

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

NEWSLETTER

September 2012



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

FROM OUR MINISTER, REVD. BERNARDINO MANDLATE

Friends

With the Olympics kind of out of the way and with the celebrations of the medals won underway in various towns, it seems to me to be a good time for the Methodist calendar to begin. As you may be aware, the Methodist church connexional year begins in September, when ministers in new appointments take charge of their new posts. All sorts of meetings and activities take place.

I hope you enjoyed Olympics as I did. I did not watch every single event, but what I saw I enjoyed and we won about 65 medals, a good number of them gold. Hopefully we may do as well in the Paralympics starting soon. Well done to all involved, organisers, athletes, and volunteers. They all made us proud. Now we can own our roads again.

As I write, summer looks to be waking up and reminding us that it is summer. We never know how long it will last. It may be just the one day or two. We have to enjoy whatever God gives us. We had enough rain and may be more is coming. Weather patterns seem to have gone out of the window. We may need to re write geography with kind of new seasons if that is possible.

This has been a busy year for our church. It is a landmark and many people are attracted to it for their own functions and other needs. We celebrated five weddings and a wedding blessing is planned for end of September. Some people come because they have their own connection with the Drive church, others come because it is a nice church, visible and well located. We are happy always to offer a service that will mean someone comes through our doors and finds fulfilment. The kingdom of God is being served by those small but important connections.

Our members seem to be taking it a bit easy for now, no one in hospital for some time only a few not well in their own homes. With some of us having advanced age it is to be expected that aches and pains will always interfere with normal life for some people. But as we grow older, we learn to live with the aches and pains that they also become normal to those who suffer. But as we trust and believe, God is always at hand to comfort and heal. After all, Jesus, the only Son of God, experienced suffering as we do.

The last few weeks, the lectionary readings have been about bread in some form or another. The issue of bread is a crucial one because there are many people out there who struggle to have even a slice of bread let alone having a whole loaf of bread. David Cameron, the prime minister, had a meeting recently with other world leaders, and concerned people and charities to talk about finding ways to respond to this need worldwide. I appeal to you all, that we do something, even if on a small scale, to respond to the needs in our own community. Be generous with your giving to the benevolent fund and other small charities we support. It will make a difference to someone or family out there. Avoid wasting if you can and it is in your powers.

May the good Lord continue to bless each and everyone.

Dino

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

THEADORA GARNER, whose birthday is in September we hope she enjoys the day, and has many more.

MICHAEL & ANA MARIA DELLOW.

Michael and Ana Maria Dellow were married in Colombia South America on 11th August. A service of Blessing for their marriage will be conducted by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate on Saturday 29th September at 2pm.

Anne Dellow

CLAIR AND JOEL PARRIS

Congratulations and best wishes on their wedding which was at The Drive on Saturday 18th August.

MELISSA HIGGINS AND JAMAL ANWAR

Our best wishes also go to Melissa & Jamal who were married on Saturday 25th August.

HOW DID YOU DO

This year's exam results are out, and we have to wonder what the members of our church managed to achieve. One I have learnt about is Bambo Banjo, who got an A in economics, an A in Geography, and a B in French language. He has therefore got himself a place in Birmingham University where he will be studying International Business. We wish him every success, and hope he will visit us when he can.

Congratulations also to Louise Foster who has passed her final exams and is now qualified as a trademark attorney.

We also wish any others who have had success and are moving into studies, including those who are about to transfer into a senior school in September. Please let us know.

LOTTIE MACDONALD.

Lottie Macdonald died during the afternoon of Wednesday 18th July in Frimley Surrey. After leaving Birchwood in Clayhall Avenue, Lottie moved to Surrey to be nearer her niece and her husband Colin. Elsie Blanchard has kept in touch with the family ever since Lottie's removal.

Lottie was a former member at Cranbrook Park Methodist Church, where among other things she had been a Cub leader. Subsequently, she became involved in many aspects of Eastern Avenue Church after the amalgamation. She was a valued choir member, and the secretary of the property committee. She could often be seen tending the Church gardens. For many years she attended and helped at the Monthly lunches and also assisted in the production of the Redbridge Talking Newspaper tapes. She was a much loved and appreciated member of this Church and was much missed on her removal. Please remember her family and friends in your prayers. We all miss her.

Catherine Sayers.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The 2012/13 Church Fellowship programme begins on **Tuesday October 2nd** with a talk by a visiting speaker **Mrs Devinder Palray** (a work colleague of Jo Wright) who will talk about **Sikhism**. Devinder Palray is an experienced speaker on this subject, and we are promised an interesting evening.

Do come along to our first meeting of the season at 8.00pm.
Refreshments are served.

The programme for the whole season is available in the church.

Catherine Sayers.

HARVEST 2012.

We shall be having a Harvest Lunch after morning service on **Sunday October 7th**. A list will be put up at the back of the church for names and any offers of either traditional or other savoury dishes and deserts would be welcomed.

Please see Catherine if you can offer any home made dishes.

We shall be distributing Harvest gifts on Monday, October 8th from 10.30am onwards. Any car drivers would be especially welcome.

Catherine Sayers.

ACHIEVEMENT CARDS

The children will all be having "well done cards" in church in the next few weeks. This is to encourage and congratulate achievements whilst in church. We will be introducing them at the Junior Church service on August the 26th.

The whole church family will be involved in this adventure, and will be able to give children stickers and ticks on their "well done cards". More information will be given at the service but we hope everyone will join in with nurturing and encouraging our young people at The Drive.

Jo Wright

TIM WRIGHT – TANZANIA SUMMER 2013

I will be travelling to Tanzania with my school (Wanstead High School) next summer. This trip will be run by the charity World Challenge.

In Tanzania I will be doing voluntary work in the community which will involve working with young people, and renovation work for a local school. My sister, Lorna, did similar work when she went to India in 2009.

I am currently fund raising for this once in a life time adventure, and my friends and I will be doing a car wash at **The Drive on Saturday 8th September**. If you would like to book your car in for a wash then please either see my Mum (Jo Wright) or phone me. We will be serving tea, coffee and bacon rolls and there will be a cake stall too.

You don't need to have a car to come along, just pop in for a coffee, chat and a cake. We will be there **9.30 – 4.00**.

Please come and support this fund raising event. With thanks.

Timothy Wright

SAMARITAN'S PURSE 2012 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Church is again joining in with **Operation Christmas Child**. This involves filling gift wrapped shoe boxes with items/presents for children who are in need or difficulty. These boxes are then sent to countries around the world and distributed within communities.

This year we are looking for willing volunteers at The Drive to help coordinate this project. If you feel you could help in some way then please see me.

Items that are suggested as gifts are:-

Toys:

Bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument.

For boys;

trucks and cars,

For girls;

dolls, clip on earrings, etc.

Educational Supplies:

Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers, etc.

Hygiene Items:

Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel, etc.

Other Items:

Sweets (sell-by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc.

All gifts should be new, please include items from each category.

No Food

especially chocolate - non-chocolate sweets are allowed

No medicine

or vitamins of any kind

No war related items

toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind

No clothing

other than listed above

No fragile items

glass containers, mirrors.

No liquids

including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols.

No dangerous items

sharp objects, scissors or razors

No novels

Nothing of a political nature

No hand-knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark

(knitted items we can accept)

There will be a box at the back of the church for any items/presents you would like to donate.

Please wrap and leave your completed shoe box on the back pew too. . It costs £2.50 to send the boxes so, if you can, please leave £2.50 cash in your box or donate it on line at www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk

Any questions then please speak to me.

Jo Wright

METHODIST HERITAGE HANDBOOK 2012/13

The new updated edition of the handbook is now available. This free resource provides background stories and location information for over 100 Methodist heritage sites of historic importance and features a new structure with more sites and a district index. It also includes an extended introduction to explain the splits and re-combinations in nineteenth century Methodism.

I have put a few copies at the back of the church but please let me know if you cannot find one and more copies are required.

Diane Foster.

Diane has also put at the back of the church a few booklets entitles "Thank you!" . this is a very informative publication, and among other thing gives a breakdown on how the centrally budgeted expenditure is allocated.

Roy Brunnen.

THE DRIVE SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP

Join us at the Group's Open Evening and AGM on Friday 27th September.

Show your support of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and their leaders The Olympics theme has been Be Inspired – Get involved – The Scout Association has a similar message – GET ACTIVE.

12th Ilford Brownies

It is with regret that I have to report our Brownie Pack had to close in July. The Brownies have met at The Drive along with the Guides, Cubs and Scouts, since the opening of the Eastern Avenue Methodist Church in 1928.

They have been kept going in the last years by leaders from the Guide District with the dedicated support of Shirley Lander who had worked as a support worker with previous Brownie leaders. She stayed until the Guide District was unable to keep the Pack open any longer due to the lack of any new leaders. It is the old story – not lack of youngsters – there is a long waiting list for the remaining Pack in the Drive at St Andrews. It is the lack of “that word in the news with the Olympics” – VOLUNTEERS.

John Taylor Group Chairman



July BBQ

It seems a long time ago now, but thank you to everyone who contributed food and came along to the BBQ. A big thank you to Peter who cooked all the burgers!

NOAH IN 2006.

In the year 2006, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me.

Build another ark and save 2 of every living thing along with a few humans."

He gave noah the CAD drawings saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six Months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard – but no Ark.

"Noah" He roared, "i'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?".

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed, I needed Building Regulations Approval. I've been arguing with the fire brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site even though in my view it is a temporary structure. We had to go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision.

Then the department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear a passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have tree preservation orders on them and we live in a site of special scientific interest set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls – but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me.

They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the County Council, the Environment agency and the Rivers authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted and environmental impact study on your proposed flood.

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many BMEs I'm supposed to hire for my building team.

The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only CSCS accredited workers with Ark Building experience.

To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

So forgive me Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish the ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the World?"

No said the Lord. "The government beat me to it."

SEPTEMBER DIARY

Sunday	2nd	10.45am	Morning Service. With Holy Communion Led by: Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Sunday	9th	10.45am	Morning Service : Led by Miss Jennifer Benfield
Wednesday	12 th	7.30pm	Circuit meeting at Ilford Methodist Church.
Friday	14 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning at the Gardeners Cafe, Valentines Mansion.
Sunday	16th	10.45am	Morning Service : Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Monday	17 th	8.00pm	Pastoral Committee meeting.
Wednesday	19 th	8.00pm	Church Life Committee meeting
Saturday	22 nd	10.00am	Church work and maintenance morning
Sunday	23rd	10.45am	Morning Service : Led by Carol Dawson and Church stewards
Friday	28 th	10.00am	Macmillan Coffee morning at the Redbridge Social Centre.
Saturday	29 th	2.00pm	Marriage blessing for Michael & Ana Maria Dellow.
Sunday	30th	10.45am	Morning Service : Led by Mr Ian Sheach.



‘LAUGHING. YUMMY CAKES. AND HELPING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CANCER’

Join Audrey Taylor

Let's make time for coffee, cakes, the people in our lives— and raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Please come to my World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Date *Friday 28th September* .Time *10 to 2*

**Place *The Conservatory*
*Redbridge Social Centre***

Rear of 188-190 Beehive Lane

I really hope you can make it, but if not you can still get involved by making a donation..



M&S Cate

The official partner of the
World's Biggest Coffee Morning