastbourne.

George Halford was treasurer at the time of the opening of the "new" Church and for many years afterwards.

His widow, now aged 90, took a cab from her home in Loughton to attend the anniversary service.

Shirley Best's granddaughter, Georgia, played a solo on her violin, proving that there is talent among the younger generation.

The choir sang in Zulu, which is different from the usual English and Latin.

Susan Ruckes. 23rd April 2011.

Date for your diary

The District Scout Adult Support members (Fellowship) have Ann Easter as their guest speaker – “A life in many pieces” on Thursday 9th June and they extend a warm welcome to join them at Gantshill Methodist Church at 8pm.

'Raysin Hope'

Tea in the Garden

On Saturday 18th June at 3pm I welcome you to join me for afternoon tea in my garden. Tea and cakes are complimentary but any donations will be gratefully received for the 'Raysin Hope' charity.

Hadrians Wall

On the 12th September I will be making my way to Corbridge in Northumberland from where I shall commence a 33 mile walk over 3 days for the 'Raysin Hope' charity. The section of my walk finishes at Gilsland and promises to be the most impressive and dramatic of the landscape. Although I will not have the map reading skills of Jeremy and Matthew Foster on this walk, I am hoping there will be enough of the old wall left to follow without getting lost!

'Raysin Hope'. The Future.

Recently I met the Head of Fundraising for Brain Tumour UK and was interested to learn much about the work of this charity. Claire Glazebrook told me that Essex does not have a support group for people with brain tumours or their carers. As this is something that our committee were keen to support I was pleased to learn about 'Tribute Funds' which can be set up in memory of a loved one. After taking all the information to our committee we have decided to fundraise under the 'umbrella' of Brain Tumour UK as we can continue fundraising in the same way but under their charity number, which means that all monies given in the memory of Ray Dellow will be totalled under the name of 'The Raysin Hope Tribute Fund'.

Brain Tumour UK are hoping to recruit a co-ordinator and start the group later this year. I am pleased to say that 'Raysin Hope' will be supporting this project. Thank you for all your support.

Anne Dellow

Meet the congregation - Roy Brunnen

On September 6th 1938 my mother Winifred gave birth to me, in Grove Nursing Home, Grove Road, Woodford. She had previously suffered two still births, so my safe arrival was rather special to both her and my father William.

I understand we moved around Ilford a number of times up to when the war was raging between England and Germany, when we moved in with my maternal grandmother in Perrymans Farm Road, Newbury Park. This is the first home that I remember.

My first school was Newbury Park School which we lived opposite. It is also the school my mother and her mother went to, and my first teacher, a Miss Clarke, was the same person as my mother's first teacher. Being war time, the school had many fewer pupils than normal, but most enjoyable.

One of my male teachers was Ken Aston, a football referee and instigator of the yellow and red cards still used universally by referees. My secondary school was Dane Secondary school in Melbourne Road, Ilford.

My parents used to travel from Newbury Park to The Drive to attend Cranbrook Park Methodist Church, which is where I attended Sunday School which started at 3pm in those days, which was where I met and became friends with one Brian Hart, who many of us knew as a local preacher, and kept in touch until his death.

We became so attached to Cranbrook Park Church that we eventually moved to a flat in Cowley Road, where the back garden backed onto the church grounds, and as my mother had taken on the task of caretaking the church, a gate was made so that we had direct access.

It was from here that I left to join the Royal Air Force, where I trained as Wireless Operator, and was also successful enough to be sent on an advanced course and passed out as a Wireless Operator class A. The need to keep this brief enough to be published in our newsletter, I merely list the places I was posted to during my service. Compton Bassett, Manston, Isle of Man, where I joined the air sea rescue service, (join the RAF and go to sea.) Butzweilerhof in Northern Germany. At all these postings I was sent to other places on detachment.

On demob from the RAF, my parents were moving to Cliftonville, to lead the establishment of a Christian Home for retired gentlefolk. This was on behalf of the Sisterhood movement, which mother had become very involved with. This also gave my father an opportunity to enjoy the Thanet climate which was considered beneficial for those who had suffered from Tuberculosis, which my father had.

The first resident to move into Harold Lodge, Harold Road, Cliftonville, was a Mrs Emeline Keevil, and when I told her I was going to visit some friends and relatives in Ilford, she told me that she also had relatives in Ilford and would I take her with me so that she could spend a little time there. This I willingly agreed to do, and was invited to have lunch with her and her relatives when we got there. Whilst I was there for lunch a young nurse, a daughter of Mrs Hills Emmie's relative, who was on a day off from the Royal Free Hospital in London, came into the house. During conversation, which I enjoyed immensely revealed that she had also attended Dane Secondary School. This nurse was named Janet, and the direction of my future was set. We have been Married now for 48 years and I have not had one regret. We were married less than a year later, at The Drive by the

Reverend Harry Parkin, and after a brief time living in Broadstairs we moved back to Ilford, and in 1964 Janet gave birth to our first daughter Christine, and in 1967 our second daughter Heather was born. During a short stay in Ilford Maternity Hospital during Janet's first pregnancy we came to know another patient whose husband was an Ambulance Driver, and as I was at that time looking for another job I made an application to join that service. I worked for the Ambulance service for 32 Years, and progressed from joining as an outpatient driver, through being a driver and attendant on emergency ambulances, to becoming a member of the school staff and station officer posts to ambulance liaison officer, and by the time I left, a contract managing officer for North East London and Essex. During my service I was involved in rescuing and conveying patients from Road accidents, accidents at work and in the home, Explosions during the IRA attacks on London, The Moorgate underground disaster, and many other events involving trains, busses, lorries, cars etc.

I also became a Councillor for the Barkingside ward in 1978, and in 1985 to 86 was appointed Deputy Mayor and the following year elected by council to serve as Mayor of the borough.

During my 28 years as a councillor I served on most committees, and was appointed chairman of many, but the three committees I gave most service to was Education on which I served for 26 of my 28 years, Social Services, and Housing. All of which I spent time as Chairman in the years before local authority re-organisation which saw me as Cabinet member for Education. Whilst we moved briefly to Rayne Village near Braintree at the end of 2005, we were away from Ilford for only three and a half years, moving to our current address at the end of July 2009. We have no intention of leaving Ilford again, we could not stand the country life any longer.

As I do not wish to bore you any more, I will stop there, and hope this will enable you to feel you know me just a little more.

Roy Brunnen.

jChurch Diary

Sun	1st	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mr D Bowers
Tue	3 rd	8.00pm	Church Fellowship. Desert Island Discs With Kathleen & Brian Taylor.
Wed	4 th	2.30pm	Women's fellowship with Mr Frank Sayers
Thu	5 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	7 th	10.00am	Share a Skill
		10.00am	Plant Sale in the hall
Sun	8th	10.45am	Morning Service and Communion Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.
Wed	11 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Kristina Hebb
Thu	12 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri	13 th	10.00am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Cafe.
Sun	15th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Revd. S. Poole
Wed	18 th	2.30pm	Women's fellowship members afternoon
Thu	19 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	21 st	10.00am	Share a Skill
		7.00pm	Christian Aid Concert in the Church
Sun	22nd	10.45am	Morning ServiceLed by Revd. Mandlate
Wed	25 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Janet Tweedale
Sun	29th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mrs Ruth Luke
Tue	31 st	1.00pm	Church Lunch in the Cranbrook Room