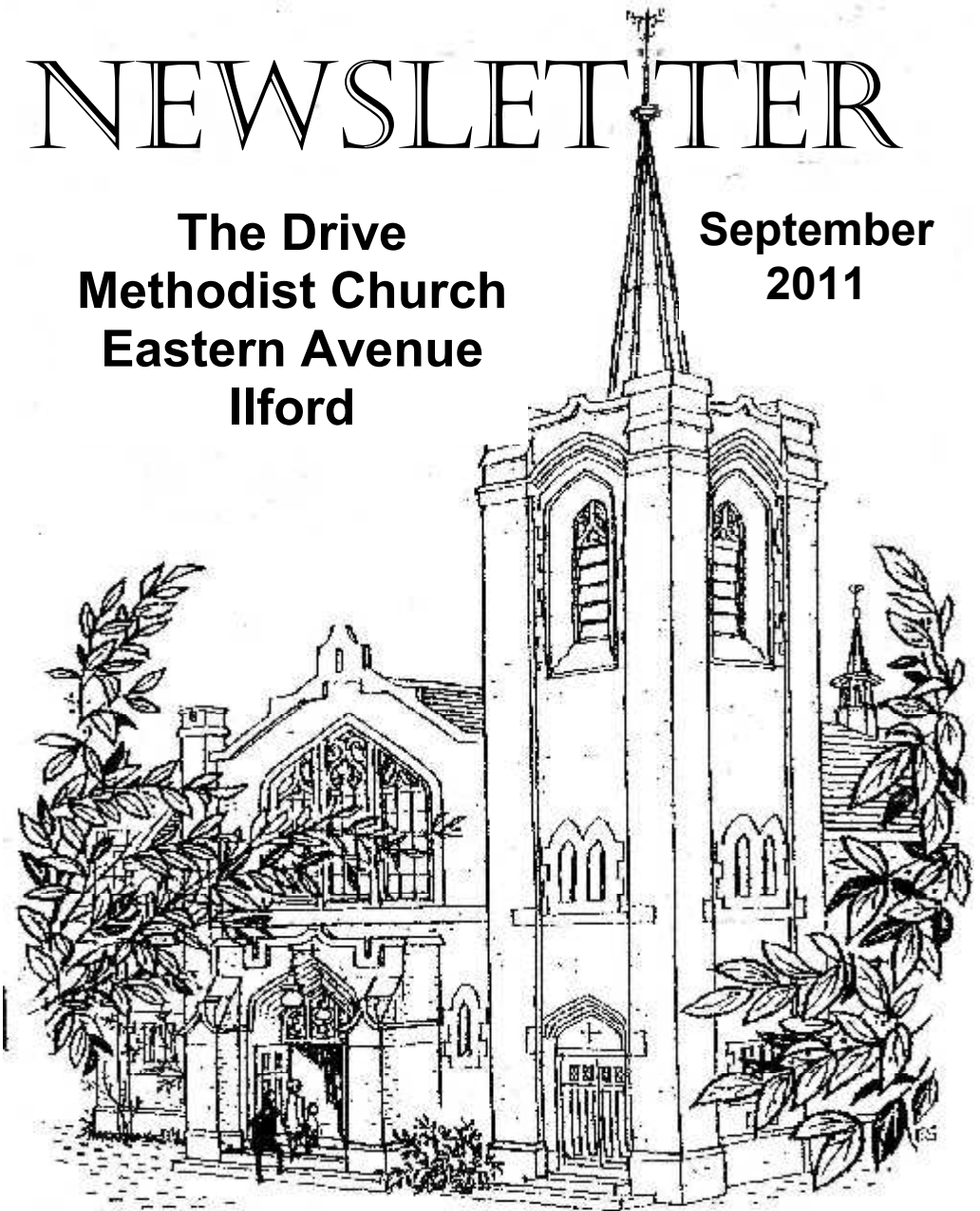


NEWSLETTER

**The Drive
Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue
Ilford**

**September
2011**



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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From our Minister Revd. Bernardino Mandlate

Friends

It doesn't seem like a year has gone past since we joined you last September, but it has. Time flies past us so quick and we don't realise. Summer has come and gone too. Not so long ago we were expecting the summer to come. It may not have come as good as we expected it but it has. The rain was good to have, our lawns and gardens look happy it has been raining, even as I write, rain is expected in a day or two. So are the wonders of our God, the God we all worship and serve. He makes events to happen in our lives and very often we don't even see His hand in our daily lives. So fast is the pace of life that we very often overlook certain things happening in our lives.

God has been kind to many of us, if only we could take some time and take stock of what has been and what could have been. I am glad to have participated with you in some events or occasions where God's hand was at work. We overlook modern day's miracles and sometimes attribute them to development of science. Remember, God gave us the brains that enable scientists to study and make progress on science. We are able to unveil some of God's well kept mysteries, and we do so because God allows us to. Praise be to God for his bounteous blessings to us, our communities and society in which we find ourselves. Blessings we cannot even begin to count.

As the new Methodist connexional year begins, it begins with new hopes, new challenges and a looking forward to what God has in store for us, and what we can bring to God as we continue to worship Him and as we continue to follow in Jesus' footsteps. What does God want us to do for Him? How can we be true witnesses of our faith in our communities? People ought to know that we are Christians, that we believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, who came into the world in the form of a human being like us, to experience in His flesh the life we live and ultimately be nailed on the cross so that we too can access salvation that comes from God alone. We need to show the people around us that what we believe has an impact on our way of life. I believe we can show that because we are believers, we are children of the faith, we belong to God through Jesus Christ His Son, our Saviour.

Let us be positive in our outlook and in our lifestyle. Let us be friends to each other and let us give a helping hand whenever and wherever needed.

May the Lord continue to bless each and every one of us.

God bless.

Dino

Family News

THEODORA GARNER

Happy Birthday to Theodora Garner who reaches her 10th birthday (and it is a nought).

DAPHNE STANLEY

She regrets that she has been unable to attend church recently, as she has not fully recovered from an operation she had on her shoulder some months ago, but is hopeful that further physiotherapy will prove to be successful. She looks forward to returning to church in the near future, and sends her best wishes to you all.

Elsie Blanchard

IAN & ANN WARDEN

We all send our best wishes to Ian & Ann as they celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary

LOTTIE MacDonald

She is doing quite well at a nursing home in Surrey, close to her relatives. Her memory and sight are poor, and she is now immobile, but appears to be happy and contented in her new surroundings.

Elsie Blanchard

We congratulate Josie & Lesley Jiggins on reaching their Diamond (60 years) Wedding anniversary.

Roy Brunnen

JOSIE SAYS

Leslie and I both worked for Sainsbury's where we met.

We both happened to be working together at the Goodmayes branch for a short time.

We quite quickly became attracted to each other, and that was the beginning.

It was not recognised to fraternise between staff members, but we managed to keep it a secret . That was until we decided to get married.

Money was scarce around that time, so after our wedding, our reception was held at Leslie's parents house. It was a beautiful day and all the family joined together to give us the most wonderful reception and wedding feast.

Two very long tables were laid in the huge garden to host the event.

Leslie had twelve brothers and sisters with growing families, so along with friends we managed to seat around 80 guests.

After a truly wonderful day we left the reception and spent the first night at my mothers house. The following morning we set off to the Isle of Wight on our official honeymoon.

Our married life began living with my parents.

Eventually we were offered a flat above one of the Sainsbury's shops in Beehive Lane, with our first born son. By the time we had our second son, with twins on their way, we needed more space. Somehow we managed to get the deposit together on the house where we have lived since, with a total of 5 children. It's now been 53 years since we moved in.

53 years of happy memories and good times, and hope for many more ahead.

Josie.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all your cards, kind thoughts and prayers following the death of my brother Kevin. They were comforting and very much appreciated. Kevin used to enjoy his visits to The Drive very much, particularly the carol service, always being made to feel most welcome. He also liked to keep up with the news of people at The Drive through reading our newsletter.

Thank you again

Diane and Jeremy.

EMMA LOUISE RABY

Joan Hampton has informed us that her granddaughter Emma has gained a first class degree in literature at Essex University, and is staying on at the university to obtain a masters degree also in literature.

We congratulate her and wish her every success.

Roy.

HARVEST GIFTS

These will be very gratefully received on Saturday 24th September between 10am and 12 noon.

Distribution will take place on Monday 26th and any drivers and willing helpers will be welcome from 11am on.

Catherine Sayers.

ANNUAL BBQ

A big thank you to everyone who brought food, fellowship and fun to the Rodings on July 3rd. There seemed to be a really relaxed atmosphere this year and people stayed chatting for quite some time which was great.

It was lovely to be able to celebrate Michelle's Birthday with her too.

Thank you to Lorraine, Esther and Peter who manned the BBQ in all the smoke!!

Let's do it again next year!

Jo Wright

THE CHOIR

Browsing the internet recently, I found a list entitled *Top Ten Ways a Church Choir Director Can Tell Someone He/She Can't Sing*, which included such gems as "We need strong singers like you in the congregation to help them sing the hymns," and "I'm sorry – we've run out of robes."

Well of course (once I'd stopped laughing) I realised that this goes against the grain with me, as I have always maintained that everyone can sing. A few people I have met have severely tested this theory, but I stick by it. And the distinction between the "choir" and the "congregation" is a false one – the choir is part of the congregation, which takes a lead in the congregational parts of worship, sung and said.

As for running out of robes – we have plenty in the cupboard! But wouldn't it be great if we did have the problem of running out!

Anyone (and we really mean that!) is welcome to join our choir. The choir is the most active of our weekday church meetings, with around 30 Thursday evening practices throughout the year. These practices are mainly used to prepare music for festival services. We also practice before the service on a Sunday morning to go over the hymns and songs for that service.

Our next Thursday practice is on 8th September at 8pm in the Church Parlour, when we will start preparing for Harvest Festival. Or you could just turn up any Sunday morning at 10am to practise that day's hymns and even join the choir for the service.

If you want to know more, please ask me or any member of the choir. And I promise not to use any of those "top ten" remarks on anyone!

Andrew Taylor

SHARE A SKILL

Share a skill resumes on Saturday 1st October, at 10am in the Church Parlour, with knitting and crochet. We are knitting baby clothes for the children's centre in Nairobi, Kenya, and nativity figures for the church.

Donations of wool (not white please) and baby knitting patterns would be most welcome.

We ask for £2 per session.

Jewellery making workshop.

Hand made copper and silver jewellery, made with semi – precious gems. Swarovski crystals, fresh water pearls, and glass beads.

For this we ask £10 per session

The session will be led by accessories designer Bukky Yusup on 1st and 15th October from 10am to 12.30pm, in the Church Parlour.

here are 15 places available, please see the notice next to the tea bar at the back of the church.

Janet Wragg.

THE DRIVE SONGBOOK 2012

Thanks are due to Robert Normanton, who dedicated a good part of his recent time in Ilford to producing the latest version of The Drive Songbook.

For five years now we have used this supplement of hymns and worship songs in our services. It is by no means comprehensive –

we still have to reproduce individual songs from time to time, but it does contain a core of songs that have become a regular part of our worship. The idea was always to contain a range of songs, in different styles, for different moods, from different parts of the world.

The 2012 version of the Songbook corrects some mistakes in the previous version, and has expanded to 75 songs, with six extra added at the end:

All heaven declares *by Noel and Tricia Richards*
How deep the Father's love for us *by Stuart Townend*
"I have a dream," a man once said *by Pamela J Pettit*
In Christ alone my hope is found
by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty
Lord, I lift your name on high *by Rick Founds*
The trumpets sound, the angels sing *by Graham Kendrick*

Why not pick up a copy of the Songbook and have a read through it? Just remember to put it back when you've finished...

Andrew Taylor

THE BIG SING 2011

About forty people assembled at Goodmayes Methodist Church on Saturday 9th July, not sure what to expect. Some were from churches in our Barking, Dagenham, and Ilford Methodist circuit. Mr Chris Rowbury gave us a few warm up exercises then asked us to move into groups according to our own choice of pitch.

He taught us to sing songs in four part harmony by indicating with his hands whether to sing higher or lower. He taught each group in turn.

By following words spelt phonetically we were able to sing in Zulu and Russian. We were taught the very different styles of South African and Russian music.

Mr Rowbury encouraged all of us to achieve our best. He had an amusing style, but was never patronising. At the end of the afternoon he recorded our efforts at singing the songs.

The most important thing is that participants were taught to WATCH and LISTEN to each other.

Susan Ruckes. 19th August 2011.

THE ACTION FOR CHILDREN SLIDES' EVENING!

Catherine and Frank will be presenting another 'viewing' evening in aid of the work of **ACTION FOR CHILDREN** (formerly The National Children's Home), with the help of Mike Seviour. This will be on **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19** beginning at **7.00 pm**. As before we can promise you a varied selection of places visited and events witnessed, provided by our intrepid band of digital photographers.

REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN THE INTERVAL
NO TICKETS - DONATIONS REQUESTED, PLEASE.

MEET THE CONGREGATION

Catherine Sayers writes:

I was born in June 1929, the eldest child of Tom and Win Guppy, former members of this church. They were originally Baptists from The West Ham Central Mission, where I was dedicated. My siblings were Rosemary, Michael and Richard. My sister and I were brought into the world in nursing homes, thanks to a wealthy older brother of my mother, who was the youngest of seven children. My brothers were born at home. We all had a happy childhood. My first school, opposite The Beehive public house has long since disappeared. Thereafter, all four of us went to Redbridge Junior, (completely new when I arrived) followed by Wanstead County High School, the local grammar school. Two of my older cousins had been early pupils there in the nineteen thirties.

In 1939 when war started, I and my sister and brother, were evacuated to a small village in Dorset, where my father's aunt lived. Later, we went with Redbridge School to Henley. Our teachers were wonderful to us and a great time was had by all. We returned to Ilford, (on the night the blitz started) because I was determined to go to Wanstead CHS.

I enjoyed my time at Wanstead, matriculated in 1944 and opted to take an art course at the Southwest Essex Tech. At this time, people without employment were to be drafted into making munitions. (I didn't fancy the overalls.)

I immediately found a position at Harrods (terrible tube journeys to Kensington), left after six months and joined the staff of the Bank of England. They were very good employers, good salary, good

working hours, good holidays and I stayed there, rising through the ranks until I left at Christmas 1962, having married Frank in April 1962.

During the intervening years I had been received into membership, been a member of the church Youth Club, and taught in Sunday School.

My best and oldest friend Rita, with whom I started school at 5 and maintained our friendship until she died in May this year, went to Heidelberg University and we had a few interesting and absorbing holidays on the Continent. In my late twenties, I became one of the two first women members of the Trustees' Meeting at Eastern Avenue and later on the Secretary to the Trust. On the restructuring of the formal side of church life, I became the secretary of the joint Finance and Property Committees

When Laurence Porter gave up being the Secretary of The Circuit Meeting, I succeeded him and served for ten years under two Superintendents, the Rev. George Brake and the Rev. Paul Guest. I got to know many of the folk around the Circuit and endeavoured to attend many of the events in the various churches.

This was an interesting and rewarding part of my life. At this time I also took on visits to the various manses in the Circuit and was amazed to see how different were the standards afforded to our Staff from those seen in our homes. Hopefully, this has now been changed.

As many of you will remember Frank and I married in our thirties and after two or three years decided to adopt. Nick arrived first and Jo followed two years' later. Many thanks to the NCH (as was!) for these blessings. Grandchildren arrived during the ensuing years (not forgetting son in law Andrew and Nick's partner Janet) adding their contribution to our happy family. Altogether, the total of brothers, sister, wives, husbands and nieces and nephews, and all the children and babies coming along number over forty.

Not long after Nick came, a Jewish neighbour asked me if I was able to help with a group involved in bringing out Claybury patients to the outside world. We used various church halls and entertainments were laid on with refreshments. I stayed with the group for many years until Claybury decided to supervise the service themselves.

Just recently we have renewed friendship with a Canadian couple who lived and worked here for three years and attended The Drive Church.

We went to visit them in 1981, a memorable trip from east to west across Canada, unfortunately missing the Wardens' wedding in August.

They visited us in May this year, then went on to visit the Hazard family in Felixstowe.

Some 28 years ago, a suggestion was made that a Lunch Club be started, in order to invite people who mostly ate on their own to join with others in a similar position. Today we are still providing a three course meal for £2 and some of our guests are still coming after many years!

I am the only remaining cook left from those early years, relying greatly on the wonderful helpers to keep going.

I have also served as Senior Steward, (in which position I was subsequently followed by our daughter Jo), the Covenant Secretary, the Property Booking Secretary, the Property Chairman, prior to Jeremy, and Secretary to the Refreshments' Rota and the Flower Arrangers. I also served as a member of the Choir for many years, with a break when we had young children and Frank was still the organist.

What a happy and eventful life of involvement in many aspects of our church life. Did I forget to mention a loving and contented married family life for nearly fifty years? Roll on 2012.

Catherine.

METHODISM IN EAST ANGLA

Have you ever been to Weeley Crematorium ?. It is near Clacton. Weeley Street Methodist Church is right in the middle of the village about ten minutes walk from the Crematorium. Corinne, Peter and I went to a coffee morning and a Sunday service at the church a couple of years ago.

What a shock it was to find that the church had closed in June this year! Many villagers are unable to attend another church as Weeley has no bus or train service on Sundays.

Luckily there is still a post office/village store run by some very caring Indian people. Do support them if you are in the area. (The road opposite "The black boy".)

The Methodist collection of modern art has spent the summer in St Peter's Church, Sudbury, Suffolk. It was interesting to see the works in the superb setting of the parish church. I have the brochure if anyone wishes to see it.

Peter, Corinne and I were unable to attend the coffee morning at East Runton Methodist on the 18th August, however, we were able to attend the service on Sunday 14th August and people remembered us. East Runton is between Cromer and Sherringham on the Norfolk coast. After Weeley, it was such a relief to find the church still functioning.

Susan Ruckes. 21st August 2011.

"A quiet and unassuming man"

This is how the full-page obituary published in The Times newspaper on Saturday July 16 of the obituary of Richard David Pawlyn began. Who was he?

We, at The Drive knew him as the head of the firm which, since 1980, regularly tuned, serviced and on three occasions installed new pipework for our Noterman organ built in 1928 at The Drive, and was indeed "a quiet and unassuming man". We knew that he had been suffering with ill-health for some years, but was still maintaining church organs, and last came to us in the spring of this year. Richard Pawlyn died of cancer on June 20, aged 71.

The obituary then goes on to tell about the enormous amount of work that he did in rescuing and restoring many theatre organs which were no longer needed in cinemas and town halls all over the country. Mr. Pawlyn travelled widely to give advice to the new owners of these restored instruments in their new locations.

We read: "Among Pawlyn's other notable achievements are the rebuilding of Watford Town Hall organ, the installation of the Regal Henley organ and the care of the two cinema organs at St. Albans Organ Theatre. He recently restored the console of the Apollo Hammersmith organ but because of his illness he was unable to complete the entire restoration project."

None of us at The Drive knew anything about all this restoration work of theatre organs. As The Times' states "He was a quiet and unassuming man." We say Amen!

Frank Sayers

EARLY WARNING CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year we are once more having a Christmas Tree festival in the church. This will take place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th December. This will mean that the tree's will be round the church for our Carol Service, which is also on the 18th. Further details will be in the coming newsletter's.

If you would like to provide and decorate a tree dedicated to someone or an organisation please speak to Janet Wragg or Ann Dellow.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

THE DRIVE SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP will be holding its Annual General Meeting at The Rodings on Saturday 1st October to be followed by a barbecue. Everyone is welcome

Diary for September

Sun	4th	10.45am	Morning Service & Holy Communion Led by: Revd. Bernardino
Mandlate			
Thu	8 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun	11th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mr Olusola Kufeji
Wed	14 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	15 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun	18th	1045am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Wed	21 st	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	22 nd	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun	25th	1045am	Harvest Festival Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.
Wed	28 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	29 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice

Come Celebrate With Us!!

Harvest **BARN DANCE**

Saturday 1st October '11

7.30p.m 'til 10.30p.m

Tickets; £5

Ploughmans supper included!

**St Andrew's Church Hall
The Drive
Ilford**

