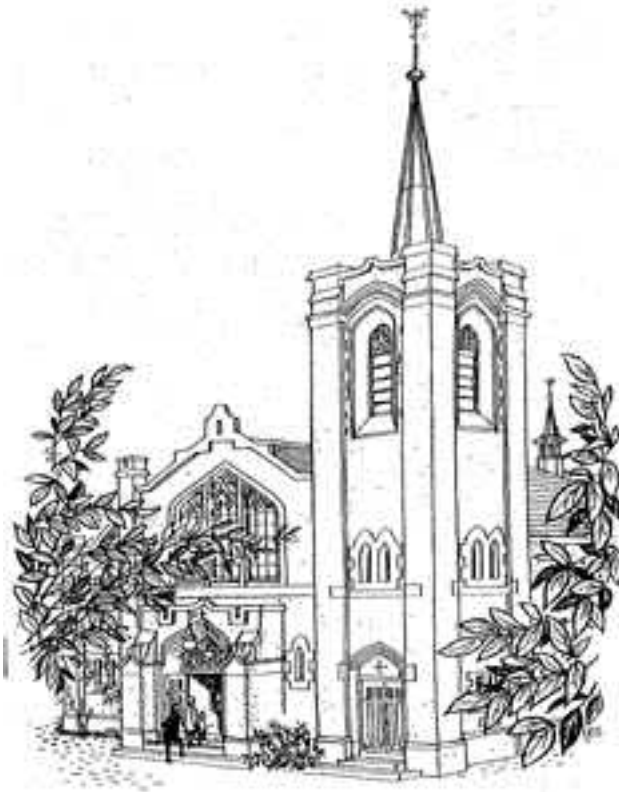


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

March 2014



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

MINISTERS MESSAGE

Friends

I always pray that God will keep all of us safe. It has been a difficult beginning of the year with too much rain for us and for the country. We seem to have had more than our share of rain. When I see floods, it takes me back to Mozambique, where flooding is almost normal because, to some degree, there are floods every year at around this time of the year. Even as I write, there are warnings in Mozambique of severe flooding and people being warned to move away from areas prone to flooding. I thank God that only a small number of lives have been lost in these floods, unlike in Mozambique where people get caught in these natural disasters and die. We feel sorry for the thousands of people who have been affected by these floods, whose homes have been messed up and destroyed in many cases and we pray that government and insurance brokers may help them to rebuild as quick as possible.

Are we facing the effects of climate change?! If so, more of these floods may be coming our way more often. We need to start taking measures with immediate effect, to amend some of the impact on our lives of this climate change. Scientists will soon tell us whether it is. Our environmental behaviour may need to change and fast.

Friends, with the passing to higher services of Mrs Barbara Foster, we have lost a long standing and active member of our church. I am sure that she has left her prints all over our church family. We pray for her soul to rest in peace, we pray that God will give comfort to Peter, the children and grand children, and that the memories we have of her will keep us going and striving to enlarge our church family. May The Lord bless her. Let us keep the faith in Jesus Christ.

The gospel in the last few weeks has been challenging us to be better than the Pharisees in what we do. The only way we can better them is by doing what we can for the sake of loving others. The gospel challenges us to be more practical with our belief and our faith. It is not enough to love God. We have to practise what the gospel advises us to. When the gospel says 'thou shall not kill...' It is not only the actual killing, but the more embracing love that we need to think about. Loving God and loving our neighbours. Being able to forgive those who wrong us. Being able to humble ourselves even if we are not the ones who are in the wrong, to approach our 'enemies' and reconcile with them, make amends with them. That would be godly if we are able to achieve. Let us try and keep trying, And may God help along the way to achieve that goal.

May the good Lord be our guide, may he continue to bless each and everyone of us"

Dino

BARBARA FOSTER. 1929 – 2014.

The Foster family wish to thank everyone for their cards and expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of Mum. These have been a great comfort to all of us and are greatly appreciated. We are pleased to advise that our appeal in Mum's name on behalf of Age UK has raised over £1000.

The Foster family.

MEMORIES OF BARBARA FOSTER

During the very moving funeral service for Barbara, mention was made of her many interests and activities.

As Audrey Taylor wrote last month, Barbara edited The Drive monthly Newsletter for many years, and was meticulous in collecting news of our folk for publication. I typed the stencils for the Scout Group's elderly Gestetner duplicator which was expertly operated by Dorothy Seviour.

A few years ago we held an informal Nativity Service at The Drive. As we arrived for the service, we were given a costume to wear for the Tableau. Mine was that of a Wise Man. After the service Barbara told me that as I passed her she recognised her old dining room curtains.

Frank Sayers

THE BIG BREW

Please join me on Saturday 1st March, to have a lovely afternoon to raise money for Traidcraft. There will be refreshments, both sweet and savoury, from 12pm til 3pm in the parlour.

All offers of cakes and snacks are gratefully received and there will be some activities and a few stalls; please speak to me if you'd like to have a stall to support your own fundraising.

Michelle Garner.

SHARE – A – SKILL. (SAS)

Share a skill has not been running for the last few months as Janet Wragg has been recuperating after an operation. We will now be resuming.

Here are the dates for the next few share a skill session:-

- 1st March
- 15th March
- 5th April
- 3rd May
- 17th May

They all take place on a Saturday morning in the church parlour between 10am and 12 noon. Everyone is welcome and if you would like to "share a skill" with everyone, whether it's knitting or tattoo art, then please see

Donna Charles or Jo Wright.

Janet will take part in some share a skill sessions, but until Janet returns fully to take the helm again, we wish her and Jeff all the best.

MUSIC MATTERS

Our choir was pleased and proud to be able to sing at the funeral of Barbara Foster. No-one could quite remember for how many years Barbara sang in the choir, but it was certainly a life-long commitment for which we are all grateful. It was fitting that the choir was able to play its own small part in a wonderful celebration of Barbara's rich and varied life.

Members of the choir took part in this year's Small Choirs Festival in central London on Saturday 8th February. This was a joyful occasion with representatives from many churches and denominations, all sent out with the message that even though we may be small in number in our own churches, the job we do in helping to lead worship and keeping a musical tradition alive is very important. This was emphasised in an inspiring homily by Father Peter McGeary, the vicar of St Mary's, Cable Street in what he himself called "a wonderfully unreconstructed part of the East End". He is also a talented singer, and when not caring for his flock in E1, acts as a Priest Vicar of Westminster Abbey. In describing the differing musical traditions just a small number of underground stops apart, he noted that the musicians of our great cathedrals all got the "bug" somewhere, and very often that was in a small choir in their local church.

We're delighted to have a new voice in the choir – John Pearson, who has recently started attending worship at the Drive with his wife Janet, is a very welcome addition.

This month we will be preparing music with the choir and the Drive Chorale for Mothering Sunday and Easter. Look out for details of when the Chorale will be practising after Sunday morning services – anyone (really!) is welcome to join in. We've also been asked to join with singers from St Andrew's and Cranbrook Baptist to form a choir for the Ash Wednesday service at St Andrew's on 5th March.

Andrew Taylor

THANK YOU

I was reading Roy's article in the February newsletter. It thanked people for helping to organise and take part in various activities over the Christmas period.

It was clear that everyone in some way had played their part whether it was being in the actual event or sitting in the congregation enjoying it.

It made me think that everyone had been thanked except Roy.

Roy beavers away in the back ground, with the support of his wife Janet, organising the running of our church. He leads a team of stewards who together make sure the life of the church, and all its festivals and events, run smoothly.

So thank you too Roy for all that you do here at The Drive.

Jo

SINGING THE FAITH – THE SECOND YEAR **WE'VE NOW SUNG ONE THIRD OF THE BOOK!**

We first used the new Methodist hymnal *Singing the Faith* on Sunday 15th January 2012. Since then I have kept a note of the hymns and songs used (from now on, I'll just refer to them as "songs"), and for those of you interested in statistics, here is a summary of those we used in 2013.

Not included in these figures are the 10 songs chosen by preachers that are not in *StF*, and any songs the choir has sung alone.

Over the year we sang 176 different songs from *StF*, which is 22 fewer than were used in 2012. These were the most frequently used songs:

7 times:	94	<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done!</i>
5 times:	35	<i>The trumpets sound, the angels sing</i>
	345	<i>And can it be that I can gain</i>
	611	<i>Brother, sister, let me serve you</i>
	663	<i>I, the Lord of sea and sky</i>
4 times:	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>
	25	<i>God is here, as we his people</i>
	503	<i>Love divine, all loves excelling</i>
	91	<i>The God of Abraham praise</i>

The only songs that appeared in the same list last year are 94 *To God be the glory*, which has moved from joint second place to the top slot, and 20 *Be still*, which has moved in the opposite direction!

A further 16 songs were chosen 3 times, 35 twice and the remaining 116 just once.

Of the total 176 songs used, 17 were completely new to us.

Taking the two years we have been using *StF* overall, we have now used 274 of the 790 songs available (not including the Canticles and Psalms section) which is one third of the book covered. By far the most used song in those 2 years has been 94 *To God be the glory* – a whopping 12 times.

Will we have sung half the book by the end of 2014?

Andrew Taylor

NEW ESSEX CHOIR

On Saturday 12th April the choir will be joined by the Thorn Quartet to give a concert in the church.

The programme will include Vivaldi – Gloria, Haydn – Little Organ Mass and Parry – Blest pair of Sirens.

Tickets price £10 (£10) from Brian Taylor (8550 5303) or on the door.

Brian Taylor

COMMUNION COLLECTIONS

We normally have one service with communion either on the first Sunday each month, or if that does not prove possible, we try to have Communion during the month.

We also have a Communion on Days of special importance.

Following the normal monthly Communion a second collection is taken, which is dedicated to various charities, and I have printed here the Charities we currently support.

January	Redbridge Voluntary care
February	The Barnabas workshop
March	Our Church benevolent fund
April	Raysin Hope. (Brain Tumour Charity)
May	Christian Aid
June	Our Church benevolent fund
July	Whitechapel Mission
August	Methodist relief & development fund
September	Our Church benevolent fund
October	Redbridge Samaritans
November	Redbridge cold weather centre. (Led by the Ilford Salvation Army)
December	Haven House Children's Hospice.

Roy Brunnen.

VALENTINE SINGERS

Brahms German Requiem

(sung in German with Brahms' own piano duet accompaniment)

Saturday 15th March at 7:30pm

St John's Church, Epping CM16 5DN

Tickets £12 (£5 students/benefit holders) if bought in advance

Ask Andrew Taylor

If you don't know this wonderful work (or even if you do!)

it will be well worth the trip to Epping to hear the Valentine Singers.

Free parking in nearby public car parks or a short walk from Epping station.

Andrew Taylor.



**OUR ANNUAL
JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA (and raffle)
will be held on:
SATURDAY 15th MARCH 2014
2.30 pm for 3 pm START
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL
Adult: £5; Children (under 16): £2.50**

All profits go to JMA (Junior Mission for All)
raising funds for projects both at home and abroad.
Come along and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun!

***Tickets are available from me now
so please tell all your family and friends.***

With thanks
**Diane
Foster**



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The theme this year was "Has Christ been divided?" (1 Corinthians 1 verse 13) The theme came to us from the Churches of French Canada.

On Tuesday Dino spoke about a family of perhaps ten children, all very different from each other, but where the parents can see the good in each one.

We should all appreciate different forms of Worship, although we feel more at home with our own style of service. We admire the Salvation Army for running the night shelter, but feel we couldn't do the same ourselves. However, we can assist by donating money and goods.

We may feel uncomfortable at a Pentecostal service, but we can appreciate that many, especially the young, are attracted by their style of worship.

During Christian Unity week we should respect all different forms of worship and appreciate each other's contribution as we are all Christian.

On Thursday it was the Hospital Chapel that led the service followed by the regular Thursday communion service.

The regular Chapel congregation tends to be ecumenical with worshippers attending their own churches on Sunday.

On Friday the service was taken by Fr. David Waller of St John the Baptist R.C. church (see p6 February newsletter) as Fr. Andrew of S.S. Peter and Paul church had to take a funeral at the same time.

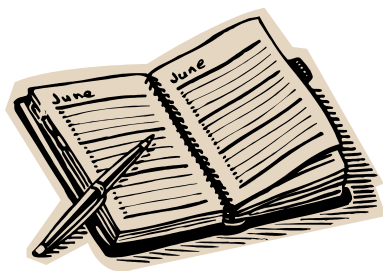
On Saturday the Salvation Army led the service with music from the singing group. The youngest "member" was six month old Miriam Clifton, daughter of Naomi & John Clifton, who was happy in her mother's arms appearing to read the music and turn the pages.

Naomi Clifton led the service and talked of a complete double rainbow she had seen. The rainbow is made up of different colours which look beautiful together.

As a former member of the United Church of Canada, I should like to know more about the Churches of French Canada and regret being unable to attend the service at St Mary's High Road, Ilford. I had no idea that the founder of my favourite Canadian City arrived on a ship called "Don de dieu" or "Gift of God". A prize for the first person who tells me the name of the founder.....

Susan Ruckes.

Deadline for items to be included in the April Newsletter 23rd March.



MARCH DIARY.

Sat 1 st	10.00am	Share a skill in the Church Parlour
Sun 2nd	11.15am	Morning Service.
Wed 5 th	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday at St Andrews Church
Fri 7 th	2.00pm	Women's world day of prayer
Sun 9th	11.15am	Morning Service for Lent
Tue 11 th	10.00am	Morning Communion in the Vestry.
Thu 13 th	8.00pm	Church council meeting
Fri 14 th	10.00am	Church coffee morning at Gardeners Cafe, Valentines Mansion
Sat 15 th	10.00am	Share a skill in the Church Parlour.
	2.30pm	Church Beetle Drive
Sun 16th	11.15am	Morning Service
Tue 18 th	2.30pm	Church Tea Party in the Parlour
Sun 23rd	11.15am	Morning Service
Tue 25 th	8.00pm	Lent Service at Cranbrook Baptist Church
Wed 26 th	7.30pm	Circuit meeting at Gants Hill Church.
Sun 30th	11.15am	Morning Service for Mothering Sunday