

NEWSLETTER

The Drive
Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue
Ilford

June
2011



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

**June message from
Rev. Bernardino Mandlate.**

The tradition to which we belong, the protestant tradition, began by the reformation theologians, believes most strongly that we meet God, we meet Christ, in the word of scripture, in study and prayer.

The scripture readings that we read this morning speak about these things. It is the story of how two men, on Easter Sunday, set out on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a distance of about 7 miles. They were met by a stranger going along the same road, and began to speak to him about all that had occurred in the Holy City during the previous week.

This man, this stranger, responded to their grief, their dejection, their shock and horror, regarding what happened, how Jesus, a good man, a prophet, a prophet, a man powerful before God and all the people, had been crucified and buried, and how his body had disappeared from the tomb, by taking them on a journey through the law and the prophets.

In that journey he showed them how the scriptures foretold all that Jesus did, and all that he suffered, even how he would die, and what purpose it served.

The scriptures are an amazing thing: Moses and David; Isaiah and Malachi; Jeremiah and Ruth all speak of God's anointed one, of God's suffering servant, they speak too of God's purpose and plan for the world, how the world begun and how it will end.

The scriptures are a way to come to know Christ, and it was through them that most of us came to know Jesus Christ.

We came to know Christ by what others said about him, like the stranger at the Emmaus road. He taught them about the mind of God; and the purpose of God and how Jesus fit in with it all.

In the record of that encounter, we are told that their hearts burned within them as this stranger talked to them these things, as he opened the scriptures to them.

Our tradition teaches us that the reading of scripture and the study of scriptures, and the proclamation of the message of the scriptures is the primary way in which we meet God, the primary way in which we meet Christ.

Prayer is equally important.

While we get to know Christ, while we meet him, through the Word of God, we commune with him, we conduct our relationship with him through prayer.

There are hundreds of prayers in the Bible.

For every mood, for every need, for every feeling that we experience we can find a matching mood, a matching need, a matching feeling described in the Holy Book.

In the Psalms, and in the prophet Isaiah, and in many other places I have found my prayers to God echoed by those who have gone before us, indeed often I found the words that One wants to pray there,

Lord, you are my rock and my refuge, be swift to help me...

Psalms 102 and 86; the Lord's prayer...

Prayer is precious, in it, the God we meet, the Christ we meet, becomes ever more real to us, his presence ever more immediate.

Scripture, study, and prayer are ways in which we meet God and get to know him better, ways in which we meet Christ and come ever closer to him.

Without them we have very little, without them we cannot expect to know God, to encounter God, to commune with God.

But the story of the two disciples who walked to Emmaus that first Easter Day tells us something more about how to get to know Christ, something more about how we might recognise him, how we might encounter him.

It speaks to us of how Christ walks with us on our journey, and how, in the breaking of bread he comes to be known to us.

In the Middle East at the of Jesus, and even to this day, to eat a meal with someone, to have a person into your house and to sit at the table with them, is the greatest compliment, the greatest kindness that one can show.

It is an act of profound intimacy, an act of trust, of honour, of friendship.

It was in that act, and specifically in the breaking of bread and in the prayer of thanks given over that bread that the two men, whose minds were clouded by anxiety and grief as they walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus had their eyes opened, that they recognised that the stranger who was with them, the stranger who they had invited into their home was the risen Christ, and having recognised Christ, they are filled with joy and excitement and return to Jerusalem to give witness to the disciples and to bring them the assurance that they needed.

The church has long taught us that we come to know God, that we come to recognise God in the act of breaking bread and giving thanks.

That we recognise God, and that we commune with God, and that we fellowship with God, in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The story tells us that we too come to recognise Christ; that we commune with Christ whenever we gather together, whenever we meet with and share with another person our joy and our grief and offer our prayer over the bread we break together or the cup that we lift up and share with each other.

We gather in moments of intimacy, when we share the greatest gifts that we can share with one another: our homes, our tables, our bread and our wine, Christ comes amongst us.

The Bible, the church tradition call this meeting, this sharing, this hospitality, this trust which we extend to friends and to strangers alike Communion.

If you would meet God, if you would encounter Christ and recognise him in that encounter, read the scriptures and study them. Listen to them being proclaimed where other likeminded people gather, at church or bible study group. Pray over them with others.

Reach out to others. Open your hearts and homes to others as did the men who travelled the road to Emmaus.

By so doing you may well be entertaining angels unaware; by doing so you may well encounter the risen Christ.

Bernardino

FROM THE EDITOR

This edition has been made possible by the assistance I have received from Audrey and John Taylor who canvassed for articles on the Sunday we were unable to attend church. Up to that day it looked as if this month's newsletter would be very thin. I am grateful to them for the help they gave. I have asked a number of people to consider writing a bit about themselves for the "Meet the congregation" spot, but none have come to me for this edition. I also appeal to those who no longer live or worship in The Drive, but receive copies of our newsletter. Please write a few lines letting us know what life is like where you now live, and if possible a little about the church in your area.

It is always very helpful to me, if anyone who has something to put in the newsletter, could get it to me earlier in the previous month. I start compiling the next months edition as soon as the current one is published. Next month will be a July/August edition, so please let's make it a bumper "Summer" newsletter. The latest I can accept item for that one is Sunday 26th June.

In the September edition I plead that you tell us what you did for your holiday.

Roy Brunnen

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Lottie Macdonald.

We have unfortunately lost contact with Lottie, whose actual name we found out is Margaret Charlotte MacDonald. She has now been transferred to a nursing home in Surrey to be near her nephew. Neither the hospital or Birchwood nursing home have been willing to tell us where either Lottie or her Nephew live. If I am able to get any further information I will let you know.

Jeanie MacDonald

Jeanie is still in Pinewood Nursing Home in Hainault, and hoping to be able to move very soon into a flat her Brother & Sister-in-law are negotiating to purchase on her behalf. They are negotiating for a flat in Homeheather House, Beehive Lane, but as far as we know at this time those negotiations and purchase have not yet been finalised.

Jeanie is still very frail, but determined, and we understand she is hopeful that she will be able to move in at the beginning of June.

Again we will try to keep you up to date through either the Sunday family news, or the weekly notices.

We wish Susannah Normanton and Florence Smith a happy birthday both of which fall during this Month.

Roy Brunnen

Nile Hope Marsingh was baptised on Sunday 22nd May and we were pleased to welcome her into the Church family.

Janet Wragg

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The Church Fellowship will meet on **Tuesday June 7th.** at 8.00 pm in the Church Parlour. The speaker on this occasion will be Councillor Keith Prince, who is going to tell us about his work as a councillor on the London Borough of Redbridge. This will be a most interesting evening about local matters which affect us all and give us an opportunity to make our views known. Refreshments are served.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

During the service on **Sunday 3rd July** we will be presenting all the babies, children and young people with a book. This used to be a tradition some years ago and we would like to start it again to recognise the important part that the children and young people play in our church.

Parents/carers please try and make sure you and your children are at this service and then join us at the BBQ afterwards.

CHURCH BBQ SUNDAY 3RD July 2011

We will be holding our annual church BBQ at The Rodings on Sunday the 3rd July.

The BBQ will start at approximately 1pm and transport can be arranged.

A list will be put up at the back of the church for people to donate food to the BBQ. Meat and vegetarian sausages and burgers will be provided but we would appreciate salads and other items to add to the feast!

Speak to **Jo** or **Michelle** if you have any questions or require transport.

JUNIOR CHURCH FUND RAISING PROJECT

Our children would like to say a big thank you for your help with this project so far, and to explain what it is all about.

A few weeks ago, the children in our Junior Church "extreme" group were encouraged to get involved in fund raising as a way to show their love and concern, and to help others. The inspiration was the tale of a girl their age, Dinora, who was helped by a charity! Dinora and her sister had been living on the street of Latin America but was found and looked after by Toybox, a Christian charity that is focussed on helping street living and street working children.

The children have made and sold peppermint creams and the fantastic chocolate refrigerator cake which was on sale recently. With your help the children have so far raised about £21 and I will be continuing to sell the recipes for both sweets, along with other goodies, over the next few months.

Michelle Garner.

NEWS OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN -

(formerly National Children's Home)

We have just received the Spring edition of TIME FOR CHILDREN announcing the launching of their new website -

my.actionforchildren.org.uk

which it seems has caused quite a stir. Celebrity supporters have logged on to show their support and we've already raised an amazing £126,445."

Among the celebrity supporters are Dame Judi Dench, Stephen Fry, Frank Lampard, Maureen Lipman and Ricky Tomlinson.

"Action for Children began when one man - Rev. Thomas Bowman Stevenson - decided to do something to help vulnerable children in his neighbourhood. He was appalled by the plight of children living under the arches at Waterloo Station. And when a young boy pleaded: 'Do what you can for us, sir!' he devoted his life to doing all he could - setting up the children's home that later became NCH and, in turn, Action For Children."

There is a copy of the Spring Edition of TIME FOR CHILDREN on the notice board in the church entrance which makes interesting reading -BUT please don't take it away.

Action For Children Sunday this year is on July 10th.

Frank Sayers

ASCENSION DAY

Ascension Day this year falls on Thursday June 2nd. There is to be an Ascension Day service at St. Andrew's Church with Communion at 8.00 pm to which we are all invited.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

John and I were on holiday with our Social Group at Gilsland, Brampton near Carlisle recently. One of our friends, Sandra Phillips (many of you will know her daughter Yvonne, friend of Jo, who was in our Brownies, Guides and Youth Club) met up with a lifelong friend of her husband Rupert.

Those of you with long memories will remember him – Robert Butterfield, son of Leonard who was our organist before Frank. Robert lives with his wife in Heddon-on-the-Wall and currently attends a small C of E Church. He left Ilford to go to Newcastle University and has stayed in that area ever since. When talking to John he described himself as a hybrid, Leonard's roots were in the North East and his mother was a true East Ender. .

Robert asked us to send his greetings to the Church family, particularly to those who remember him and his father. He expressed a wish to look us up if he is ever in this area.

Audrey Taylor

SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP PLANT SALE

The Group had a very successful Plant Sale on 7th May. We were lucky with the weather as we had decided to hold the sale in the Church garden rather than in the hall and a downpour could have washed us out. Our stock from the supplier arrived at about 8.45 so it was quite a rush to get the stalls set up and priced before the advertised opening time of 10am.

But we did manage it and the sale got off to a brisk start – so much so that we had sold all the bought in plants by 12.30, half an hour before the advertised end of the sale!

We were pleased that this year we had an array of home grown plants on sale all of which were of very good quality and were well received by the customers. Our thanks to Rosemary Smith, Anne Dellow and daughter Joanne and to Audrey for growing and donating these plants which added over £85 to the grand total.

We were also very grateful to the Brownies who sold plants in pots which they had decorated themselves and who made and sold goodies for the cake stall. As usual Margaret Smith, ably supported by Carol Heard, provided very welcome refreshments during the morning.

All in all a very satisfactory morning's work which raised £445 for Group funds.

John Taylor

DISTRICT SCOUT ACTIVE SUPPORT GROUP (FELLOWSHIP)

The speaker at our meeting on Thursday 9th June is Cannon Ann Easter – A Life in Many Pieces. Many of you will know her as a Vicar in Newham or as a regular contributor on Good Morning Sunday. The Fellowship extends a warm invitation to join us on this occasion.

We meet in The Carverly Room at Gantshill Methodist Church at 7.45p.m. for 8 p.m.

Audrey Taylor

SUMMER BUFFET CONCERT

The New Essex Choir will be giving another concert in the church on Saturday 9th July, followed by a buffet supper in the hall. The programme will include English folk songs arranged by John Rutter, some well known Pop Hits and some surprises. The choir president Keith Gurry will provide a contrast with music for violin.

Tickets (£12) available from Brian Taylor

OPERA & ORATORIOS.

At the Methodist Church Westminster Central Hall

The gathering is organised from Westminster Central hall and takes many different forms. There are several "gatherings" each year and they usually take place on Sunday evenings.

The event on Sunday 22nd May, being so close to Wesley Day, clashed with a special service at Wesley's chapel which took priority. Therefore "Opera and Oratorios" was not well publicised, which was a pity, as it was by far the best that I have been to.

There was plenty of audience/congregation participation with hymn tunes by Haydn, Mozart, and Handel among others. We were allowed to join in singing "Brindisi" from LA traviata and the hallelujah chorus from the Messiah but left Mozart's "alleluia" to the brilliant soprano soloist.

The magnificent newly restored Westminster Central Hall organ is in place but not to be played yet. Gerard Brooks conducted the choir, orchestra and congregation, which made such a difference to the hymn singing. I look forward to hearing him playing the organ. In the mean time he gives recitals at other churches including, I think, over the road at Westminster Abbey.

Susan Ruckes

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARY

12th June at 6.30pm.

You will have seen in our church diary that there will be a service at Goodmayes Church which will be a recognition service for new local preachers - Stella Allen, Leela Knight and Ian Sheach - having successfully completed their local preacher studies.

18th June at 10am to 3pm. Also at Goodmayes Church.

A meeting to which you are all invited to start the process of regrouping for mission within our circuit. (Bring your own packed lunch)

24th July at 5pm at Seven Kings Church

A service to say farewell to those ministers who are leaving our circuit.

2nd September at 7.30pm at Barkingside Church

A welcome service for those ministers who are joining our circuit.



VALENTINE SINGERS STAGE & SCREEN

featuring songs from

MAMMA MIA! **WE WILL ROCK YOU**
Les Misérables

WEST SIDE STORY
Porgy and Bess
Fiddler on the Roof

Saturday 2nd July 2011 7.30pm

Conductor: Christine Gwynn
Pianist: Tim Smith

Tickets: £12, £10 (seniors),
£7 (students/benefit holders)
£2 off every ticket purchased before 2nd July

Information & tickets: 020 8501 0695
or from The Mayfair Stationers,
80 High Street, Barkingside

Barnardo's Church,
Tanners Lane,
Barkingside IG6 1QG
www.valentinesingers.org
info@valentinesingers.org
Member of Redbridge Arts Council
Registered Charity: 1037459

If you would like to go to this concert, tickets are also available from **Andrew**. See him before the 2nd July and save yourself £2 on the face price of the tickets!

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SEEN AT A GARDEN CENTRE

When I die I want to be buried under a pub. (The Nags Head)

At least my husband will visit me seven days a week.

JUNE DIARY

Wed	1 st	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Frank Sayers.
Thu	2 nd	8.00pm	Ascension Day Service at St Andrews
Church			
Sat	4 th	10.00am	Share a skill in the parlour
Sun	5th	1045am	Morning service led by
			Rev. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue	7 th	8.00pm	Church fellowship. Speaker will be
			Councillor Keith Prince.
			Leader of Redbridge Council.
Wed	8 th	2.15pm	Women's Fellowship
		11.00am	Prayer Vigil at Grange hill Church
Thu	9 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun	12th	10.45am	Morning service led by Mr A Sharka
		6.30pm	Local Preachers recognition service
			At Goodmayes Methodist Church
Wed	15 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship with Kristina Hebb
		8.00pm	Meeting of the property committee
Thu	16 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri	17 th	10.00am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Cafe.
Sat	18 th	10.00am	Share a Skill in the parlour
		10.00am	Circuit meeting – Regrouping for Mission
			At Goodmayes Methodist Church
		3.00pm	Garden Party at Ann Dellow's,
			52, Highcliffe Gdns. In aid of Raysin hope.
Sun	19th	10.45am	Morning service & Baptism of
			Liam Charles
			led by Rev. Mandlate
Tue	21 st	1.00pm	Church Lunch.
Wed	22 nd	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
		7.00pm	Circuit Prayer Vigil at The Drive.
Thu	23 rd	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun	26th	10.45am	Morning service led by Miss J Tweedale
Wed	29 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	30 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice