

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

NEWSLETTER

September 2014



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

From Our Minister Bernardino Mandlate

Friends

I am writing this little letter from a warm sunny Maputo. Sunshine is taken for granted in this part of the world. There is the odd cloudy day and the surprise of heavy and prolonged showers but soon the sun shines on all of us and humidity takes its toil on some of us who have lost the habit of living with humidity. We are not complaining, we've had a good break although extremely busy trying to catch up with family and friends. We are likely to come back to London more tired and in need of a fresh and proper holiday, to wake up and do nothing, with no commitments for the day.

I hope you have all had a good summer break and that the weather was kind enough. Maputo is developing and growing in size. There are new buildings and new major infrastructures coming up almost in every corner. New hotels and big ones to compete in the tourism industry. We had to learn our way around new developments. It pleasing to see, considering where the country has come from. Chinese hands and money is there to be seen, they are investing a lot of capital in Mozambique and it makes me wonder what it will cost us in the future.

The harbour is busy loading and offloading stuff. Car imports are on the up, albeit being used and tired cars from Japan. Traffic jams are the order of the day. Any undertaking or commitment has to take into account the extremely busy roads and motorists who display intense disregard for traffic regulations.

In the midst of the chaos, one can still see the hand of God at work, churches are busy, people's lives revolve around church, not that everyone is a church goer, but most people have links with and will call upon church to intervene in some aspects of their lives. We had an opportunity to participate in a baptism of a child and a wedding of a nephew, both events church based and joyful occasions. What a blessing that was.

I pray for every blessing to be on each of you for the new Methodist Connexional year that begins this September. May we all face the challenges it brings. May we pray for the stationing process that begins to bring in replacements for our superintendent and Rev Jan T. May The Lord guide the circuit to the right appointment, and may those leaving in August find appropriate matches for the them and

be a blessing to the new set ups and communities to which they will be stationed.

May The Lord be kind to all of us. God bless.

Dino

BBQ

The BBQ seems a long time ago now, but thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the sunshine, provided the food and ate the food!

Thanks also to Peter and Lorraine who could not join us on the day but bought all the sausages, hot dogs and rolls.

The new "Drive BBQ team" were amazing and proved that many hands made light work. Thanks to you all.

Jo Wright

World War 1 sing-a-long

Many, many thanks to all those who helped to make this day a success. I could not do it without your support.

Janet Wragg.

Big Changes

Many of us at the Drive remember having our Junior church sessions over in the hall buildings. This was due to the large number of young people attending.

I'm pleased to say that due to our increasing numbers in Junior church we will now be meeting in the hall buildings. **The crèche will still be in the parlour (the room behind the church)** but the other groups will meet in the hall.

Our first meeting in the hall will be on **September 7th**. This is where the young people will find out what groups they are in.

Please can I ask all parents and carers to take their children over to the hall and make sure there is a Junior church leader there to leave them with. The leaders will make sure that the children come safely back into church at the end of the service

The safety of the children is extremely important and therefore we need to make sure no children are left unattended or are outside the church travelling to the hall without adult supervision.

Jo Wright

Harvest festival September 28th 2014.

Any gifts for the Harvest Festival will be gratefully received on Saturday 27th between 9.30 am and 12noon.

Catherine Sayers

Harvest Lunch September 28th 2014.

There will be a lunch following the morning service. A list will be put up at the back of the Church for names. Offers of dishes for the lunch will be gratefully received by Jo Wright or Catherine Sayers.

Catherine Sayers

Christmas shoe box appeal

The Drive is taking part in this appeal again. Brian Grinham has kindly ordered shoe boxes for us to fill. These, and a list of items to fill the boxes with, will soon be available at the back of the church. You can google "Christmas shoe box appeal" if you want more information.

Jo Wright

"Sing for your Heart"

An afternoon of singing for fun with proceeds to Heart Research UK. Lead by Lawrence Tatnall and members of New Essex Choir. Saturday 6th September 3 – 5 pm. Cost £5. Barkingside Methodist Church.

Brian Taylor

Church Fellowship

At our last Meeting in July, Frank showed some holiday snaps for us to identify, and Roy gave us a most interesting account of the year when he and Janet were Mayor and Mayoress of The London Borough of Redbridge, and showed us some splendid photographs

of some of the many functions they attended during that year.. I have written elsewhere in this newsletter of the Civic Service which was held in our church.

Because the Church Fellowship is now the only midweek evening event held in our church, we felt we ought to continue, so we have planned three evenings once a month in October, November and December.

These meetings will be on the second Tuesday in the month, starting on October 14 when Frank will present one of those lighthearted Musical Anagrams.

On Tuesday November 11 we hope to hold a Bible Study and discussion evening about our Christian beliefs. On Tuesday December 8 Jo Wright will present a Christmas programme.

Do come along. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Frank Sayers.

Macmillan Coffee Morning
Friday 26th September 10 am – 2 pm

It's that time again. Please join me for our 9th Coffee Morning in the Conservatory, The Redbridge Social Centre (off Beehive Lane next to Limewood Court). Come to enjoy good company, cakes, tombola, bric-a-brac and chat.

Audrey Taylor

Demonstration on Franzpanning

Saturday 27th September 1pm in the Parlour.

Brian Taylor

We've Arrived

We would like to thank all members of the church for their cards wishing us well in our new temporary home here in Ipswich and for the pastoral committee for the lovely plant they sent which we have sitting out on our balcony.

After the long wait to exchange and then to complete in our place in Redbridge, it is nice just taking things a little easier.

We have now unpacked our boxes and are just about straight, our friend Ian came down from Norwich at the end of July and put our computer together which makes us a little more connected.

We manage to visit the town most days as it is only ten minutes from our flat.

Anne and I would like to thank you all for your friendship over all the years. If anyone wishes to visit we are only one hour fifteen minutes from Liverpool Street we will be delighted to see you.

Ian & Anne Warden.

**MacMillan Coffee Morning
Saturday 27th September 2014.**

Please support this event if you possibly can. The Macmillan staff certainly make a tremendous difference to those suffering from Cancer. It will be held in the Church parlour from 10am to 12noon.

There will be a bric-a-brac stall with proceeds also going to MacMillan.

If you have any items such as Plants, unwanted gifts, bric-a-brac, or wish to make some cakes, please bring them along and Janet will be pleased to receive them.

All proceeds will be going directly to The Macmillan Cancer Centre, University College Hospital, where Jeff Wragg will be receiving his treatment.

Janet Wragg.

Methodist women in Britain.

A chance meeting with a lady from Seven Kings Methodist church on Saturday 23rd August alerted me to a Methodist women in Britain event that afternoon in Forest Gate Methodist Church.

The church is a short walk from Forest Gate station. There was bunting outside the church hall. I was able to buy the last ticket, which should have been ordered beforehand.

The tables were decorated with red serviettes, white linen and blue paper tablecloths. Tiered cake stands with cakes were on each table. The whole effect was so attractive.

Historical information was displayed around the room – memories of when Newham had some fine museums. The Sun “newspaper” had reported First World War events as if there at the same time. These front pages were also displayed. A quiz had been devised based on all this historical information. I couldn’t have answered ANY questions without it.

A choir sang First World War songs ending with “I’m forever blowing bubbles” to the accompaniment of bubble blowing. There was impromptu singing – “When the Saints”, “you’ll never walk alone” and “White Cliffs of Dover” to end the afternoon. Many thanks to Matilda, who made a beautiful cake, her team of caterers, the organisers of the quiz, poetry readers, choir. It was a thought provoking as well as entertaining afternoon. I shall look at Carpenters Road in a different light knowing there was once an internment camp there.

Susan Ruckes.

Some thoughts from someone who was not here “from the beginning.”

I came to live in Ilford in 1950 after completing my National Service in the Army and started coming to services at The Drive (then known as Eastern Avenue Methodist Church) in the mid fifties. Then, in 1962 I was asked to play the organ for services which I did for over 30 years. The organ was installed when the church was built and was the gift of Sir Sydney Robinson, JP who had given the land on which the church stands, and also built many houses in this area.

Over the years extra sets of pipes have been added to the organ, mostly given in memory of people who had worshipped in our church, increasing the range and quality of the sound of the instrument. It is a joy to play, and it is also a joy to hear Andrew Taylor (who succeeded me some ten years ago) play – particularly the voluntary at the end of worship.

One of the most memorable services I played for was on Sunday 29th June 1986 on the occasion of Mayor's Sunday when Roy and Janet Brunnen were Mayor and Mayoress of the London Borough of Redbridge. At Roy's invitation the Redbridge Youth Orchestra Brass Ensemble played music by Giovanni Gabrieli, which we all enjoyed. After the service the musicians showed interest in our church organ and said that they had no idea it could make such a powerful sound! (Did I over do it!) Later I received a letter of thanks from Roy which I still have.

Since the pulpit was removed it has been possible to hold choral concerts in the church and visiting organists have enjoyed accompanying the singers.

Sir Sydney Robinson spent some of his early years in the United States and was greatly influenced in the Christian Faith by his Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Myra Loomis Thomas. After Myra Thomas' death, Sir Sydney had a window erected to her memory in our church depicting "The Good Samaritan". Sir Sydney died on 17th November 1950, and his widow and family erected two stained glass windows to his memory.

For many years members of the Thomas' family have sent a donation to the church, and in 1991 the money was used to buy a new set of red gowns for the choir, and we sent a photograph of the choir wearing their new gowns across the Atlantic to Myra's daughter Katherine. We received a very warm letter of thanks in reply.

Recently Mike Seviour expertly enlarged and enhanced my 1991 'snaps' of the choir which will be on display in the church for a few weeks.

Frank Sayers

Home thoughts from abroad

Back in the 1950s and 60s I was a member of the Drive congregation for some 14 years, from the age of 6 until I went away to university. I attended Sunday School, went to the Youth Club, and even sang in the choir until it was discovered that I was the one singing flat!

Studying French led me to spend a lot of time the other side of the Channel and eventually, in 1973, I married a Parisian and we have lived in Lille in the north of France for over 40 years. I am very lucky because there is an English church here. It is an Anglican church, called Christ Church, and was built by the British expats (mostly in the textile trade) who lived here in the 19th century. All the pews and also the organ were brought over from England; The church was consecrated in 1870 and services have been held here in English almost continuously ever since, including during World War 1. Initially it served only the British, although many marriages to French locals were held there, and christenings, too.

This was still the position when I arrived in Lille in 1975 but our congregation has changed greatly over the past 40 years. We can now boast having had members from every continent except Antarctica and from at least 25 different countries. Today our congregation includes Americans, Canadians, French, Belgians, Dutch, Chinese, Koreans, Nicaraguans, Nigerians, Cameroonians, Russians, Czechs, Indians, etc, etc. And they come from all walks of life - teachers, asylum seekers, nurses, retired people, commercial managers, a policeman, a journalist - a very varied and interesting melting-pot.





Our worship style is equally mixed: as the only English speaking church in the city (the nearest is in Ypres in Belgium, some 30 km away), we welcome Christians of all denominations, high church and low, traditional and evangelical. While our priest, a lady Canon, is of course, Anglican, one of our wardens is a Baptist, the other an Episcopalian, and our late organist was a Methodist. We endeavour to make the services as open and welcoming to all denominations as possible, and all Christians in good standing in their own churches are invited to take communion. We hold 2 or 3 services each Sunday, and many activities take place during the week, ranging from a Play group and a Sunday Club to Alpha courses, Bible study groups and a Bring and Share lunch once a month. Although many of the congregation are long past their teens, we also have a lively group of young people, mostly students. Roughly 30-40 adults attend most services, and up to a dozen or more kids come with their parents in the morning.

Morning services are always followed by tea or coffee and, if someone has been baking, cake! These get-togethers are very important meeting points for people who are often isolated in the surrounding suburbs and villages, and for whom this may be the only time in the week they can speak English, ask questions about how the French administrative system works, where to find Marmite and other essentials. This support group is very important to those living away from their homes and their families.

After so long in France, I now feel totally integrated into life here, but it is always a pleasure to come back to Ilford to see my father, Stan Singleton, and my sister, Ruth, and to join in worship at the Drive on Sundays. Since Roy has been asking me to read the lesson occasionally, I really feel part of the congregation again.

Should any of you come to Lille, do ask Ruth to let me know and you will be given an equally warm welcome here.

Frances Coester

**Thank you.
From the flooded families.**

A thank you card has been received by Lorraine from Deborah on behalf of those we tried to help after the terrible floods.

Dear Lorraine,

Please allow me to apologise for the length of time which seems to have passed since you so kindly wrote in April, with letters from your Junior Church, and the cheque in respect of the charity for rural farming.

It was so very kind of you to take such trouble, and very much appreciated by the families.

We certainly had wonderful support from Methodist congregations in terms of prayer support and messages of concern, from all over the country.

Please pass on our grateful thanks to all your children, young people, and others in your congregation for their interest and financial donation.

I am sure it will help to relieve the ongoing situation for the farming families.

With love.

Deborah.

Retail Therapy

On Monday 14th July, Roger Backhouse gave a talk at Ilford Historical Society about Ilford's shops from Edwardian times to today.

Roger had publicised the talk in many Ilford churches. Many of us had already heard him speak about Edwardian Ilford. More and more chairs had to be put out. The chapel was packed with people. It could have been a depressing evening with a reminder of shops we have lost. We saw pictures of Owen Clark and Fairheads before they closed down. The sound quality was poor on the Fairheads film, but it didn't matter as Mr Sweet and family were there to speak for themselves.

Roger's allotment is a short walk from Seven Kings Station. Corinne and I joined a tour of his allotment during an open day a few years ago.

The talk ended on a high note with pictures of Creed's hardware store at Seven Kings. (Other hardware stores are available but, sadly, they are disappearing fast) my most recent purchase from there was a large dust bin which I then brought home on a train and bus.....

Susan Ruckes.



Our September Diary

Tue 2 nd		Pre School Term commences.
Sun 7th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy communion
		Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.
Thu 11 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice.
Sun 14th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Jan Tate.
Tue 16 th	10.00am	Morning Communion in the Vestry.
Wed 17 th	8.00pm	Church Life Committee
Thu 18 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 19 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning in the gardeners cafe Valentines Mansion
Sun 21st	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Ian Sheach
Tue 23 rd	2.30pm	Church Tea party in the Parlour
Thu 25 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice.
Sat 27 th	10.00am	MacMillan Coffee Morning In the Church parlour
Sun 28th	11.15am	Morning Harvest Festival Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.