

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

NEWSLETTER

October 2012



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

A Message from our Minister Rev. Bernardino Mandlate.

Friends

I hope all is well with all of you and your families at this time in which most churches around the country are busy celebrating Harvest Festival.

We are not farmers and some of you may never have been in a farming environment before. However, we live and eat because the farmers are always busy working the land that generally yields crops of all sorts.

Some farmers are, very often, blessed with rain that falls periodically in time to soften their soil and allow for good produce. But, there are many farmers in many parts of the world who till their fields without knowing whether it will rain in good time for their crops or not. Sometimes it doesn't rain when it should and the seeds are lost, or it rains more than needed and the seeds are destroyed in the ground because of the excess water.

Very often when we buy our foods in the supermarkets, be it canned, frozen or fresh, we don't think of the hands that made it possible, let alone think of God's love in enabling the process to continue in such a way that we always have what we need or want on the shelves.

God is the provider. God makes possible that we have seeds to sow. He makes the rain fall on the fields. While we sleep after a long day's work, God is busy intervening in the process of transforming seeds into plants, flowers and crops that we then harvest for our use.

We were taught as children to say 'thank you' for any gifts we were given. It is fitting that at this harvest time we should say 'thank you Lord for all your provisions,' thank you for what you gives us on a daily basis. We are sorry that very often we forget to say thank you, and take your gifts for granted.

And, as we say thank you to God, we also need to be able to share, in love, God's gifts to us. There plenty less fortunate people around us and mostly beyond our shores who struggle to meet their daily basic needs for survival. God gives to us so that we can share with others. God's gifts are not ours to keep but to share.

There are food banks in Redbridge, there are projects that MRDF supports worldwide and we can be part of that, however small our

contribution may be; added to other people's contributions, it may make a difference in someone's life or the life of a community for that matter. Let us do our bit. If you are aware that God has been kind to you, then extend that kindness, in love, to others.

May the good Lord Jesus Christ bless you with plenty this harvest season.

Dino

Family news

Many happy returns to Louise Foster, whose birthday is October.

Janet & Roy Brunnen celebrate their golden wedding on October 27th. They were married here in The Drive by Revd. Harry Parkin.

Daphne Stanley has now moved into a bungalow in Clayhall and appears to be settling in well. We do not at present have a phone number.

Audrey Runeckles is in the Royal London Hospital suffering from a fractured arm, and a bone in her neck.

Audrey Taylor is undergoing investigations in Whipps Cross Hospital.

Elsie Blanchard is having further treatment at Moorfields Eye Hospital.

Roy Brunnen.

MIDWEEK MEETINGS

A Communion was held on Tuesday 18th September at 10.30am. The next morning Communion is on Tuesday 16th October at 10.00am.

There will be Bible study on Thursday 4th October at 7.00pm before choir practice starts at 8.00pm.

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 tell us 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 below and also available in the church.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP 2012 - 2013 SEASON

2012

- TUES OCT 2 Talk about Sikhism by Mrs Devinder Palray
TUES NOV 8 "Favourite Things"
MON DEC 10 Christmas Programme arranged by Kathleen
 and Brian Taylor

2013

- TUES FEB 5 Speaker: Cllr. Keith Prince
TUES MAY 7 Handbells with Andrew Taylor
TUES JUNE 4 Ruth Joyce talks about her working life
TUES JULY 3 Jo Wright plays some of her favourite music

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 8.00pm.

REFRESHMENTS ARE SERVED

DO COME AND JOIN US

SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP NEWS

The Drive Scout and Guide Group held an open evening and AGM in the Church Hall on Friday 21st September. Parents and supporters were treated to displays and demonstrations of craft work by the Beavers and Cubs, while the Scouts built an 18ft high free-standing flag pole!

We were delighted Cliff Everett, our District Commissioner attended and that he was able to make two presentations – to Jeremy Foster, who received the Scout Association's Medal of Merit in recognition of many years of outstanding service to Scouting, and to Brian Grinham, who received his 50 Years Long Service Award.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jeremy and Brian on these well-deserved awards!

Mike Seviour

Group Scout Leader

SHARE A SKILL

We start back on October 6th from 10.00am to 12noon. In the Church Parlour. All are welcome, the cost is £2 per session, but children can come without a charge.

Programme

October 6th Beading with Donna, learn to crochet with Jean.

November 3rd and 17th Find your way around a laptop with Brian T, Brian G, and Roy B. (Please bring a laptop computer if possible.)

December 1st To be advised.

Janet Wragg

HELP THE CHURCH WEBSITE

Since the website was introduced five and a half years ago, it has developed a respected position on the internet and has enjoyed over 13,000 visits, and the number is growing each year.

We try to keep it up to date and relevant, but Mike Seviour our webmaster is not receiving articles and photos about Church activities on a regular basis. For instance, nothing has been written or photo's supplied about our Jubilee party. Information about the pre-school, worship, yoga, etc. I will try to get the information flowing, but will need help from you. Expect me to be approaching some of you for photo's and articles. If anyone feels they would like to take some or all of this over I would welcome the help.

Roy Brunnen.

MORE OF BETTY'S MEMORIES

The world we lived in.

In those days not far away from Ilford there were still slums and dirty, ill-fed children who didn't get enough medical attention because Doctors had to be paid then. We weren't unaware of or unsympathetic to their plight and we sometimes sacrificed our precious pocket money to help them, but we lived in a pleasant, leafy, not too built up suburb with parks and open spaces and not far from lovely countryside, in nice houses with gardens back and front and had days out at the seaside with our buckets and spades. Some of us even had holidays (though few of us went abroad then) and fairy cycles, Brownie box cameras (which took only black and white photos, and Reeves paint boxes.

We had yo-yo's, skipping ropes and catapults and enjoyed (when our pocket money allowed or relatives were feeling generous) gob smackers, humbugs, sticky toffees, sherbet dabs, seaside rock and Walls ice cream and ice lollies sold by uniformed Walls men riding box-shaped cycles.

We listened avidly to the wireless (it wasn't the Radio then), went to the "flicks", had sing songs round the piano and some of our parents actually had cars or were on the phone!

Most of our dads worked in the City for salaries that sound ludicrously small now, and our Mums stayed at home. (There were hardly any "latch key kids" in those days). Of course class-consciousness was rife and there was some silly snobbery, but there was real Neighbourliness and most of our parents came from working class backgrounds and weren't ashamed of it. They had working class principles too.

On the whole Christian standards still prevailed and the Churches were pretty full. Life was safe and secure, crime was minimal, children were free to walk around all by themselves just about anywhere without fear, we lived by a set of rules, respected our elders and betters (and the men in the bowler hats) and learned early that the only true freedom is self discipline.

When I remember all those shining young faces (whatever happened to them all?), all those decent kindly men and women who tried to teach us the great and everlasting truths, the Hymns we sang so lustily (the words of which we only half understood then, but which have inspired and comforted many of us throughout our lives), the organ thundering forth all the glorious music and all that innocent fun and laughter and sheer unadulterated happiness and everything being so uncomplicated, and those wonderful, wonderful Sunday School anniversaries.

Why oh why do these stupid old eyes of mine fill with tears?.

Betty Griffiths

THE GARDEN AROUND ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

The beautiful garden was opened on Saturday 22nd September by the Mayor of Redbridge, Councillor Muhammad Javed.

There was no church service, but there were short messages of welcome from faith representatives.

Rev. P Hemaratana – Buddhist

Ven. Elwin Cockett – Christian

Mr Ali Qureshi – Muslim

Mrs Jacquie Grieve (Faith Forum) – on behalf of the wider faith community.

Two young lads held the ribbon for the Mayor to cut while many photos were taken. The Mayor then asked the assembled company to turn round while photos were taken of us!

Presentations were made to Jane Atwell of JMA garden design, who planned the garden and the landscape gardeners, Bryan Kelly and John Holman. Other presentations were made at the same time. There were visitors from everywhere, as well as church members past and present. The Bishop of Stockport came because of family connections. He is Robert Atwell, Jane's brother.

The Archdeacon of West Ham, Ven Elwin Cockett, arrived on his motor bike as West Ham (the football team) was playing at home. During the evening a varied concert took place in the church. Participants came from a wide age range.

There was a fair-sized audience considering the many other events that day including the Mozart "Requiem" at The Drive and a brilliant performance of "Calendar Girls" at the Kenneth More Theatre in Ilford town centre.

The Ilford Choral Society returned to St Andrew's just once more, before the final concert elsewhere on 1st December after seventy one years of the Choral Society, during which Duncan Patterson has been the conductor for about half, the decision has been made to call it a day.

Don't miss the Christmas concert on 1st December!

Susan Ruckes

25th September 2012.

*Guide, O Lord, our thinking,
Guard our words
And be in all our decisions and planning. Amen.*

Marian Evans.



What's on during October.

Tue	2 nd	8.00pm	Church Fellowship
Thu	4 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun	7th	10.45am	Harvest Festival led by Bernardino Mandlate
Thu	11 th	7.30pm	Circuit Staff & Stewards meeting
Sat	13 th	6.30pm	Grange Hill Harvest quiz & Social.
Sun	14th	10.45am	Morning Service Led by Michelle Garner and our Stewards.
Fri	19 th	10.00am	Coffee morning at the Gardeners Cafe Valentines Mansion.
Sun	21st	10.45am	Morning Service and Holy Communion led by Revd. Jan Atkins.
Tue	23 rd	1.00pm	Church Lunch. In the church parlour.
Fri	26 th		Pre School Term ends.
Sun	28th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Tony Miller from the Whitechapel Mission

**Why not join Grange Hill Methodist Church
For a
Harvest Quiz Night and Social Event**

**There will also be a substantial Ploughman's
Supper**

(bring your own non alcoholic drink)

Saturday 13th October 2012.

6.30 for 7pm

Tickets £6 per person

**Tickets from Paul McMaster
Or Irene Slade**

*Help us, O Lord,
To see the possibilities of Prayer
Give us the courage to experiment in Prayer
Give us the strength to continue in Prayer
Show us how to carry our Prayer into our daily
living.*

Marian Evans, Swindon.