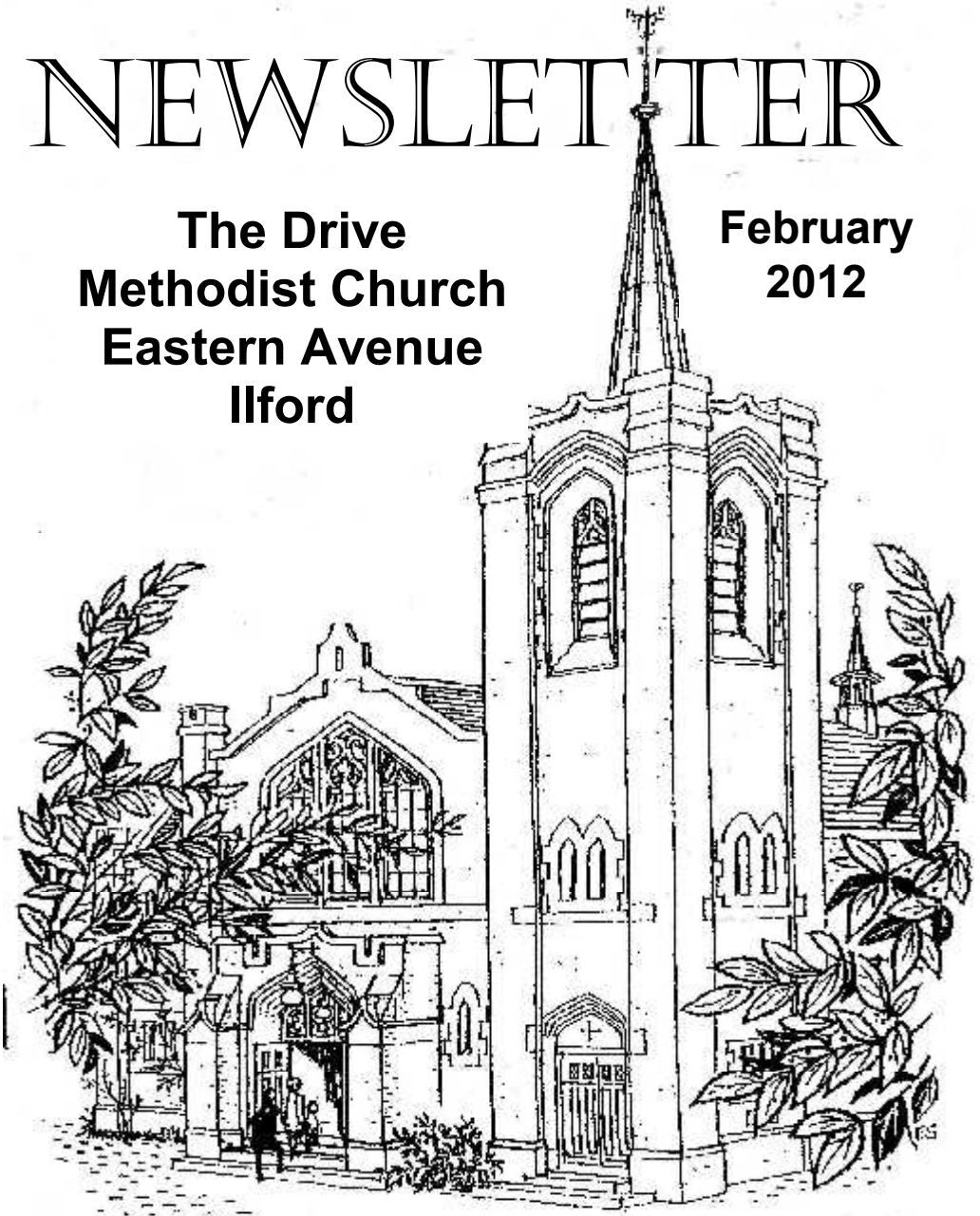


# NEWSLETTER

**The Drive  
Methodist Church  
Eastern Avenue  
Ilford**

**February  
2012**



**Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate**

[minister@the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk](mailto:minister@the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk)

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

## **FROM BERNARDINO, OUR MINISTER.**

Friends

I wish a Happy New Year to all of you. I hope God has been kind to you, showering you with His blessings for the New Year just started. I hope you all had a good Christmas season and that all your plans went smoothly as you wished.

As you now take stock of what the past year has been for you, you also need to look forward as to what the New Year brings, what resolutions you have made for this year and how you are going to achieve those.

Mine was a good year overall, except for the fact that we were burgled on the final week of the year. Thieves broke a window through the garden and took our two laptops and Elizabeth's jewellery and some watches, a communion kit that I use sometimes when visiting the housebound and those in hospitals. I hope they put it to good use (I mean the communion kit) and the boys' Xbox.

We have pulled through the shock of the invasion or violation of our security and life goes on, we cannot stop living because of thugs. And we pray that somehow God will touch and change their hearts and they may learn to live without offending other people.

We've had a difficult December with three members of our church in hospitals, May Levett, Barbara Foster and Audrey Runeckles. Audrey was able to be home for Christmas while Barbara and May spent Christmas in hospital and still there as I write this letter. We pray for God's grace and blessings to be with them as they endure time in hospital and for speedy recovery so that they may be able to be back home.

Many of us took part in the Covenant service beginning of January. We committed ourselves to serving God, giving of ourselves and all we have to serve him. Let it not be just a recital of what the service/liturgy expects us to say, but that we meant every word we said during the service. Indeed, we always are in need of volunteers to do things for the church. We need hands, brains, those who have skills to offer even if it's the ministry of presence, being around and giving a helping hand where needed, it is acceptable. Approach the church stewards and offer your time to do whatever may need doing. Don't be shy and don't look down on yourself. Your church

needs your input. May I urge you to do something about it; the more people we have available to some chores/duties the less heavy will be the burden on the few that are always doing stuff.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who were involved in the preparations for Christmas, carols, Christmas trees festival, refreshments. All your effort and input was worth it and is highly appreciated. Please keep it up and hoping next time round there will be more hands to go around. May the Lord continue to bless you.

Love and Peace

**Dino**

## **FAMILY NEWS**

Lottie McDonald

Lottie is being well cared for in a nursing home in Surrey, but although she is physically well, her memory has deteriorated, and she now has complete sight loss. Her nephew says that she appears to be as contented as possible in the present circumstances.

**Elsie Blanchard.**

## **CRÈCHE**

We are pleased to welcome Donna on to our crèche rota this year. If you feel you could give some time to help in the crèche or Junior Church then please speak to me. You will need to have a CRB check in order for you to work with the children and Lorraine will be pleased to talk to you about it.

Happy New Year!

**Jo Wright**

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP.**

We are sorry to have to report that due to a lack of numbers over the past year, which has been due to illness among our regular members, and the fact that new members have not joined us, and our attendances have reduced to just two or three of us, it has been decided that we will no longer meet weekly in the church parlour, but will meet once a month in one of our houses. If anyone would like to join us they will be welcome, and should contact either me or Catherine Sayers.

**Janet Brunnen.**

## PROPERTY MATTERS

The Property committee has scheduled three work mornings for this year. The dates are as follows:

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

These mornings are an essential part of our property maintenance. Whilst I am grateful for the support given, it is sometimes disappointing how little support is received. Jobs range from light cleaning, such as the interior paintwork or the kitchen cupboards, through to tidying the gardens. We start at 10.00am and work through the morning with a cup of coffee at 11.15. All help will be welcome.

**Jeremy Foster.**

## SINGING THE FAITH

To welcome our new hymn book, *Singing the Faith*, we are planning a special service on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

The plan for this service is to include hymns old and new from the book, with some items from the Choir and the Junior Church.

As we have been using the book for a few weeks now, we are discovering what is in, what is out, and what has been subtly altered (words and music) by the book's editors. Some of these alterations we may find puzzling, but an element of compromise is inevitable with any such collection of hymns and songs. I remember hearing many of the comments that are being made about this book back in 1983 when *Hymns and Psalms* was first published. To use the old cliché, you can't please all the people all the time! I'm sure as we use *Singing the Faith* regularly, any changes we come across will become as familiar to us as the previous versions.

From a personal point of view, there is much to recommend this new collection (though not the weight of the music edition!) It includes many (but not all) of the songs that we have put in our own *Drive Song Book*. There is also a very useful section at the end of the book called "Liturgical Settings", which sets texts from the *Methodist Service Book* to music for choir and congregational use,

and includes many popular Taize chants. But like any collection, there are hymns and songs not included that we would like to use, so we will be updating our *Drive Song Book* again soon to reflect this.

We would like your ideas for what to include in the service on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Please have a look through the new book to see what is new and interesting to you, and look out for the suggestion slips that will be handed out at services in the next couple of weeks, or let me know by speaking to me directly or emailing me – [music@the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk](mailto:music@the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk) is my email address.

And on 19<sup>th</sup> February, to help the singing go with a swing, why not all sit together towards the middle of the church...?

**Andrew Taylor**

### **CANDLE STUBS**

After using candles in Church at Christmas we are left with a large number of stubs about 3 inches long and too short to be used again. Please contact Brian Taylor if you can make use of these for lighting or wax craftwork or anything else.

**Brian Taylor.**

### **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP 2012**

Our first meeting of 2012 is on Tuesday February 7th at 8.00pm in the Church Parlour. Our speaker that evening is Mr LESLIE P.SUTTON who will tell us of experiences during the Second World War, including the Nuremburg Trials, and also Scouting here in Ilford. Do come along even if you have not been to any of our previous meetings. Refreshments are available.

We do not meet in March and April because we take part in Lenten Meetings with St. Andrew's Church.

Our next evening is on Tuesday May 1st when Andrew Taylor will be our speaker with the intriguing title "Musical Journeys".

**Frank Sayers.**

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This year the service is being held at St Andrew's Church on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2.00pm. It is entitled "Let justice prevail" and has been arranged for us by the Christian women of South Ilford in this thoughtful and interesting service.

**Catherine Sayers.**

## **FAREWELL**

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November at the Methodist Central Hall, the London district said farewell to the Reverend Ermal Kirby. This event was attended by Susan Ruckes.

We are also sorry to have said farewell to Reverend Maerika Nkwama who has returned to South Africa, and Kristina Hebb who has moved on to Manchester, and a new post.

We wish them both well for their future.

**Roy Brunnen.**

## **NATIVITY SET IN THE CHURCH FOYER**

Share a skill would like to thank Esther Olujinmi for knitting the beautiful figures and Jean McKellar – (knitting tutor) for putting them together. They were admired by all who came to church.

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

The children told the story of the meaning of Christmas with music, songs, narrating and acting. It was the biggest Nativity production for many years and it was wonderful to see so many young people involved in the service. They were amazing.

Thank you to everyone who took part, especially members of the Junior Church Team who gave up their weekends over the busy Christmas period and to Andrew who is nurturing the next generation of "Quavers".

**Jo Wright.**

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Ann Dellow and Janet Wragg would like to thank all those who helped to make this event a success.

From the initial printing of notices, putting up shelving (a very dusty job!), decorating the trees (they were lovely), stewarding, the catering team (much appreciated), all those who took part in the concert (excellent) and those who organised and contributed to the raffle.

Thank you once again to all teams involved.

Monies collected – raffle £53.00.

Concert retiring collection was well supported and has been donated to the church development fund.

**Janet Wragg**

### **And also**

Thank you to everyone who helped in the kitchen during the festival and to the talented chefs who made the delicious soups and quiche.

We made £148.00 for the church development fund.

**Jo Wright**

## **CHRISTMAS 2011**

Our Christmas celebrations at The Drive were greatly enhanced by the music provided by our choir and organ. We are very fortunate to have a choir and a very able organist in Andrew Taylor. Many churches these days have neither and rely on recorded accompaniment for the hymns. We have three organists.

The organ was the gift of Sir Sydney Robinson in 1928 when the church was built on land also given by him. Over the years additional pipework has been given by some of our folk which has increased the tonal range on the instrument.

We were very sorry to learn last July that David Pawlyn (we knew him as Richard) had died. He had tuned and serviced the organ for many years. Whenever the instrument broke down before a special service or festival, he would quickly come to our rescue, even though he lived in Aylesbury. We were not aware that he was very well known in the country for his work in restoring and maintaining theatre organ, till we read his obituary in The Times.

If you are interested in hearing organ music you may like to know that the Great Organ at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, opposite Westminster Abbey in Parliament Square, was recently restored and a number of well known organists have given recitals. The organist at Westminster Central Hall is Gerard Brooks who has been giving a series of "Sunday Popular Organ Music Matinées"

**The last two events of the series:  
Sunday February 19 and March 25, both at 3.00pm.  
Admission is by £3 programme at the door.  
Refreshments are available.**

For further information ring 020 7654 3809.

[www.methodist-central-hall.org.uk](http://www.methodist-central-hall.org.uk)  
[www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com)

**Frank Sayers**



## **THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCES PROJECT REDBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT THE DRIVE**

Since I have taken over the schools side of the RERP work from Philippa in September 2011 I have been fortunate to have been invited into several Redbridge schools to do Assemblies, lessons on Christianity and Godly play sessions.

It has been a very enjoyable and busy term as I help the children of our local schools explore what it means to be a Christian and a Methodist. I was delighted when Brian phoned me to say 90 children from Redbridge Primary school wanted to come to The Drive to experience Christmas in a Church. The school also wanted to cover 'finding out about the inside of a church building' which is part of their required learning in Year 2, so we had our work cut out to cram so much into just one hour. Nevertheless we had some interactive fun being church 'detectives', learnt in particular about how Christmas is celebrated here at The Drive and how Christians anticipate the wonderful miracle of God incarnate in our world.

There was a chance to experience different types of church music and Brian's demonstration on the organ caused some excitement. My CD was no substitute to hearing the real thing. My aim was to help the children be familiar with a church so if entering one at a later date they would recognise and feel at home, no matter what the denomination, also to give them tools to respond to faith. On hearing the music one child said it made him feel "lovely inside", another that it was a happy thing. These responses show that the children were making the move to thinking about the all important experience of faith.

My thanks must go to Brian, Roy, Bernardino, Kathleen, Susan and others who came to help with the many questions, refreshments and support. It meant a great deal to me that members of the church family were there and could fill in on the details about The Drive and share their faith with children and teachers. The school said they would like to re-start their relationship with this church and I am looking forward to meeting up with them again.

God Bless,

**Carol Dawson.**

**'RAYSIN HOPE'**  
**Brain Tumour Support Group.**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> January the group met for the first time at the Salvation Army building in Romford. The meeting provided everyone with the opportunity to share experiences following diagnosis.

Ideas for future meetings were discussed and everyone said they looked forward to meeting up again next Month.

We all agreed that the venue was an ideal one as it is central to Queens Hospital and transport links.

Many thanks for your support.

**Anne Dellow**

**Small Choirs Festival – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

Our choir and singers from Ilford Methodist Church are taking part again in the Small Choirs Festival. We were pleased to host the event last year. This year it is being held at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8EP. The festival has been moved from East London/South West Essex where all previous festivals have been held to Central London and to a Saturday afternoon rather than a Sunday afternoon/evening. It is also starting an hour earlier than previous festivals.

The festival is aimed at choirs with few or no men and is a chance for us to sing in a large choir

Rehearsals start at 2pm but those not in the choir are welcome to join the congregation for the Festival Service at 5pm. Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church is situated at the edge of Covent Garden, close to the junction of New Oxford Street and Shaftesbury Avenue.

**AJT**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
FRIDAY MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012

Come and join the United Churches of  
Ilford for

**A Service of Prayer and Worship at  
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,  
THE DRIVE, ILFORD  
at 2.00 pm**

Guest Speakers & Special Guests  
*The Worshipful Mayor & Mayoress of  
Redbridge –*  
**COUNCILLOR CHRIS CUMMINS & MRS.  
HELEN JOHNSON**

*Local Members of Parliament &  
Redbridge Councillors.*



## **ADVANCE NOTICE!!!**

**Watch Out!....There's a Beetle About!**  
*(Yes, it's almost that time of year again!)*

**Our annual JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA  
(and raffle)**

**will be held on:**

**SATURDAY 17th MARCH 2012**

**2.30 pm for 3 pm START**

**THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH**

Raising funds for JMA

(Junior Mission for All)

for projects both at home and abroad.

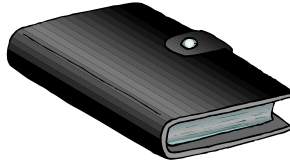
**Come along and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship,  
food and fun!**

***Tickets will be available shortly...more details to  
follow  
in March newsletter***

With thanks  
Diane Foster



## CHURCH DIARY



Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00pm	Choir
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service &amp; Communion Led by. Revd Mandlate</b>
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church Fellowship.
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Goodmayes
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service Led by Mr Ian Sheach.</b>
Wed	15 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church life committee meeting.
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Church Coffee Morning at Gardeners Cafe, Valentines Mansion.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service celebrating Singing the Faith Led by Revd. Mandlate</b>
Wed	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30pm	<b>Ash Wednesday.</b> Joint service at Barkingside Methodist church.
Thu	23 <sup>rd</sup>	8.00pm	Choir
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service Led by Sister Vera Nicholls.</b>
Tue	28 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Lent course at The Drive.