

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

NEWSLETTER

October 2014



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

From our Minister
Revd. Bernardino Mandlate

Friends

We gather every September to celebrate Harvest thanksgiving. We thank God for His care and provisions for our daily needs. We thank God for his creation and for allowing us to mould, shape and live out of it.

Churches in history past and present have continued to faithfully praise and thank God for the abundance of harvest and in some cases to plead with God for better harvest in spite of scarcity that on occasions makes it difficult for some communities to make a living.

Planet earth has seen too many changes inflicted upon it by the hand of humans. We have planted land mines in fields where people produced crops. We have dropped bombs of all sorts, making it near impossible for people to till and sow in their fields. Bloodshed has affected communities in many nations.

Hunger is a product of our endeavour as human beings to interfere with God's creation.

At the moment, as we celebrate yet another thanksgiving, rich nations demand of the poor communities around the developing world, what is commonly known as cash crops. The poor toil to produce and meet the needs of the rich nations at the expense of their own needs.

The poor don't earn enough cash from their labour to feed their families, to educate their children, or to ensure basic health cover.

So, as we rejoice in God's abundant provisions for our daily needs and wants, it should be in order to be mindful of the many people around the world, faceless people, who make it possible for us to have in such abundance. Let us be aware that they are not celebrating as much as we do, because they are unable to share in the abundance.

Jesus Christ, in his teachings in the gospels, asks us to share God's blessings with those less fortunate, those for whom there is no abundance of harvest. There are many ways in which we can do this. One of them is to buy just enough for our needs, support charities that help the poor in this country and abroad, waste less food in our homes, and be mindful of the needs of our neighbours. If

we are able to do this, God's blessings will continue to flow like spring waters in our lives.

I pray that the Lord will continue to bless each and everyone with the abundance of his mercies.

God bless

Dino

Bernardino

Following a request from Bernardino to have his appointment with our circuit extended, a consultation was carried out, and the result considered by both the circuit management team and the circuit stationing committee before the request was considered by the Circuit meeting on Wednesday 18th September 2014. It was resolved by that meeting that Bernardino's appointment be extended for a further 5 years from September 2015. He is expected to continue to have responsibility for us here at The Drive together with Seven Kings and Goodmayes churches from the date his re-appointment commences.

Roy Brunnen

Thank you

Thank you to my dear friends who came to be with Leslie in his final resting place. He would have liked that.

Now he is with his family and friends who have passed on.

We had 63 years of a good marriage. There were many lovely words written on the condolence cards received which have made me feel very proud he chose me as his wife.

Josie Jiggins.

A big thank you to all our folk who donated such a wonderful amount of goodies for our Harvest Festival.

Some of it was all distributed to some of our members but the bulk went to residents of Merton Court and Whitfield Court, with even more going to the Whitechapel Mission who are always very grateful for our support.

Catherine Sayers.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

I am pleased to report that we had another successful day at our event at the Redbridge Social Centre. My thanks to all who supported us – a special mention must go to the staff of the Drive Pre School. As has become a tradition Kaye and Dina arrived with freshly baked Asian goodies which were well received as usual. We raised £648 for MacMillan Nurses from whose services many of us have benefitted.

Audrey Taylor

Janet and Geoff's event in the Church Parlour raised in excess of £500 – Great! We look forward to a full report next month.
AT.

Please Consider Supporting

There are a few events which take place during the month which whilst I appreciate those taking place during the day are not able to be attended by those of you who are at work, but it would be nice to see some of those of you who are able to make time supporting the work of the church when you can.

On the second Tuesday of each Month at 10am there is a morning Holy Communion which is currently supported by few, and we would be delighted to see a few more attending. Bernardino prepares and leads these, and I see it as an important part of our witness.

Also on second Tuesday there is the Church Fellowship which meets in the Church Parlour at 8pm. There is an attempt by Frank to ensure there is a pleasant, relaxed, but interesting hour followed by a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit to enable us to have a chat and catch up with what's happening. Being an evening meeting I plead with you to support it if we can build the numbers attending up a little it will be easier to try and arrange guest speakers.

The third Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm we have the church tea party, which whilst it has not been running long, it replaces the monthly church lunch which became a little too problematic for the team which prepared it due to them not getting any younger.

We again have an enjoyable hour or so drinking tea or coffee with a biscuit and cake chatting about everything and nothing. Do join us if you can.

Share-a-skill (SAS) takes place on alternate Saturdays (see diary for dates) when Janet Wragg together with her regular helpers does her best to arrange interesting skills. Those which come to mind include computer skills, emergency first aid, lace making, bead jewellery making, dressmaking, knitting and crocheting.

Our uniformed organisations also meet weekly, and we have recently managed to reopen a Brownie Pack and Guide Company. Activities with young people are currently strong, and that includes our Junior Church which has had to spread its Sunday meeting into the Hall, the Cranbrook and Valentines rooms and Parlour.

Roy Brunnen

Church Fellowship

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 based on material published in one of the York Courses. This involves listening to 15 minute recorded tape and then there is a group of questions for discussion. Speakers on the tape include Archbishop Justin Welby, Sister Wendy Beckett, and David Suchet.

On Tuesday December 8 Jo Wright will present a Christmas programme.

All meetings begin at 8.00pm.

Do come along. Refreshments are served afterwards.

Frank Sayers.

Slides Evening

Diane and I would like to restart the annual slides evening in support of Action for Children, which Catherine and Frank had run for many years. We have therefore booked the Parlour for 7.30 pm on Saturday 29 November.

The format of the evening will be unchanged with approximately six people presenting a range of slides of their holidays or subjects of general interest for 10 to 15 minutes each. During the interval there will be a cold buffet. This year it would be really good to have some new presenters so if you have taken some digital snaps which you would like to show, please let me know.

In the last few years the numbers attending the evening have dropped away which is a pity as the evening is always very enjoyable and any donations go to a very worthwhile cause. It is also important that social events in the Church continue and are well supported.

Diane and I look forward to welcoming you at 7.30 pm on Saturday 29 November in the Parlour.

Jeremy

A letter from our Superintendant Minister Revd. Stephen Pool.



September 2014

Dear All,

Where does the time go!?! Here we are again at the start of a new Methodist year, and the beginning of my 18th and last year here in

the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit; it seems like less than half that time has passed.

So much has happened in our churches over those years, two churches have closed, friends have died or moved away, leaving sadness mixed with the happy memories and many new friends have joined us bringing fresh ideas and helping hands. We have raised funds for charity, and funds enabling us to change the look and feel of some of our buildings. We have been a part of some exciting events. A tremendous amount has happened over those 18 years and I know already that it is going to be very hard for me to leave next August.

Recently the General Secretary of the Methodist Church sent out a Pastoral letter to all Ministers. The letter sadly confirmed that the Statistics for Mission report showed that the trajectory of the Methodist Church was clearly downward overall, perhaps some of you reading this will recognise that fact in your own congregation.

BUT.....the General Secretary then goes on to recognise that the report also highlights the fact that there is indeed much life and health across our Connexion. Some of our Churches are using new, exciting ways of worship and outreach, to bring about growth. It is definitely true that some churches are seeing real growth, numerically and spiritually, and it seems that this is happening in places where churches are prepared to try new things and think outside of the box.

In his previous letter the General Secretary again reminded us of the need to close and sell more church buildings so as to release funds to support new work and new workers - something which, as you all know, I have tried to do in our own Circuit, and I believe will ultimately happen, in the next couple of years. Again I say that this should never be seen as a negative, but as a positive way forward, and an opportunity to build and strengthen our remaining churches for the future.

Wonderful as it is to look back and remember, or even just rest in happy memories, we are disciples living in the Kingdom of God in 2014 and looking ahead, for there is a future filled with new tasks beckoning us onwards.

So dear friends, as we start this new year, let us commit ourselves to a year of Prayer and Praise for all that God is doing in our lives

and in our Churches. Let us work together to strengthen ourselves Spiritually for the work that still lies ahead and let us spend time renewing our relationship with God, focussing on the Gospel.

Let us get involved in the life of our Churches in a new way. Let us commit ourselves to new initiatives, and more time spent in fellowship with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

May this year be filled with the joy and peace of Christ for us all.

Yours in Christ,
Steve

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

**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.

October Diary

Sat	4 th	10.00am	Share a Skill in the church parlour
Sun	5th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Tony Miller from Whitechapel Mission
Thu	9 th	8.00pm	Church Council meeting
Sun	12th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Kufeji
		5.00pm	St Alban Church, Great Ilford, Albert Road. With The Mersea Island Choir.
Tue	14 th	10.00am 8.00pm	Morning Communion in the vestry Church Fellowship in the Church Parlour
Thu	16 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri	17 th	10.00am	Monthly Coffee morning at the Gardeners Cafe, Valentines Mansion.
Sat	18 th	10.00am 7.00pm	Share a Skill in the Church Parlour Celebration of Autumn Gifts at Gantshill Methodist Church. Tickets £7.50
Sun	19th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.
Tue	21 st	2.30pm	Afternoon tea party in the church parlour
Thu	23 rd	7.30pm	Choir Practice.
Fri	24 th		Pre School term ends.
Sun	26th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.