

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

# NEWSLETTER

February 2013



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

## **A New Year Message from Revd. Bernardino Mandlate**

Friends

Welcome to the New Year. I trust that with God's blessing you all had a good festive season and now busy with whatever the New Year brings along.

As I write, snow is falling?! Everything outside has a white layer and looks beautiful to the eyes and I hope that one way or another you have all had a glimpse of it. Sorry if you are reading this from outside the border of the United Kingdom. Children are playing snow fights and building snowmen in the park.

I know that there is a scientific explanation to what we see in the weather patterns these days. There are weather changing patterns, there is the global warming, there is the positioning of the jet stream, but, somehow, I believe there is the hand of God. He continues to be at work in our world and in our lives. The work of creation continues and we have become partners with God in that work. I know that our behaviour with God's creation affects the way in which nature responds or acts. I encourage you to look after God's creation and environment and in turn nature will look after us. Friends, The Drive continues to be healthy and slowly growing. We are grateful to all those committed to the life of our church, and we will always be grateful for more of you who can commit some of your time to the life of our church, helping in other aspects of the church other than coming every Sunday. If you think you can spare some time to help please get in touch with the church stewards and they will advise on roles that need people to perform.

Time crawls fast these days and soon it will be Lent. Lent sessions will begin with Ash Wednesday service at our church and the lent sessions will be at St Andrews with the Maundy Thursday being held at the Cranbrook Baptist. I appeal to as many of you who can attend, to participate in some or all the events. It is usually a good time to reflect on our lives and what Jesus did for us. Make it your opportunity to reflect on your own life, where you've been and where you're heading to.

It is my prayer that God will continue to be with us and encourage and nudge us onward; that you may get to know the Lord better and what He means for you in your life. May He be a lighthouse for you and those around you.

May you continue to be blessed. *Dino*

### **Iris Ruby Bennett-Wright**

Thank you to everyone who came out in the VERY wintery weather to make Iris' Christening an extremely special day.

Iris enjoyed being Christened by Dino on 20<sup>th</sup> January and she had an amazing time.

*Lorna and Steve*

### **Share a skill shop**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the articles that were sold. A total of £91.00 was raised.

£31.00 was given to the charity "Toy Box" This charity helps children who live on the streets in the UK.

£30.00 was given to JMA

£30.00 was given to "Share a skill" funds

*Rochelle & Donna.*

### **Nativity**

The children in Junior church performed an amazing Nativity play and gave us all something to think about.

Would you be able to speak to an Alien about the true meaning of Christmas?

The day before the Nativity we had a Junior church party where the children took part in a talent show.

They are truly a talented bunch!

*Jo Wright*

### **From Lorna Brown at Ilford Methodist Church**

Please note that the money raised for carol singing at Sainsbury's Ilford amounted to £152.78. A cheque will be sent to SHP (formerly Redbridge night shelter) at York Road, Ilford.

*Lorna*

## **Music Matters**

Christmas season has passed and we look forward to what 2013 has to offer.

However, before we leave Christmas behind altogether, it is important to say a huge thank you to all the members of our choir. We meet together on around 30 Thursday evenings each year, which makes us the most frequent weekday meeting in our church. Despite our small numbers, there are very few Sundays when we do not have enough people to make a choir for the morning service, and Christmas is the culmination of all our efforts throughout the year. This year's Carol Service went very well and was very well received by the congregation. We hope that everyone who was there felt the true spirit of the Christmas story as it was told once again in words and music, as we did, and that it provided a welcome break from the hustle and bustle that preceeds the big day!

Now the new year has come, the first thing we turn our attention to is the Small Choirs' Festival, which we have been attending for some years now. This year, it is once again being held at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8EP, a short walk from Tottenham Court Road underground station on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The service begins at 5pm and anyone is welcome to attend, to hear the massed choirs singing and join in the congregational hymns.

Then, Lent and Easter will be upon us, and the whole cycle comes round again...

*Andrew Taylor*

## **Work Mornings**

meet The property Committee has agreed the following dates for Church Work Mornings in 2013:-

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September

The work Mornings are an essential element in maintaining our Church premises and, as ever, I appeal for support. Jobs range from repairs to gardening to light cleaning. All help will be greatly

appreciated. We meet at around 10.00am and generally finish by 12.00noon. Coffee is at 11.00am

*Jeremy Foster*

### **CHURCH FELLOWSHIP 2013**

Our first meeting of 2013 is on Tuesday February 5 at 8.00pm in the Church Parlour. Our speaker that evening is Cllr. KEITH PRINCE , Leader of REDBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL who is coming for a second time to tell us more about the work of REDBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL and its plans for the future..

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 7th when Andrew Taylor will present another .evening of Hand-bell Ringing.

*Frank Sayers*

### **Fairtrade Fundraiser**

I would like to invite you to stay after church and enjoy a traidcraft big brew on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. There will be a cake sale to raise funds, and all offers of cakes, etc will be gratefully received. The traidcraft big brew is a nationwide initiative helping individuals, charities, schools and work places to host a fair trade event during fair-trade fortnight 2013, which runs from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013 and aims to support small holder farmers to grow more and provide more food for their families and communities.

To raise more funds and keep your tea warm in this weather, I will be making some mug-hugs, these are small cup holders and can be knitted or made from felt. Please let me know if you can help.

*Michelle Garner*

### **Three Churches Christmas Card**

How many at the Drive read the excellent summary of Christmas services? After the cards have been delivered to the area, a few are usually to be found on the table.

I noticed that the last event on the card was a Carol Service at St John the Baptist R.C. church at 7.30pm on 27<sup>th</sup> December.

There were fifteen of us at the service including a number from Walthamstow. The carols and readings were traditional. We sang "A maiden most gentle", which I have not sung for years.

The organist, Tom, was excellent keeping the hymns moving. The singing was surprisingly very good for a small number in a large

church. The father led the prayers. (Priest of St John the Baptist church) Afterwards we went downstairs for excellent refreshments. Everything was displayed beautifully. It was a chance to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. A lovely end to the three churches Christmas celebration. Next year perhaps??

*Susan Ruckes. 20/1/13/*

### **New Year**

*Written by Rochelle (10 Years)*

Finally, the New Year  
Has approached and now come.  
The fireworks explode, some clapping and cheer  
And no sign of any glum.

Season's Greetings  
And calls to be made.  
Handshakes, hugs and kisses  
Plus bills to be paid!

The world celebrates  
And has lots of fun.  
But at the end of the day  
There's some work to be done!

Down comes the Christmas tree  
And the decorations too  
I can't believe it  
But it's true!

New Year Resolutions are made  
It's been a beautiful day  
But thank goodness  
We had fun today!

*Rochelle Inbakumar (10 Years)*

It is always a delight to receive items from our young people.  
*Roy Brunnen.- Editor*

### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This takes place on the first Friday in March each year, when Christian women around the Borough take it in turns to host the service.

This year the Christian Women of France have produced the service and we shall be meeting on March 1st at 2pm at The Vine United Reformed Church in Riches Road.

Do come (women and men welcome) and enjoy this thought-provoking service.

If there is any woman who would like to be a representative from this Church on the Committee, they would be very welcome. Please see me.

*Catherine Sayers*

### **New Essex Choir**

The choir will be giving another concert in the church on Saturday 16th March at 7.30 pm.

The main item in the programme will be the Mass in G major by Franz Schubert. Written when the composer was just 18 years old for his local church in Liechtenthal, a suburb of Vienna, it is a fine example of Schubert's lyrical skill. Also in the programme will be sacred music by European composers including Bruckner: *Locus iste*, Fauré: *Cantique de Jean Racine*, Frank: *Panis angelicus*.

Tickets price £10 (£8) will be available from *Kathleen and Brian Taylor*.

### **Share a skill**

We start again on 2<sup>nd</sup> March with French Cafe. This is repeated on 16<sup>th</sup> March and will be taken by Hilary Evans from St Andrews Church.

Knitting and Crochet with Jean.

Mick will be on hand for individual Lap top Queries.

Our thanks to Donna & Rochelle for organising the shop. Thanks once again to Donna for making the jewellery.

*Janet Wragg.*



## **A 21<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!**

The Drive JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday this year and I hope you will be able to come along and make it a happy one!

**SATURDAY 9th MARCH 2013  
2.30 pm for 3 pm START  
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL**

Raising funds for JMA (Junior Mission for All)  
for projects both at home and abroad.

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

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



With Thanks  
*Diane Foster*



### **From Katy Fordree.**

At a recent service we had the pleasure of listening to Katy who read a story which touched a few of us, and I thought it well worth reproducing.

*Roy Brunnen.*

### **A letter from the Post Office.**

Our 14 year old dog Abbey died last month.

The day after she passed away my 4 year old daughter Meredith was crying and talking about how much she missed Abbey.

She asked if we could write a letter to God so that when Abbey got to heaven, God would recognise her.

I told her that I thought we could so, and she dictated these words:

Dear God,

Will you please take care of my dog?

She died yesterday and is with you in heaven.

I miss her very much.

I'm happy that you let me have her as my dog even though she got sick.

I hope you will play with her.

She likes to swim and play with balls.

I am sending a picture of her so when you see her you will know that she is my dog.

I really miss her.

Love Meredith.

We put the letter in an envelope with a picture of Abbey & Meredith, addressed it to God/Heaven.

We put our return address on it.

Meredith pasted several stamps on the front of the envelope because she said it would take lots of stamps to get the letter all the way to Heaven. That afternoon she dropped it into the letter box at the post office.

A few days later, she asked if God had got the letter yet.

I told her that I thought he had.

Yesterday, there was a package wrapped in gold paper on our front porch addressed, 'To Meredith@ in an unfamiliar hand.

Meredith opened it.

Inside was a book by Mr Rogers called 'When a Pet Dies'

Taped to the inside front cover was the letter we had written to God in its opened envelope.

On the opposite page was the picture of Abbey & Meredith and this note:

Dear Meredith,

Abbey arrived safely in heaven. Having the picture was a big help and I recognised her right away.

Abbey isn't sick anymore..

Her spirit is here with me just like it says in your heart.

Abbey loved being your dog.

Since we don't need our bodies in Heaven, I don't have any pockets to keep your picture in so I'm sending it back to you in this little book for you to keep and have something to remember Abbey by.

Thank you for the beautiful letter and thank your mother for helping you write it and sending it to me.

What a wonderful mother you have.

I picked her especially for you.

I send my blessings every day and remember that I love you so much.

By the way, I'm easy to find.

I am wherever there is Love.

Love,

God.

*Submitted by Katie Fordree.*

### **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

We have received a warm letter of thanks from Action For Children formerly The National Children's Home in response to the cheque for £175 which we raised at our "Slides' Evening" last Autumn. The letter also outlines the work they are currently doing, and may be read on the church notice board.

*Frank Sayers*

## **The Wish**

Recently, I overheard a mother and daughter in their last moments together at the airport as the daughter's departure had been announced. Standing near the security gate, they hugged and the mother said: "I love you and wish you enough."

The daughter replied,

Mom, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Mom." They kissed and the daughter left.

The mother walked over to the window where I sat. Standing there, I could see she wanted and needed to cry. I tried not to intrude on her privacy but she welcomed me in by asking, "Did you ever say goodbye to someone knowing it would be forever?" "Yes I have" I replied. "Forgive me for asking but why is this a forever good-bye?"

"I am old and she lives so far away. I have challenges ahead and the reality is the next trip back will be for my funeral," she said. When you were saying good-bye, I heard you say, "I wish you enough." May I ask what that means?.

She began to smile. "That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone." She paused a moment and looked up as if trying to remember it in detail and she smiled even more.

"When we said 'I wish you enough' we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them". Then turning towards me, she shared the following, reciting it from memory.

"I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.

I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.

I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.

I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.

I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.

I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.

I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final good-bye."

She then began to cry and walked away.

Nurture Relationships.....

As they say....it takes a minute to find a special person~

An hour to appreciate them~

A day to love them~

And then an entire life to forget them.  
*Submitted by Hilary Stevens.*

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



### **Visit to The Drive Methodist Church by Redbridge Primary School**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2013, 90 Year 2 children from Redbridge Primary visited The Drive to learn about the inside of a Christian church and how Christmas is celebrated in a church. They surprised us by turning up early but we were ready for them. There was some lively discussion about what is really important at Christmas, 'helping others' as well as 'celebration' were ideas mentioned. Frank introduced them to the organ and this caused some excitement as many had not heard live organ music before. The children were very interested in this which prompted lots of questions later such as 'how long does it take to learn the organ' The next day the children were performing a Nativity so I was able to build on this information and explain something of the meaning of this story to Christians. Many thanks to those who came to help open up, make refreshments and answer children's questions. Some of the questions were straightforward such as 'where are people given their hymn books' others more thought out such as 'how long would it take to learn the Bible' but all showed that the children were engaging with enquiring minds about with what they were seeing around them.

Best wishes,

Carol Dawson

(Religious Education Resources Project)

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER  
FRIDAY MARCH 1st 2013

Come and join the United Churches of  
Ilford for

A Service of Prayer  
and Worship at

VINE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH,  
RICHES RD,

ILFORD at 2.00 pm

Guest Speakers & Special Guests

***The Worshipful Mayor of  
Redbridge –  
COUNCILLOR MUHAMMED JAVED***

***Local Members of Parliament &  
Redbridge Councillors.***

Woodlands  
West Essex Family Centre  
9 Peterwood  
Harlow  
Essex  
CM18 7RJ



2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are so very grateful for the generosity of the church congregation who donated toys and a financial gift of £175 to Woodlands Family Centre (previously Loughton Family Centre).

The toys have already been given out to parents who are in need, and the money has been used to purchase staple food items for hampers.

We were sad to leave Loughton, but we are now feeling settled in our new centre which has been transformed into a warm and welcoming place for the parents and children we work with. While we have moved, the area we serve has not changed.

For many years the people at The Drive have steadfastly supported our work in so many ways, and we send our heartfelt appreciation, especially as times are hard and so many services are being cut.

On behalf of the staff team at Woodlands Family Centre we send you our very best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful New year.

Kind regards,

Lauretta Robertson  
Manager  
Woodlands family Centre



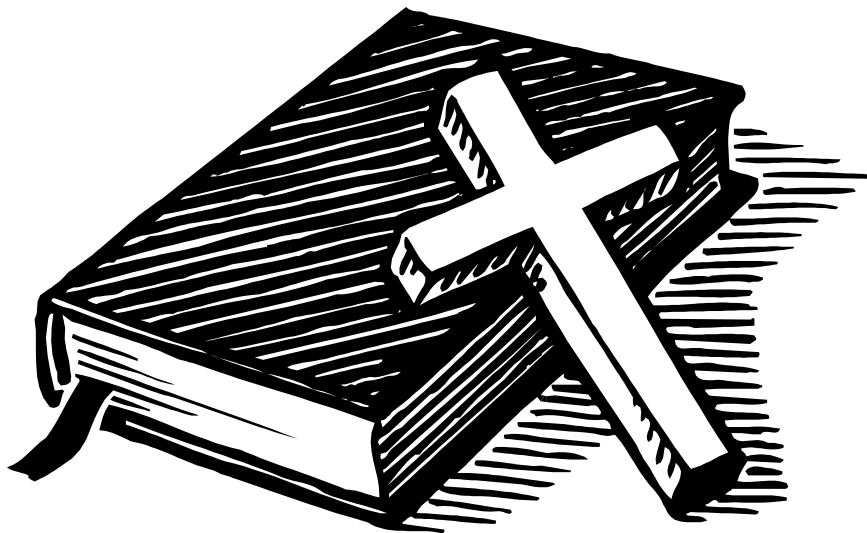
**EssexWorks**  
for a better quality of life



### Diary for February.

Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	6.00pm	Small choirs festival. Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning service</b>
Tue	5 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church Fellowship
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church Life Committee
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
Tue	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning Holy Communion
Wed	13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Service in the church
Thu	14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri	15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Cafe
<b>Sun</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service. 1<sup>st</sup> week in Lent</b>
Tue	19 <sup>th</sup>	1.00pm	Church Lunch
		8.00pm	Lent Course at St Andrews Church
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Lent Course at St Andrews Church
Thu	21 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
Tue	26 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Lent Course at St Andrews Church
Wed	27 <sup>th</sup>	11.30am	Lent Course at St Andrews Church
Thu	28 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice





Dear Lord, we thank you  
For the gift of family;  
For the fellowship of the church family  
And the wider world family.  
We ask that your peace and love stir each and every heart,  
To create harmony and peace throughout the world.  
We pray for those who are alone, bereaved and suffering.  
Hold them in your loving arms  
And grant them the comfort and joy of family and friends.  
Amen.

*Bessie Thewlis, Lytham St Annes.  
Crossing the Chasm.*