



# NEWSLETTER

for CHRISTMAS 2012

**The Drive Methodist Church,  
Eastern Avenue, Ilford**

Minister: Rev Bernardino Mandlate

[www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk](http://www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk)

**FROM OUR MINISTER  
BERNARDINO MANDLATE**

Friends

As you read this newsletter, Christmas and the New Year will be upon us. Christmas lights are all over the place now and Christmas records are being played on radio stations and the shops.

We begin Advent in beginning of December. More precisely, this it begins on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This is a time of waiting for the coming of Jesus to earth when he was born as a baby in Bethlehem just over 2000 years ago. The church believes in the second coming as Jesus promised. We are not aware of when that event will take place. In the meantime, Christians around the world prepare themselves for that event. It is a time when we, as Christians, celebrate the light in the midst of our darkness. We live in dark times. The world is in such need of light that Jesus couldn't come any sooner. With Advent, we remind ourselves that the Lord is coming to bring peace, justice and wellbeing for all.

The church preaches messages that help us get ready for the eventuality, so that when the Lord comes we are ready to open our homes and our hearts to receive him. We sing carols, buy and wrap up presents and decorate our houses for Christmas

My prayer to God is that this Christmas will be better than previous ones and that our attitude to life and other people around us will be a caring and loving one. That we will all be praying for peace in our homes, in our country and the rest of the world. We all need to pray that God will use us as his instruments of love and peace. We need to pray that the new year is better for all, that the economies of the world, especially Europe will be much better and that people will be less greedy. We need to pray that God enables us to care for the environment and that we understand better the new weather patterns that have come into play of late.

The Drive family is doing okay. We have some of our members who need our prayers and care: Barbara Foster continues in hospital as does Audrey R. May Levett has been moved to a care home temporarily?! Liz A has not been well for the past three weeks; Leotta has been in King George but she is much better now with less pain and let's hope that she improves and can

walk about again, plus a few others with aches and pains here and there. God has been good to the whole church family.

May I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy and success in whatever new ventures you may decide to embark on. May the Lord Jesus make it possible for you all to achieve in any challenges you take on. Let us become even more of a welcoming church.

May God keep you blessed

**Dino**

### **Family News**

30<sup>th</sup> December we wish Jo Wright many happy returns on her birthday

31<sup>st</sup> December Happy birthday and many more to come, to Page Fordree, and we wish her every success as she starts her education in Wanstead Church School in January.

We were pleased to see Betty Griffiths back in her usual seat after her absence due to a health problem. She writes:-

My recent little bad patch healthwise has been a bit of an endurance test, and the Prayers, cards, phone calls and visits from the good kind folk at The Drive have been deeply appreciated.

Also returning and looking better was Jane Shields, who has suffered an operation on her foot resulting in her having mobility problems for a while. Welcome back Jane.

**Audrey Runeckles** remains in the London Hospital, and is making slow progress. She looks forward to moving into her new flat when she is well enough.

**Barbara Foster** is still in Whipps Cross Hospital and receiving treatment.

**Leotta Alleyne** is recovering at home following a hip operation.

**May Levette** has now been moved from King George Hospital into Eastwood Lodge care home.

**Kathleen Taylor** went into Hospital on November 26<sup>th</sup> to undergo a knee replacement. We wish her a speedy recovery.

**Liz Amah** is unwell at present, and undergoing investigations. We hope she is soon better and back with us.

### **CHRISTMAS CHURCH LUNCH**

**Tuesday 18th December at 1.00pm**

Will any of our retired members wishing to come to the lunch, please see Catherine as soon as possible.

The charge will be £4.

**Catherine Sayers**

### **DECEMBER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP**

Because of the joint Advent studies with other churches being held on Tuesdays in December, our December Church Fellowship meeting will move to **Monday December 10th. at 8.00pm**

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

**Frank Sayers**

### **FLOWERS IN CHURCH**

The Flower Rota in the Porch runs up until the end of February, but at the moment is completely blank. If anyone has anything to celebrate or commemorate at the start of 2013, Please put your name down.

**Catherine Sayers**

### **Samaritan's Purse Christmas shoe boxes.**

A big thank you to everyone who provided gifts and items for the Christmas shoe boxes. I took 25 to the collection point and they were pleased to receive them.

**Jo Wright**

### **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 beautiful pictures of our lovely countryside. Together with donations from people who could not be there the evening raised £175.

**Frank Sayers**

**Junior Church party and talent show 2.00- 4.30pm**  
**On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

We will be rehearsing the Nativity play in the church. This will **start at 2.00pm**. Afterwards we will be having a Christmas party and talent show. It would be appreciated if all children could be there. We will **finish at 4.30pm**.

**Toy and Nativity Service 16<sup>th</sup> December**

The Junior Church will be taking part in the Nativity and Toy service on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

If you would like to donate a new toy then please keep it unwrapped, but supply wrapping paper with it, if possible. A collection will also be taken.

All gifts will be donated to the family and children's centre where Lorraine Bendon works.

**Stories around the tree**

Please come and join us on **Christmas Eve at 5.30pm** where you can make Christmas crafts, sing songs, ring bells and listen to some Christmas stories.

**Whitechapel Mission.**

Much of the tinned food, biscuits and cereals which had been donated to the Harvest Festival which was led by Revd. Bernardino Mandate on 7<sup>th</sup> October, was collected by Mr Tony Miller when he came to take our service on 28<sup>th</sup> October, together with some additional clothing and goods which had arrived from our congregation.

Our sincere thanks to all those who donated, including the parents and staff of the pre-school, who are always very generous with their gifts.

We have also passed on some warm winter clothing which had appeared in the collection box at the back of the church.

**Roy Brunnen.**

**Books for King George Hospital**

The friends shop at the hospital are always pleased to receive good clean books which can be read by patients. Ruth Joyce works in the shop. Any books to Ruth or myself please.

**Roy Brunnen.**



NEW ESSEX CHOIR

presents



# Joy to the World



## Music for Christmas

Lawrence Tatnall ~ conductor

Andrew Taylor ~ organ

Peter Miller ~ piano

Saturday 8th December 2012

7.30 pm

The Drive Methodist Church

Ilford IG1 3PP

(near Redbridge Station)

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions)

[www.newessexchoral.org.uk](http://www.newessexchoral.org.uk)

  
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF MUSIC SOCIETIES

**Junior Church and Crèche**  
**Come and join us every Sunday morning in Junior Church and Crèche.**

**We have groups for various ages where we learn about the love of God through the Bible, Singing, Drama and Fellowship. Everyone is welcome 10.45 – 11.45am**  
**Jo Wright**

### **JMA Sunday**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November was the annual service and certificate presentation for JMA, and this year was led by Diane Foster. It was a very well organised service with lots of input from the junior Church and Crèche. We learnt about the origin of JMA from a suitably attired Mr Joseph Blake (Matthew Foster), and also how the money is distributed. I and I am sure others learnt a lot from this service. Extremely well done Diane, and thank you.

**Roy Brunnen**

### **Remembrance**

This year Remembrance day, 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November, came on a Sunday, and we were therefore able to incorporate the country wide silence during the service.

Our service was led by Mr John Nicholls who had timed and organised his service to perfection. Rochelle Inbakumar carried the book of remembrance down the church to the preacher as we approached the eleventh hour, and it was placed in the stand. Joel Inbakumar lit the candle of remembrance. We had decorated the front of the choir stalls and communion table with flags, and placed the plaques showing the names of those who gave their lives for our freedom in the first world war.

**Roy Brunnen.**

## **WEA Course Fun with Maps!**

How they are produced, their history and how to use them. This is a 10 week course on Thursdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm commencing on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in The Drive Church Parlour.

The cost of this course is £75,00, but free to anyone receiving the main state benefits.

Newcomers are welcome at this enjoyable class offered by the Ilford branch of the WEA. Under enthusiastic tutor, Richard Pitts. We will be exploring all things to do with maps.

Why not go along to the first meeting without any obligation, to see whether you can have fun with maps?.

**Brian Taylor.**

## **MUSIC MATTERS**

Members of our choir will once again be taking part in the Small Choirs Festival on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013 at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London. This is an annual event designed to give choirs with few or no men a chance to sing in a larger body of singers using music specially arranged for smaller choirs. Anyone is welcome to come along and join the congregation for the festival – it starts at 5pm and lasts about an hour. Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church is at the top end of Shaftsbury Avenue, near Tottenham Court Road underground station.

We definitely fit into the “small choirs” category these days – we’d very much like to be a larger small choir! If anyone feels they would like to be a part of the choir, either on a regular or irregular basis, please let me know. We’re thinking about how we might be able to organise choir practices to make being part of the choir more accessible to everyone.

## **Carols by Candlelight**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 6:30pm  
in the church

Favourite carols and music from the choir and Junior Church

Seasonal refreshments after the service

The perfect way to begin your Christmas celebrations

**Andrew Taylor**



# The Valentine Singers

invite you to

## A Dickensian Christmas

featuring a performance of

*Mr Fezziwig's Christmas Party*

by Jonathan Rathbone

along with many other Christmas favourites

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm

Barnardo's Church, Barkingside  
Tickets £10 (£5 students/benefit holders) if  
purchased before 15<sup>th</sup> December  
available from Andrew Taylor

## **Coventry Remembers**

I travelled to Coventry on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November to take part in a performance of the Brahms Requiem in Coventry Cathedral. During the afternoon rehearsal it was very moving to watch the sun setting behind the ruins of the old Cathedral.

A coach took our wonderful orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia, back to London after the concert, as many musicians were to take part in Remembrance services on Sunday. Many choir members also left Coventry.

Some of us who stayed were able to attend the very moving "Act of Remembrance" at the new cathedral. One hymn, by Fred Kaan, had been specially commissioned by the Cathedral.

The choir sang one of my favourite anthems, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace" by Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

During the singing of the hymn "O God our help in ages past", the ministers, choir and congregation proceed out of the new Cathedral into the ruins of the old Cathedral.

There the last post was sounded, the two minutes silence kept and reveille sounded.

A cross of nails was blessed. It is to be presented to the Priory Newkloster, Wienerneustadt.

After some more prayers, the dismissal and the National Anthem, we returned to the "new" Cathedral for a cup of tea.

**Susan Ruckes, November 2012.**

### **A Christmas Poem**

Christmas is the candle glow  
That lights the darkest gloom,  
Christmas is the fireside  
That warms the coldest room  
Christmas is the silver star  
That guides all those who roam,  
Christmas is the shining path  
That beckons us back home  
Christmas is the peal of bells  
That spills through frosty air,  
Christmas is the greetings card  
That shows old friends still care  
Christmas is the fragrant dish  
Of joy and hope combined,  
Christmas is the gift of love  
That's meant for all mankind

*By Margaret Ingle.*

# **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP**

## **FORTHCOMING**

## **ATTRACTIONS**

## **IN 2013**

FEB 5 Cllr Keith Prince, Leader of Redbridge Borough Council speaks about his work

MAY 2 Handbells with Andrew Taylor

JUNE 4 Ruth Joyce tells us about her varied life

JULY 3 Jo Wright plays some favourite music

**We meet once a month (except for March & April)**

**on a Tuesday at 8.00pm, followed by refreshments.**

## **COME AND JOIN US**

## Diary December 2012

Sat	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00am	Share a Skill. Church Parlour
<b>Sun</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service W Holy communion Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate</b>
Tue	4 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Advent Course 2. Isaiah 7 v14 Cranbrook Baptist Church, Wellesley Road
Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Advent Course 2. Isaiah 7 v14 St Andrews Church, The Drive
Thu	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	New Essex Choir Concert
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Devotion and Junior Church</b>
		11.15am	United service at Gantshill Church
Mon	10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church Fellowship
Tue	11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Advent Course 3. Isaiah 9 v1-7 Cranbrook Baptist Church, Wellesley Road
Wed	12 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Advent Course 3. Isaiah 9 v1-7 St Andrews Church, The Drive
Thu	12 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Morning. Gardeners Cafe, Valentines Mansion.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service. The Nativity and Toy Service. Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate and The Junior Church</b>
Tue	18 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Church Lunch
Tue	18 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Advent Course 4 Matthew 1 v17 Cranbrook Baptist Church, Wellesley Road
Wed	19 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Advent Course 4 Matthew 1 v17 St Andrews Church, The Drive.
Thu	20 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice

<b>Sun</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b> <b>led by Mr Frank Sayers</b>
		<b>6.30pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b> <b>Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate</b>
Mon	24 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Stories round the Christmas Tree
<b>Tue</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Christmas Morning Service</b> <b>led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate</b>

<b>Sun</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b> <b>led by Mr Ian Sheach</b>
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### January 2013

<b>Sun</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service,</b> <b>with Holy Communion.</b> <b>Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate</b> <b>This is the annual covenant service</b>
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<b>Sun</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b> <b>led by Mr Allan Ramsden</b>
			Last day for receiving items for the February newsletter
Tue	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Monthly morning Holy communion
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Morning at the gardeners cafe, Valentines Mansion.

<b>Sun</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b> <b>led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate</b>
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<b>Sun</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b> <b>led by Revd. Jan Tate</b>
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### Happy Christmas and New Year

Thank you for your contributions to the newsletter  
They are always welcome  
**Roy Brunnen.**