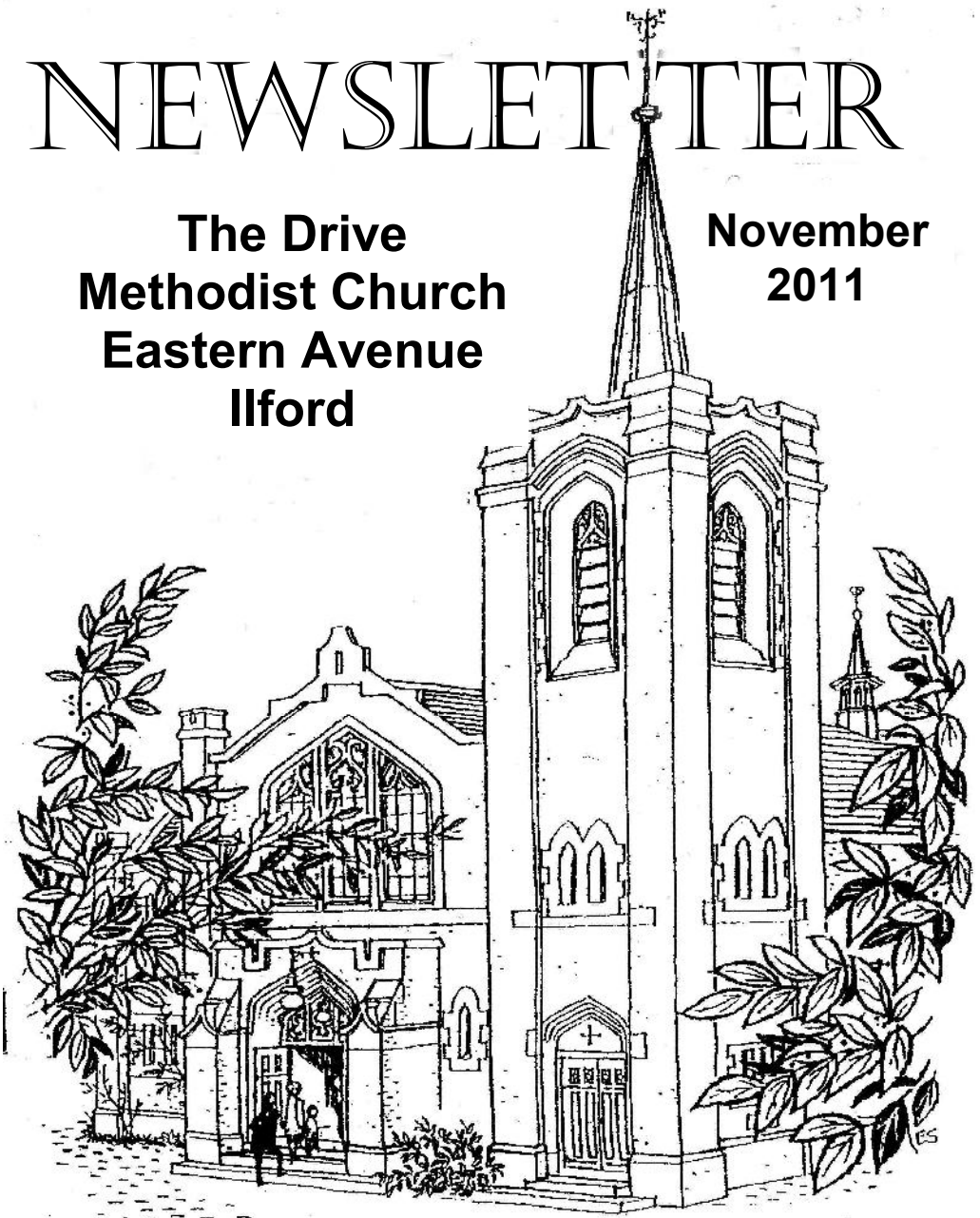


NEWSLETTER

**The Drive
Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue
Ilford**

**November
2011**



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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From Revd. Bernardino Mandlate

Dear Friends

As you all know by now, Jeannie was called to higher services this month of October and the family wanted a private funeral. There will be a thanksgiving service for her at the church in a date to be agreed with the family.

God calls us when we least expect and we need to be ready for when that call comes. Being ready means among other things, writing down what one would like to happen at their farewell, what it should be like so that those decisions are not made on your behalf. Some pick hymns to be sung at the service, some pick readings, some give specific advice about their funeral service. It is not one of the things we would normally look forward to doing. But, like it or not, our death is a certainty. We don't know when it will happen, but it will happen, we might as well be ready and be prepared for it.

Preparedness does not only relate to the funeral arrangements, it also relates to what one does in life, on a daily basis that allows him/her to be in touch with God and what God expects of each of us. God has given us tasks according to our abilities to perform them.

Some have the ability to share their skills or knowledge, others have resources that can be shared with the less fortunate. There are lots of opportunities to this locally or globally if one desires to. There are lots of local charities doing good work that can and need to be supported by churches and individuals. There are asylum seekers and refugees who live locally and are being supported by local charities. Never mind the children beggars that we saw on TV cheating people out of their cash to erect villas in

Romania. There is a real need if only we want to look around.

We need to give generously to the benevolent fund or to other charities on communion Sundays so that we may be able to help meet the needs of those who are desperate for help to live one day at a time because they cannot do otherwise.

We need to look beyond and support charities that do marvellous work abroad on our behalf, I could mention MRDF a Methodist charity, Christian Aid, for which we usually do something in May and in between; we can respond to appeals individually or as a congregation every time there is one appeal for natural disasters around the world.

As I write, there is an appeal for the earthquake in Turkey. There has been flooding in Accra, Ghana, Bangkok, Thailand and many more places around the globe. We only need to look and listen and the need is there calling us to help.

I hope we will all feel the urge to do something even if in a small scale.
May the good Lord continue to bless each of you and me.

Dino

FAMILY NEWS

BIRTHDAYS

Many happy returns to the following :-

Feyi Fadana

Amy MacGinley

Rochelle Inbakumar

Edith Chapman is very sorry that she has been unable to attend Church recently. She is having treatment at various hospital departments, and finds travelling rather difficult at present, but hopes it won't be too long before she can see you all again. She sends her very best wishes to you all.
Elsie Blanchard.

May I say thank you to all at the Drive Methodist Church for the groceries and beautiful flowers given to me from the Harvest Festival.

It was nice of you all to think of me and much and it is much appreciated.

Dorothy Carter.

To all our friends at the Drive Methodist Church.

Mary and I would like to thank you for the wonderful flowers we received two weeks ago, plus the box of goodies we had from the Harvest Festival last Monday, it is so kind of you to think of us.

Mary has to go back to hospital next week for a head scan & check up.

Once again, many many thanks.

Kind regards,

Mary & Frank Gilbert. 1st October 2011.

AEROBICS

I thought it about time I entered an article into the newsletter.

Anyway, here goes, excuse the spelling, I only had a Secondary school education. I would like to say a few words about my aerobic class, which has really done me some good.

So come on you ladies if you feel the joints are seizing so why not give it a bash, nothing to lose and everything to gain. Ann says there are a few places available.

Give it a try, on Wednesday mornings 10.00am to 11.00am.

Peter Sharp.

SINGING THE FAITH

Matthew and I were pleased to join the choir at Wesley's Chapel on 21st October at the launch service of *Singing the Faith*, the new Methodist Hymn Book. The Revd. The Lord Leslie Griffiths gave an uplifting address, celebrating the new hymn book and the fact that Methodists have always enjoyed singing their faith. He reminded us that when the Queen had visited in 1978 to open the newly restored Chapel, she remarked, "Don't Methodists sing loudly!"

Diane Foster.

RAYSIN HOPE

It is almost two years since we held a coffee morning at the Drive to launch our fundraising for "Raysin Hope" and thanks to the kindness and support of so many people we are now able to fund and maintain the first support group in Essex for people with brain tumours and their carers. After visiting some venues in Romford area it was decided that the Salvation Army offered the most suitable meeting rooms providing excellent multi media facilities within a building designed to offer good access for people with limited mobility.

The new group is being launched on the 11th January, following this the group will meet on the first Wednesday of the month. It has always been a cause close to my heart and I sincerely hope that the new group will soon establish itself, offering the help and support which is needed so much after diagnosis.

Anne Dellow.

ORGAN GALA LAUNCH

On 8th October 2011, a Gala Concert at Westminster Central Hall celebrated the launch of the newly-refurbished organ and the 99th Church anniversary.

There was an array of musical talent and the resulting concert was magnificent. It ended with Parry's "I was glad", which reminded some of us of the entry of the Duchess of Cambridge into Westminster Abbey last April.

The "Big Sing" on the following day was rather a disappointment to me. The hymns were mostly uninspiring, sung too slowly and interspersed with frequent tedious

Interviews. Why can't these be replaced with instrumental items?. Perhaps the contrast to Saturdays concert was too great. Others in the circuit enjoyed the evening, and Pam Rhodes was lovely as usual.

Susan Ruckes.

REGROUPING FOR MISSION

Saturday 22nd October 2011 saw me heading for Goodmayes Church for the second meeting led by Paul Kybird on the above topic.

We were told that a circuit structure is a resource for mission, helping individual churches to flourish. Following a question why is a circuit arrangement necessary, as many of our congregation have little or no knowledge of either the existence or purpose of a circuit, and do not join a church to support a circuit, but join a particular church and support it. We were told that a circuit structure is the best way of organising churches. The general thrust of the meeting was to consider how churches are meeting their Mission, and we were asked to consider the following four subjects.

1. The worshipping church.
2. The disciple church
3. The fellowship church
4. The social action/servant church.

My notes ask a number of questions. What happens at services and what should change. Should service times change to ensure Ministers/preachers can be in attendance. What can we do to ensure people have a sense of belonging together across the circuit and wider church.

At the end of the session we were left with the questions, Which type of church would you aspire to ?, and What would you have to do and how would you have to change to develop into that sort of church.

Roy Brunnen.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 12th November from 10.00am to 12.00noon to support 'Raysin Hope' and the Drive development fund.

Join us for refreshments in the Church parlour and take the opportunity to browse over various articles for sale. There will be a number of new items including books and toys for children and many other goods suitable for gifts.

Anne Dellow.

Sunday 20th November

Please note that JMA Badges and certificates will be presented during this morning's service.

Diane Foster.

(I apologise for getting the date wrong in the October newsletter. I was following the circuit preaching plan.

Roy Brunnen.)



The Coffee Morning held in the conservatory at the Redbridge Social Centre proved to be a great success. My thanks to all who came to make it a good social morning on a lovely sunny day.

Once again Kay Whiddon arrived with a supply of samosas cooked by the staff of the Pre-school.

The final amount raised was £543.70 - £100 up on last year. This was achieved with good support on the day and some generous donations.

Many thanks.

Audrey Taylor

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

This month our meeting will be held on the second Tuesday which is **TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8th.**, (because the first Tuesday is All Saints' Day). Brian Grinham will tell us and play the recordings he would take with him to that Desert Island, which must be quite crowded by now.

THE MEETING BEGINS AT 8.00 PM

REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED

COME AND JOIN US

REDBRIDGE VOLUNTARY CARE.

Some many years ago the reverend Peter Hudson, a minister in our circuit had the vision to start an organisation called Redbridge Voluntary care. This has run for 38 years so far, and has supported citizens in many ways. Some of you will remember Doug and Olive Hazard, members of this church, who were also very much involved before they moved away to Felixstowe. I also know that my parents were involved, mainly as initial contact, taking calls from anyone seeking help.

This year the organisation has been awarded The Queens award for Voluntary Service 2011. This award holds the equivalent status as that of an MBE, and was presented at a ceremony held on 13th September 2011 at Sir James Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating those who have been part of this organisation over the years.

Thank you Doug and Olive for bringing this to our attention.
Roy Brunnen.

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 19th.
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.

*If you have digital material to show, you
must contact Mike by Sunday NOVEMBER 6th.,
(on 020 8554 1982),*

*This is to help us plan a balanced programme. If
you have holiday photographs that you would like to display, please
bring them along on the night.*

REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN THE INTERVAL

NO TICKETS -

DONATIONS REQUESTED, PLEASE.

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM.

On Wednesday 21st September the 11th in the series of Women's Interfaith Workshops took place here at The Drive. Many different faiths were represented amongst the twenty four people who attended. The subject for discussion was "Youth Rights and Responsibilities".

One of those present spoke on her connections with Methodism in Essex and Surrey, and other denominations further afield, ie Canada.

There was a break for the most delicious and varied refreshments.

On Sunday 16th October, at the Sukkat Shalom Synagogue, for "Make a Difference week" the Redbridge Faith Forum, Sukkat Shalom Synagogue, Redbridge Enterprise plc, and the Redbridge Recycling team provided an afternoon of activities to promote awareness of how to protect our environment.

Sukkat Shalom Synagogue was built as a chapel of the orphanage which became Wanstead Hospital. Wood panels from the former Synagogue in North London blend beautifully with the restored chapel.

A Sukkah, a temporary shelter used for the Jewish Festival of Sukkat, their harvest festival, had been constructed in the garden.

The children were occupied with a treasure hunt, planting seeds, painting and drawing. There were stalls and a wonderful selection of food, as usual.

Some of the stallholders had been working together for an Redbridge "event" at the Town Hall on Friday 14th October.

A report of the Interfaith walk of peace and hope on 23rd October should appear in the next newsletter.

Many thanks to Saira Yakub for organising these events and for making sure that publicity reaches us.

Susan Ruckes.

A Valentines Mansion Trust Event Friday 18th November at 7.30 pm

Carmel Thomas Youth Singers, an outstanding choir, having appeared in several West End Shows and in a Royal Variety performance will sing **"Songs from the Shows"** followed by **Diane Weeks**, a professional genealogist, who will give a fascinating talk on **"Who Do You Think You Are?"**

During the interval, wine and soft drinks will be served.

£10 per person. Please phone John and Audrey Manuel – telephone no. 0208 554 9760 – tickets available from Tuesday 18th October.

BETTY SAYS

My first Sunday School Christmas Party

Even after all these years I can still remember vividly my very first Christmas Sunday School party. It was the first time I'd ever been in the brightly decorated church hall itself and I thought it was just like the Guild Hall in London where dad had taken me to see the statues of Gog and Magog.

I wore my one and only party dress, which was of yellow satin sprinkled with little pink roses and tied with a big sash. With it went ballet style pink pumps and I had a

THE DRIVE
CHURCH



METHODIST
COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Join in the fun – have a tree at our Christmas Tree Festival

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

You are invited to provide and decorate a tree, real or artificial, which is no more than 4 feet high and in its own base in either a traditional style or to represent your organisation. Lights can be included.

We will provide labels with the name of the organisation on, for all trees. You may wish to produce an A4 display describing your tree and your organisation. Small cards or publicity leaflets about your organisation can be placed by your tree and representatives of your group can be present during the festival to talk to members of the public if you wish.

WHEN WILL IT BE?

SET UP

Friday 16th December from 4 pm to 9 pm in the Church

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday 17th December from 10 am to 4.30 pm

Sunday 18th December from 1 pm to 4 pm

Refreshments will be served in the Church Parlour at reasonable cost.



TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2012

Trees will be dismantled by Church members and all decorations will be put into labeled boxes for contributors to collect on an agreed date

WANT TO TAKE PART ? NOW WHAT?

Ring Janet Wragg as soon as possible on 020 8554 6267 who will be pleased to provide further information



matching frill topped dolly bag on my wrist in which to keep my clean hanky (though to mum's horror, during tea I bunged in two iced cakes to eat when I got home)

We played lovely noisy games – Blind mans buff, musical chairs, passing the parcel, pinning the tail on the donkey whilst blindfolded, oranges and lemons, and there were long trestle tables covered in brilliantly white damask cloth laden with big platters of paste sandwiches, fairy cakes with blobs of coloured icing on top, buttered fruit scones, lots of jellies, blancmanges, and symingtons table creams (which I am told are still available at a price from Fortnam and Masons) all made in fancy shaped moulds not all of which had survived intact when being turned out, and alphabet and nursery rhyme biscuits and fizzy lemonade in paper cups which tended to go all soggy before you had drunk it all up.

After we'd demolished the grub and made a right old mess with the crackers, put on paper hats and made crumbs everywhere we all got up and trundled into the back room whilst the teachers and helpers cleared up.

First we had a punch and judy show, which I did not like at all because nasty old punch was bashing away at all and sundry and I thought he would get me next and I lifted up my head and bawled blue murder whereupon Mrs Smith scooped me up, gave me a big cuddle (it was not forbidden in those days) and dried my eyes with a lace edged hanky which smelt faintly of lavender.

Then the curtains were drawn a little portable silver screen was quickly put up, a camera whirled and we watched two short black and white silent films. One was a Laurel and Hardy which had us all falling about laughing, and the other was called Cinderella and was meant to be taken seriously, but nobodies wig

quite fitted and prince charming had a right old job forcing the glass slipper on a visibly annoyed Cinderella's size 6.

Then we all trooped back to the main hall where our parents awaited us. Some joker had re-arranged all the coats, so there was a scramble to sort out which one belonged to who, and Father Christmas who despite the white beard really did look suspiciously like the Sunday School superintendant stood at the door and presented each of us with a little parcel as we left – Blue for boys and pink for girls. I've no idea what the blue ones contained, but there were little gold filigree baskets in the pink ones, which held tiny phials of eau de cologne. I was thrilled to the very core and treasured it for years on after all the scent had evaporated, - like my lovely blue bible sticker book – it was destroyed with just about everything else when our house was bombed during the war.
Betty Griffiths

QUOTES !

Potluck supper – Sunday at 5.00pm – prayer and medication to follow.

Moses led the Jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without ingredients.

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
27TH NOVEMBER



EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN – CHURCH SERVICES

The Duty Vestry Steward is responsible for implementing and coordinating the evacuation plan.

The following actions should be taken by the Vestry Steward:

- Sound Fire Alarm (if not already activated)
- Ensure that a responsible person has called the Emergency Services
- Instruct the most able bodied adults to take responsibility for the evacuation of any disabled, elderly or vulnerable persons
- The Junior Church Leader is responsible for the evacuation of the young people
- The Creche leader is responsible for the evacuation of the creche children
- In the event of a power failure and if the premises are in darkness, torches are available adjacent to the large gas heaters and at the hymn book cabinet adjacent to the foyer
- The Vestry Steward must check that all rooms have been vacated and should therefore be the last person to leave the premises
- The Assembly Point is at the Trinity seat
- As far as possible, the Vestry Steward should conduct a roll call

November Diary

Tue	1 st	7.30pm	All Saints Service at The Drive
Wed	2 nd	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	3 rd	8.00pm	Choir
Sat	5 th	10.00am	Share-a-skill. In the church parlour
Sun	6th	10.45am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Revd. Mandlate
Wed	9 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	10 th	8.00pm	Choir
Sun	13th	10.45am	Morning Service. Remembrance Sunday Arranged by Frank Sayers
Wed	16 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	17 th	8.00pm	Choir
Fri	18 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning at the gardeners cafe
			Valentines Mansion (Parking fee increased)
Sat	19 th	10.00am	Share-a-skill. In the Church parlour
Sun	20th	10.45am	Morning Service. Led by Revd. Mandlate
			JMA Certificates & Badges will be Presented during the service.
Tue	22 nd	1.00pm	Church Lunch
Wed	23 rd	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	23 th	8.00pm	Choir
Sun	27th	10.45am	Morning Service. Led by Mr Sharka
Wed	30 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship

Please note that the deadline for material for the December/January newsletter is Sunday 27th November.