

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

NEWSLETTER

May 2014



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

From our minister Bernardino Mandlate

Friends

As I write, we have just celebrated Easter, which marks the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the grave. He came out bearing scars from the passion and suffering He had to endure for the sake of God's children.

I am mentioning the scars of Jesus because, one way or another, we all bear scars brought about by impositions of life as we know it.

I have a few scars on me. Some were a result of my way of playing as a child, others were a result of life immunisation, and yet others were inflicted on me by life situations beyond my control. The world as we have it is inflicting scars on millions of God's people by way of hunger, injustices, oppression, wars, bloodshed, etc.

Some scars are physical and others are emotional. But they are all scars. Very often people, ourselves included, question where God is or what is he doing about the suffering in our world.

Jesus bore the scars inflicted on him by our world before us. God, having chosen to be a human being, experienced in his flesh, the suffering we go through. He went hungry on occasions, he was ostracised by authorities and people who would not listen to his teaching, people who chose not to see the signs or miracles he performed. Eventually he was crucified and rose from the dead with scars which Thomas wanted to see to believe.

Those scars are greater and more meaningful than mine. They are there in Jesus body to tell me that He knows my pains and sufferings because He's been there himself. They tell me I can trust Jesus with my life because He has the experience I am going through on a daily basis.

I invite you all to trust Jesus with your lives because He knows what you are going through and how it feels like. Jesus loves you. May God bless you

Dino

FAMILY NEWS

Happy birthday to my Granny (Christine) who will be celebrating her birthday on the 25th of May.

Rochelle Inbakumar

Congratulations to Matthew Foster

Matthew has completed his training for the Royal Navy, and passed out as an officer from the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth on Thursday 1st May.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP - SUMMER SEASON

Our next meeting is on Tuesday May 6 at 8.00pm in the Church Parlour will be an evening with HANDBELLS led by Andrew Taylor, and judging by previous years' experiences, it will be a most enjoyable and instructive evening.

Do come along. The dark evenings are over till the Autumn. Refreshments are served. Our June meeting is on Tuesday June 10, when Janet Wragg will play recordings of some of her favourite music.

FLOWERS

Thank you to all our generous members, who so kindly pay for our weekly display and make donations to the Flower Fund . We would ask you to keep us informed of any folk who are ill or absent. (Information given twice is better than not at all.) Please help us to keep in touch in this way.

Catherine .Sayers.

COME AND JOIN ME

I am proposing to hold a gathering on Saturday 24th May in the Church Parlour to which all members of the congregation, together with some friends and neighbours, are invited. In order to help with the catering, would you please let me know by the 4th May if you will be coming. The event is due to start at 3.00 p.m. for about 2 hours.

Please do not go getting me any presents. It is your presence I require, not your presents.

Brian Grinham

MUSIC MATTERS

Our thanks go once again to the members of the Choir and the Drive Chorale for their massive contribution to the Easter Sunday service. The rehearsal time before Easter is always a bit tricky with school holidays and Holy Week, but that did not show on Easter Sunday as our church musicians coped wonderfully with everything that was asked of them.

There are more opportunities coming up very soon for everyone to be involved in music-making. I am leading the Church Fellowship meeting on Tuesday 6th May, when we will be getting out the hand bells once again. My plan is to prepare something that we can use in the service on Sunday 18th May, which will be centred around music in worship. Playing the hand bells is easy (it's all done by numbers!) and is suitable for all ages, so please do come along on 6th May if you can and join in the fun.

The Choir and the Chorale will be involved in the service on 18th May, so there will be practices after the Sunday morning services on 4th and 11th May for anyone who wants to sing with us.

AND ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SING...

VALENTINE SINGERS
are looking for members for a
COMMUNITY CHORUS

The Valentine Singers' summer concert on Saturday 12th July will include a performance of Alexander L'Estrange's *Ahoy! Sing for the Mary Rose*, which is a suitably nautical jaunt through the story of Henry VIII's flagship the *Mary Rose*. The performers will include children from local schools and a Community Chorus which is open to anyone who wants to be involved. If you've ever watched *The Choir* on TV and thought, "I'd like to do something like that!", now is your chance!

The commitment is six Friday evening practices from 6th June, at a cost of only £5 per session. The sessions will be led by an experienced choral tutor and it promises to be great fun – you will know some of the tunes already!

For more details, ask Andrew Taylor, visit the website www.valentinesingers.org or ring 01277 651970. Leaflets about this are available at the church door – tell your friends as well!

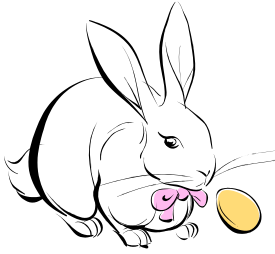
Andrew Taylor

HELP

Elizabeth Amah is seeking help with administering Communion at our services. The only requirement is that those assisting with the distribution of the elements are members of the Methodist Church. We are also trying to avoid taking members of the choir away from their singing as Andrew tries to arrange singing during Communion.

If you feel you would like to join the "team" please speak with Elizabeth or one of the stewards.

Elizabeth Amah.



Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Easter Egg Hunt, and an extra special big thank you to all the Junior church team who served refreshments and provided all the wonderful crafts. A good time was had by all.

Jo Wright

FUNDRAISING - FREE THE CHILDREN
Thank you!

A big thank you to all those who helped me with my sponsored silence on 26th March. I managed to raise an amazing total of £75! The money will go towards building schools in Southern Asia and Africa. **Free the Children** is a registered charity in America, Canada and now in the UK. It is the largest network of children helping their peers around the world. I supported one of their campaigns called "WE Are Silent". This campaign gives girls an opportunity to go to school. Not only does this transform their lives, their families will benefit in the process. Then, they go on to fundraise at their schools for others. This way we can break the cycle of poverty for good. All their campaigns are for different things, like giving them clean water and sanitation but they all have one thing in common, they are all working towards a change. A change that is possible, if we try. For more information please visit www.freethechildren.com.

Rochelle Inbakumar

"MESSIAH" AT THE DRIVE

A few months ago someone asked me if "Messiah" had been done at The Drive. Well it has now!

The choir filled all the choir stalls and there was an "overflow" pew of sopranos. A high percentage of the choir had taken part in performances before.

There was a large audience. I don't think they were disappointed. Many thanks to Andrew Taylor, our choirmaster who kept us all on track when we, like the sheep, went astray.....

Susan Ruckes

We are pleased to report that the event raised nearly £1300 for the Bahay ng Pag-asa (House of Hope) Outreach Centre in the Philippines

THE MONTH.

The month of April has been a busy and rewarding one. It has, as expected, included the Easter period which we celebrated as fully as we could.

There was the weekly liturgy which was part of our Sunday services when the symbolic elements were added to the cross at the front of the church.

Palm Sunday our young people gave us all a palm cross after parading round the church singing and waving the palm leaves they had made in junior Church.

On good Friday we had a service of meditation in the morning led by Revd. Bernardino.

We also had our annual church meeting on the 6th of April which was followed by a lunch in the Church hall.

Maundy Thursday we had a service and Passover Supper in the Church hall.

On Good Friday we had a service of meditation in the morning led by Revd. Bernardino which was very meaningful.

Saturday saw the annual Easter Egg Hunt which Jo Wright and the junior Church staff organised. This proved a very well supported event this year and was enjoyed by young and old enormously. Well done junior Church. Also our thanks go to Kathleen Taylor who assembled a tabletop model in the entrance lobby of the garden and the opened tomb with the three crosses where Jesus was crucified with two bandits nearby.

Then on Easter day we started with a short reading and hymn by the cross in the Church entrance lobby before dressing the cross with spring flowers. We then had a service led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate based on a service prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund.

Roy Brunnen.

QUIET DAY AT ILFORD METHODIST CHURCH.

It was really not a quiet day but a study day about prayer organised by Methodist Women in Britain London district sector B. The excellent speaker was Sister Myrtle Poxon, whose husband Revd. Stephen Poxon served as president of the Methodist conference.

Susan Ruckes.

**Please put 19th July in your diaries
And join us in the Church Hall for a
WORLD WAR 1 SING-A-LONG AND AFTERNOON TEA.**

Compere	Andrew Taylor
Singing with	Sue's Music Makers
Catering	Jo Wright and her team
Children's games	Michelle Garner
Raffle	Lorraine
Children's Activities	Alec and Amanda
Sideshows	Mike Seviour and our Scouts
Tickets will cost £2 for Adults	
	£1 for Children.

They will be available to purchase in June

There will also be a display of World War 1 Memorabilia.
If you have anything to contribute please bring it along.
Many thanks to all who are helping.

Janet Wragg.

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM ON THE MOVE AGAIN.

Redbridge Faith Forum is often involved, in walks around Ilford Town Centre. This time the women's group did a guided walk in the east end beginning at Whitechapel art gallery and ending at Toynbee Hall. Our guide, Eleanor Bloom, attends the Redbridge Faith Forum workshop. We saw one building which had been a Huguenot Chapel then it became a synagogue and is now a Mosque. It was a most interesting tour, beginning and ending at a tea room.

Susan Ruckes

STAINER'S "CRUCIFIXION" AT CHELMSFORD.

I was very privileged to take part in a service at Trinity Methodist Church in Chelmsford. The organist was leaving after many years and asked for the above work to be sung. Instead of wielding a baton, Andrew Taylor was the main soloist. Hopefully we shall hear him again in this role when the work is sung again closer to home.

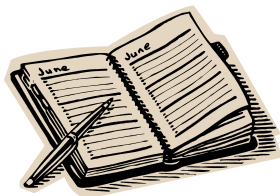
Susan Ruckes

THE SCOUT GROUP PLANT SALE Saturday 10th May 2014

Please put the date in your diary – we need your support.

Appeal to gardeners – if you are dividing your plants we would welcome any spare plants.

You don't need any plants – well please join us anyway for a social cup of tea or coffee and support the Cake Stall. Maggie will be waiting to serve you.



MAY DIARY

Sat 3 rd	10.00am	Share-a-skill in the Church Parlour
Sun 4th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Robert Debrah
Tue 6 th	8.00pm	Church Fellowship – Handbell ringing with Andrew Taylor
Thu 8 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sat 10 th	10.00am	Annual Scout Plant sale Church work morning.
Sun 11th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Dr Leela Knight
Thu 15 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 16 th	10.00am	Church coffee morning in Gardeners cafe, Valentines Mansion
Sat 17 th	10.00am	Share-a-skill in the Church Parlour Concert for Christian Aid
Sun 18th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion. Revd Bernardino Mandlate. Songs of praise with Andrew Taylor.
Tue 20 th	2.30pm	Church tea party in the Church Parlour
Thu 22 nd	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 23 rd		Pre School Term ends
Sun 25th	11.15am	Morning Service with Revd. Jan Tate.
Sat 31 st	10.00am	Share-a-skill in the Church Parlour.

**MISSION STATEMENT
OF
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH.**

The Drive Methodist Church aims to be faithful to the commandments of Jesus, and the calling of the Methodist Church.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission, and to fulfil the promises detailed in the Methodist worship book.

In seeking to be faithful The Drive Methodist Church is committed to:
Provide a weekly opportunity for all people to worship God in Christ,
Enable people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care.

Be a good neighbour to the immediate and wider community.
Sharing our faith with others through pastoral care, church activities and communication.

March 2013.