

*Christmas
Newsletter
2011*



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

FROM OUR MINISTER
REVEREND BERNARDINO MANDLATE

Friends

It is Advent and we are heading for Christmas. 'Advent' means 'coming' and that refers to the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, a coming in the past, in the present and in the future. We always enter the Christmas season with Advent in the Christian calendar.

So as we go through the motions and routines of Christmas, we always need to bear in mind that we are not only celebrating the birth of Jesus but also his coming. The early church expected Christ to come back during their own generation. Time has elapsed, but the fact that Jesus is coming back has not changed. We are not aware of when that coming will materialise. One thing is sure, He is coming. In the gospel, Jesus tells us that nobody knows the timing of the Lord's coming, only God knows when and how it will happen.

In the mean time we are forever keeping awake, expecting Him to come anytime. But we also need to be aware that He is already with us, He has been always with us. We have not been able to recognise Him in our lives. But as we read in Matthew 25:31-46, everyone we meet, everyone we help or fail to help, we are meeting Jesus Christ himself.

Sisters and brothers, as you go through your own Christmas routine, shopping, decorating your homes, inviting friends and family to come along and be with you for the season, remember that Jesus Christ is also expecting to be invited in, to share the joys of Christmas with you in your home, or wherever you decide to spend the time being merry.

Remember to open a space in your heart where Jesus can fit in and be with you. Allow the Lord to be instrumental in your life not only during Christmas but every single day of your lives. Remember that it is Christmas because of Jesus Christ who came from heaven to live with and among us, as one of us. It is because God came as Emmanuel to be one of us that we celebrate. Keep Him at the centre of your celebrations.

Remember the many millions out there who are not even aware that it is Christmas, because for them all days are the same; they have no food no clothes, no shelter and nothing changes for them because it's Christmas, Spare a good thought for them and if you can, share with them God's blessings on you.

When the New Year begins, remember whatever resolutions you make for the next twelve months. I pray to God to keep blessing each and every one of you as we go through this joyful time and as we enter the 2012 and let us all be ready to enjoy the spirit and fellowship of the Olympics.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

God bless

Dino

ADVENT COURSE CHRISTMAS INCARNATION

At the Drive Methodist church – 8.00pm

Tuesday November 29th – Mary

Tuesday December 6th – Joseph

Tuesday December 13th – Shepherds

Tuesday December 20th – Wise men

Repeated at St Andrews Church of England Church, The Drive on Wednesdays November 30th – December 7th, 14th, and 21st, commencing at 11.30 am

BIRTHDAYS

Each Month I publish the Birthdays I know about, if you have any dates I do not know, please let me have them and I will include them in future lists.

Roy Brunnen

Toju Fadina

Beth Aitken

Matthew Foster

Moji Banjo

FAMILY NEWS

Beryl Evans has moved from Copperfield in Village Way, to , Gidea Park, to be with her family. We do have her phone number if you wish to contact her, ask Betty, Janet, or myself.

Roy Brunnen.

Maggie and Graham Smith are proud to announce the birth of their second grandson, Harley George Smith, born on Saturday 19th November 2011 at Queens Hospital, Romford, weight 7lb 10 oz, a brother for Kenny. Our congratulations to Richard and Debbie.

Maggie Smith.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION

We have received a thank you and certificate for the donation of clothing and food following our Harvest Festival weekend. The certificate will be on the notice board in the Church Foyer.

Roy Brunnen.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH LUNCH

Thursday 15th December at 1.00 p.m.

Will any of our older / retired folk wishing to come to the lunch, please see Catherine as soon as possible. The charge will be £3.00

Catherine Sayers

PRAYER LIST.

We are trying to re-establish a list of those members of our church family and their relatives or friends who are unwell or in trouble so that we can include them in our prayers. This list will be co-ordinated by Hilary, and we request that you make the names known to her or one of the stewards, together with information about your concerns for these people, and where necessary, their link to those placing their name on the list. This list will be made available to the Preacher each Sunday.

Roy Brunnen.

DECEMBER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Because of the joint Advent studies with St, Andrew's Church being held on Tuesdays in December, Our December Church Fellowship meeting will move to **Monday December 5th at 8.00 p.m.**

Our programme is a fairly light-hearted celebration of Christmas with readings and music. Do come and join us.

Catherine Sayers.

JMA

The JMA badges and certificates were presented during the morning service on 20th November. In the service we heard how money raised through JMA helps support our mission partners overseas.

Receiving awards this year were: Charlotte Alder, Feyi Fadina, Toju Fadina, Thea Garner and Rochelle Inbakumar. Together with the young peoples collections and the funds raised from the Beetle Drive in March plus donations, the total raised by The Drive for JMA for Sept 2010 – Aug 2011 was a splendid £622.

I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who has children or know of children who would like to become a JMA collector. Thank you for your continued support.

Diane Foster

COFFEE MORNING WHICH WAS HELD ON SATURDAY 19TH NOVEMBER.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the coffee morning. We are pleased to announce that a sum of £160 was raised for the Church development fund and 'Raysin Hope' who each received £80. The cake stall was popular as usual and the gift and book tables were well supported. The morning gave us an opportunity to socialise as well as fundraise for two good causes.

'Raysin Hope' are grateful for the contributions that have been given following the coffee morning and will be doing a report in the new year upon the launch of the new support group on Wednesday 11th January.

Anne Dellow.

THE NOVEMBER SLIDES' SHOW

Catherine and Frank warmly thank everyone who so enthusiastically supported the Slides' Evening event in November in aid of ACTION FOR CHILDREN. Five of us showed slides, which covered a wide range of activities and places. Together with donations from people who could not be there, the evening raised £155.00

Frank Sayers

JUNIOR CHURCH

We are having our **Nativity rehearsal and Junior Church party on Saturday 10th December.** Could all parents and carers please make sure your children attend as this will be the only dress rehearsal for the Nativity. **Please be at church by 1.45pm** when we will run through the Nativity in the church, after which we will have the party in the parlour. During the party we will have a talent show, so children get practising!!

The party will end at 4.30pm.

If any parents/carers would like to stay and help it would be much appreciated.

NATIVITY

The Nativity and Toy service is the following day, Sunday 11th December. Can your children please be at church by **10.30 am.**

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

During the festival refreshments will be served. I would like people to help in the kitchen on a rota basis. If you feel you could help for an hour or two then please see me. Also if

anyone would like to make some home made soup or a quiche that would be appreciated too.

NEW YEAR

Please note there will be no Junior Church or crèche on Sunday 1st January.

Jo Wright

ELIZABETH BROWN

Lizzie or Betty Brown lived in Fernways, near Ilford Lane. Peter Sharp used to bring her to Church until a broken lift at Fernways prevented her from attending. Lizzie still phoned Peter regularly on Sunday mornings. He was very worried one Sunday when he did not receive a call. He found out that Lizzie had been admitted to King George Hospital where we visited her that evening.

On Thursday 27th October I phoned King George Hospital to discover that Lizzie had passed away just a short time before. Peter, Corinne and I had know Lizzie for many years through the National Trust. Lizzie had been the secretary when Doug Hazard was the treasurer and Olive the membership secretary.

Although less mobile in recent years, Lizzie still walked to Sainsbury's and even to Marks and Spencers until the lift broke down.

Lizzie enjoyed coming to services at the Drive and really appreciated the welcome she received there.

Susan Ruckes.

INTERFAITH WALK OF PEACE AND HOPE

Over a hundred walkers took part in the above walk on Sunday 23rd October 2011. It was a glorious sunny afternoon. The walk began at the Ilford Federation Synagogue. We then visited the Buddhist Vuhara, Ilford hospital chapel of St Mary and St Thomas, the VHP Hindu Temple and the Ilford Islamic Mosque. Someone from each place of worship gave a short talk and a prayer was said.

The Baha'i faith has no dedicated place of worship in this country, so we stopped outside the Town Hall. There members spoke about their faith and showed us photos of temples in other countries.

Reverend Francis Ackroyd of Vine United Reform Church also spoke outside the Town Hall.

To quote Redbridge Faith Forum press release:

"Reverend Francis Ackroyd also spoke about how the walk gave people of all faiths and none the opportunity to join together and show their commitment to creating a world of peace and hope, where respect, understanding and co-operation are stepping stones to creating a better society for everyone."

I had to leave at this point but the others walked to the Guru Nanak Satsang Gurdwara where some delicious refreshments awaited them. We had been given hot or cold drinks and snacks at other stops.

A big thank you to Jacquie Grieve for organising the event. It must have been difficult to calculate the time it would take to move between venues. A lot of work was needed liaising with contacts at each place of worship. Everything ran very smoothly and happily.

Participants were rightly full of praise. We look forward to next year's walk. Perhaps you'd like to join us ?

Susan Ruckes. 24th November 2011.

RE-GROUPING FOR MISSION

Over the past few months the circuit has been holding meetings under the above title. We have been considering such matters as how well we are meeting the spiritual needs of our congregations, and what action needs to be taken to improve our contribution to spreading the Gospel to those around us. The following has been produced as part of the ongoing consultation, and Peter Foster, as chairman of the Church life committee has suggested that it would be appropriate for this document to be circulated as a newsletter item, with a request that you all consider the contents and let

us know your thoughts on the questions raised. These can be submitted through one of the Church stewards.

Roy Brunnen.

Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit
Discussion questions to help with the process of
'Re-Grouping for Mission'

'Sent by Jesus'

At the first Re-Grouping for Mission day people were asked to choose the one story of Jesus which spoke most strongly about mission to them. We drew up a remarkable list. Take a look at the stories and decide which ONE best represents your church's understanding of its mission.

- **Loaves and Fishes (John 6:5-14)** – mission as sharing our gifts to feed the hungry of body and spirit
- **Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)** – practical help for our neighbour, whoever they are
- **'Suffer the little children...' (Mark 10:13-16)** – the special challenge to be available to young people
- **Great Commission/Command to disciples (Matthew 28:16-20)** – the challenge to spread the good news and to teach the faith ... everywhere
- **The Woman at the Well (John 4:7-26)** – reaching out like Jesus to those who society might consider unacceptable and to do this from a position of need rather than of strength
- **Nicodemus (John 3:1-22)** – thoughtful discussions with those who question the faith, leading to the message of transformation by the Holy Spirit
- **The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)** – the good news of forgiveness to heal relationships
- **The Cross (Mark 10:45; John 3:16; Luke 23:44-46)** – the good news of forgiveness through what Jesus has done
- **Walking on the Water (Matthew 14:22-33)** – 'can do attitude' ... following the command of God, if we have the courage

- **The Sower (Mark 4:3-8)** – mission can be difficult and unrewarding but we should seek to go on sowing the seed
- **The Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32)** – the struggle to serve God, and the surprising people prepared to serve
- **The Wise and Foolish Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)** – the importance of preparation and training
- **The Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44)** – even the small things count
- **Changing Water into Wine (John 2:1-11)** – transforming the world and celebrating with joy – a hallmark of our worship?

Key Question: After discussing which **one** of these stories you would chose for your 'church mission story', what steps might you take to explore further how the stories can inspire and challenge the mission of your church?

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

The Property Committee has commissioned an independent Fire Risk Assessment of our premises. The findings were generally good, however there was a recommendation that we documented a plan for the evacuation of the Church in the event of an emergency. The difficulty in standardising such a plan is that we have a rota of duties and the congregation is never the same two weeks running.

In consultation with the Stewards it has therefore been agreed that the vestry steward on duty will take responsibility for the implementation of the emergency evacuation Plan in the event of a incident. However, we are publishing the plan so that everyone can be aware of the procedures. Please take a few minutes to acquaint yourself with the plan.

Jeremy Foster.

Property Committee Chair.

EVACUATION FROM CHURCH

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

THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH COMMUNITY

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL



TREE

Saturday 17th December

10 am – 4.30 pm

Sunday 18th December

1 pm – 4 pm

Free entry.

Refreshments throughout the day on Saturday with light lunches.

Donations in aid of the Church Development Fund.

Saturday 17th December

Concert for Christmas – 2 pm

Sunday 18th December

Candlelight Carol Service - 6.30 pm



Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day – 10.45 am - bring a present to open

we look forward to seeing you at all these events

The Church is on the corner of The Drive and Eastern Avenue (A12).
Buses - 145 and 366.

DECEMBER DIARY

Thu	1 st	8.00pm	Choir
Sun	4 th	10.45am	Morning Service with Holy Communion Led by Revd. Mandlate
Wed	7 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at The Drive Church
Thu	8 th	8.00pm	Choir
Sun	11 th	10.45am	Morning Service (Nativity & Toy Service) led by Mr David Bowers
		6.30pm	Circuit service at Goodmayes Church
Wed	14 th	2.30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thu	15 th	1.00pm	Church lunch in the Church Hall
		8.00pm	Choir
Sat	17 th	10.00am	Christmas Tree Festival until 4.30pm
		2.00pm	Concert for Christmas
Sun	18 th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Revd. Mandlate
		1.00pm	Cristmas Tree Festival until 4.00pm
		6.30pm	Carol Service led by Revd. Mandlate
Sun	25 th	10.45am	Christmas Morning Service (Bring an unopened present)

JANUARY DIARY 2012

Sun	1 st	10.45am	New Years Day Service Led by Revd. Merika Nkwana
Sun	8 th	10.45am	Morning Covenant Service & Holy Communion led by Revd. Mandlate
Sun	15 th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mr Frank Anipa
Sun	22 nd	10.45am	Morning Service led by Revd. Mandlate
Sun	29 th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mrs Tabitha Jumbe