

The Drive Methodist Church  
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

# NEWSLETTER

April 2012



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

## **FROM REVD. BERNARDINO MANDLATE**

Friends

I trust that Lent has proved to be a good time for reflection on what has been and what could have been in our lives, and that you may have a sense of God's calling for you and your time to share with Him.

As I write these lines, we are only a few days away from Easter, when we celebrate the risen Lord. I pray that when you do celebrate resurrection, the Lord may make you aware of your own possibilities of death and resurrection to eternal life. But before we get there, there is a lot of work to be done here and now.

The church always needs and relies on people who can commit themselves and some of their time to help on occasions for various tasks that need doing. I understand that two or possibly three of you have volunteered/committed yourselves to help with pastoral visiting. That is positive and very good. Some who have been pastoral visitors for a number of years have reached a point where their bodies are saying to them "we've had enough", they need a break and we owe it to them to allow them to rest and have new ones take over. Well done.

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of all of you, to welcome two new potential members of our church, namely Yinka's daughter Fumi and Jo's granddaughter who are still fresh from maternity. Congratulations to both mothers.

We pray for God's continued blessings throughout the babies' lives, and we pray also that they may grow to know the Lord.

On a different note, most of you would have heard by now that my youngest brother died this month. He was taken ill on a Saturday afternoon, he was taken to hospital, which is about hundred miles away from where he lived, on the Sunday. He died the following Tuesday night, only two days after being admitted. Early indications show that he had contracted HIV virus. I am not sure whether he knew about this or not but it was a surprise for all. He was diagnosed with meningitis, an infection on the brain and anaemic. It is my suspicion that his wife would have been infected as well.

Hopefully she will go for tests soon and find out her status and if infected, deal with it in terms of taking the required medicines.

As I mentioned before, HIV/AIDS it's not something some of us read in newspapers, it affects people we know and love dearly. Whenever I read statistics about HIV, I put faces of people I know to it. So pray with us and help us to challenge the status quo, help us to educate more people about the effects of it and how it affects many people out there.

It has not been an easy spell but the Lord is kind and we feel surrounded by the love you all share with us. You have been very kind. May the good Lord continue to bless you.

**Dino**

## **FAMILY NEWS.**

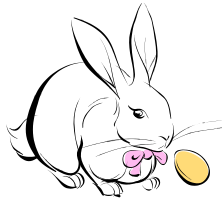
**Barbara Foster** is now at home following several weeks in hospital and time at Heron ward in Wanstead. She is being supported by carer's and her family. Please include her in your prayers.

**Lorna Wright**, Jo's daughter gave birth to a 7lb 15oz baby girl on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Her name is Iris Ruby. I understand Iris, her parents, Grand Parents, and Great Grand Parents are all doing well. !!

## **HELP !!**

The memorial service for Jeannie MacDonald will be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 4 pm

Tea, cakes and biscuits will be served after the service for Jeannie. If anyone would be kind enough to bake a cake or offer biscuits, Catherine would be glad to hear from them.



## **Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt**

Come and join in the fun on

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10.00- 12.30 in the hall  
at The Drive Methodist church.

There will be crafts, refreshments an Egg  
Hunt and we will be learning circus skills.

Parents/carers must accompany their  
children.

Entry £1.50 per child

Everyone is welcome. Please come and  
have a hot cross bun and a cup of coffee.

## **BEETLEMANIA**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea on Saturday 17th March – to all those who came along and played and to those who kindly made donations. It was once again a great fun family afternoon with the beetles coming thick and fast! The adult winner was Vivienne West and the under-15s winner was Georgina Downes. Well done to both of them.

After expenses, the splendid total of £281 was raised for JMA funds.

My special thanks go to Louise and Michelle for their help in preparing the tea, to John for serving drinks, to Siedah for her delicious cupcakes and to Jeremy for keeping control of the game.

You may like to know our first JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea was held in 1993 which means next year Beetle comes of age with our 21<sup>st</sup> Beetle Drive – I do hope you will be able to come along again to help celebrate.

**Diane Foster**

## **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

We did not meet during March and April, so that we could attend the Lenten Studies with St Andrew's and Cranbrook Baptist Churches. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday May 1<sup>st</sup> when our organist and choirmaster, Andrew Taylor will present a programme entitled "Musical Journeys". Do come along at 8.00pm for what is sure to be an entertaining evening.

**Frank Sayers.**

## **PASTORAL CARE OF OUR MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS**

At the Annual Church Meeting I highlighted the fact that some of our Pastoral Leaders were unable to continue their duties due to infirmity and health problems, and we desperately needed some more volunteers.

I am pleased to say that we now have two more willing ladies who have agreed to take on this role, which will ease the problem, but still more would be most welcome. You don't have to be a lady to undertake this work and it would be nice to have another / more men to look after our congregation.

The more Pastoral Leaders we have, the fewer members and adherents each one will have on their list.

Several of our folk live in the Romford area and someone who lives there also would be very welcome.

**Brian Grinham (Secretary to the Pastoral Committee)**

## **PROPERTY**

The property committee would like to thank Peter Sharp, Jo Wright, Brian Taylor, Brian Grinham, Mike Seviour, Joel Inbakumar, Corinne Smith, Anne Dellow, John Higgins, Dorothy Carter, and Catherine Sayers for supporting the recent work morning. Having a good number of people made a real difference to the workload and what we were able to achieve. These mornings are an essential element in maintaining our premises. The next work morning is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May from 10am.

**Jeremy Foster**

## **MUSIC MATTERS**

Back in February, members of our church choir took part in the annual Small Choirs Festival. Designed for choirs with few or no men, the Small Choirs Festivals provide us with music that the participating choirs can sing together, but also take away and use in our own churches. This year's festival had a central London location for the first time, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in the West End. We were joined by friends from Ilford Methodist Church, and the whole choir numbered around 70 singers. As well as the choir items and congregational hymns, we were treated to some music played on the church's excellent organ.

We are delighted to see so many young people in church these days, and they are displaying some wonderful performing talents. We are going to try out some short after church singing practices for them on Sunday mornings, so that we can get them more involved in the music-making in our worship.

On 19<sup>th</sup> February, we explored many new hymns and songs from our new hymn book *Singing the Faith*. Our service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May will include some favourite hymns requested from the book that we weren't able to use in February.

At the Church Fellowship in May, I will be giving a talk entitled "Musical Journeys". This was originally to be about my own trips at home and abroad as part of various musical groups, but the title "Musical Journeys" is throwing up all sorts of other possibilities in my mind... Do come along and find out where the "Journey" finally takes me!

Looking further into the future, we are planning a community music event in October. This follows the success of the "come and sing" Hallelujah Chorus which we did a couple of years ago.

And speaking of "come and sing" events, please give your support to the performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* in our church on the evening of Good Friday, either as a singer or audience member. Further details are elsewhere in this Newsletter, or you can speak to me about it.

**Andrew Taylor**

### **NEWS FROM LOUGHTON FAMILY CENTRE.**

It is some time now since I have given any news of the work of Loughton Family Centre. Mostly there aren't many changes and the team continue their work with families and children in West Essex. However the government cut backs have reached us and we are being moved from our building in Loughton to the Staple Tye area of Harlow.

This drastic change is due to the fact that much of our work is in Harlow but mainly because our family centre in, addition to the large and beautiful garden and car park sits on prime land in Loughton which Essex County Council intend to sell.

The building we are moving into was due for demolition due to subsidence. Its origin was as Essex children's home as was our building in Loughton; but it has been saved and given a structural makeover to make it safe for our use. We aren't delighted by this move but we will get on with it and make it our challenge for 2012. I'm sure we will make it just as warm and welcoming as Loughton Family Centre has been for the

past 19 years, during which time we have benefited from the love and support of our friends at The Drive.

As soon as we have a moving date we will be issuing an open invitation for our supporters to come along and say farewell to Loughton Family Centre. Similarly when we are settled in our new home which we are calling `Woodlands' The West Essex Family Centre, we will invite you all to come to see us.

Please continue to pray for the work of the family centre and the vulnerable families who receive support.

**Lorraine Bendon.**

### **STAINER'S *CRUCIFIXION* at The Drive, Good Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

I will be conducting a performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* in our church on Good Friday at 7:45pm. The choir will be made up from local singers brought together on the day to form a "scratch" choir. This annual "come and sing" event is to raise funds for the Bahay ng Pag-asa (House of Hope) Outreach Centre in the Philippines, founded and run by a friend of mine, Nickie Kenning. This small charity does marvellous work with neglected and abused children, and these yearly evenings of singing are a major source of funds.

Singers pay £10 to take part – there is a late afternoon rehearsal, followed by refreshments before the performance. Audience entry is free, but there is the inevitable retiring collection! Speak to me for more details and a booking form if you want to sing.

**Andrew Taylor**



## BETTY SAYS

One Easter morning many years ago now I sat in one of the front pews admiring the lovely Easter dress, worn by a girl who stood up in the choir stalls and sang Robert Lowry's "Low in the grave he lay" in a voice which even then was a clear warm contralto and for me the words seemed to blaze into life, and it dawned on me for the first time what "Resurrection" meant.

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Just before Easter one year a member of the church saw an advertisement in the Methodist Recorder I think it was for boxes of wild daffodils from a farm in Devon or Cornwall. I Believe at a silly price. He thought it would be no great loss if it turned out to be a bit of a con, so he gave it a whirl anyway. The box arrived on Easter Saturday and it was Enormous, and filled to the very brim with countless small daffodils just about to open out. We brought out every single vase we could find, but these were not nearly enough, so those who lived nearby went home and got some more, but these were still not enough, so someone who had been saving jars to make homemade marmalade brought along a whole lot of them too. We had daffodils everywhere, every windowsill and every nook and cranny in the Church hall was filled with them and they were all over the stage too. They were absolutely, utterly and completely beautiful. I have never forgotten how the Church hall looked that Easter. Old William Wordsworth would have been "Gobsmacked"!

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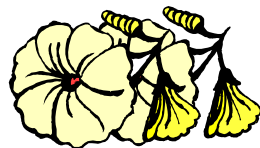
THE DRIVE SCOUT & GUIDE  
GROUP

# Plant Sale

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012



10 am to 1 pm



**Come early for the best choice**

Gardeners - we would welcome  
donations from your gardens

Cake stall - The Brownies have for  
many years run our cake stall. At  
the moment they are small in  
numbers and would welcome any  
contributions.

## APRIL DIARY

|            |                        |                |   |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup></b>  | <b>10.45am</b> | <b>Palm Sunday. Morning Service<br/>Led by Revd. Nkwana.</b>                                    |
| Thu        | 5 <sup>th</sup>        | 8.00pm         | Maundy Thursday Service<br>at St Andrews Church, The Drive                                      |
| Fri        | 6 <sup>th</sup>        | 10.00am        | Good Friday Meditation<br>led by Revd. Mandlate   |
|            |                        | 7.45pm         | Stainer's Crucifixion (see page 7)  |
| Sat        | 7 <sup>th</sup>        | 10.00am        | Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt   |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>10.45am</b> | <b>Easter Day. Morning Service<br/>With Holy communion.<br/>Led by Revd. Mandlate</b>           |
| Fri        | 13 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.00am        | Coffee in the Park. Gardeners Cafe<br>Valentines Mansion.                                       |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.45am</b> | <b>Morning Service.<br/>Led by Mr David Bowers</b>  |
| Sat        | 21 <sup>st</sup>       | 10.00am        | Share a Skill in the Church Parlour   |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>10.45am</b> | <b>Morning Service with Baptism<br/>Led by Revd. Mandlate</b>                                   |
|            |                        | <b>4.00pm</b>  | <b>Memorial service remembering<br/>Jeanie MacDonald, led by<br/>Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.</b> |
| Tue        | 24 <sup>th</sup>       | 1.00pm         | Church Lunch  |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>29<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.45am</b> | <b>Morning Service<br/>Led by Mr John Nicholls.</b>   |

The Pre-School meets Mon to Fri during normal  
Redbridge term time

# Dates for your diary

## Diamond Jubilee Celebration

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012**



The Church family are celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with an afternoon of Fun and Feasting. Book the date now and watch for the posters/flyers for full information

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The Scout and Guide Group will be holding an Olympic Activity afternoon at the Rodings on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to which everyone is invited. We shall take the opportunity to hold our AGM during the afternoon which will be followed by refreshments.

Do put this date in your diary and come along and join in the fun.

**FOR YOUR NOTES**

