

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

NEWSLETTER

March 2015



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

From our minister Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.

Hi Friends

Lent has started. It was a wonderful opportunity to host the ecumenical Ash Wednesday service, with the St Andrew's and Cranbrook Baptist churches joining us. It got us started on the reflection that we usually undertake during Lent.

We are reading about Jesus' temptations in Mark's gospel. He tempted at the time He is getting ready to start his ministry. He goes through what can be called a test to see whether he is up to the job God sent him to the world for. He is exposed to the real world that he could enjoy if only he declines to follow God's instructions. Jesus is posed with a choice to doubt God and follow the ways of the world or to trust God during that testing process which the Gospels unanimously agree that lasted forty days.

While he was tempted, the Angels waited on him, keeping him connected to God and he conquered the temptations.

We, too, face our own temptations on a daily basis. We are tempted in every way possible. We are tempted in what we choose to do or, for that matter, we choose not to do. However, I think we have the opportunity to do what is right by asking ourselves, what is it that God would have us do?!

The world needs our commitment, society needs our commitment, our community and church need us to be involved in issues that matter, issues that may make this world and society a better place for all its inhabitants.

You can make a commitment during Lent to do your share of good in the hope that it will or may change someone's life for the better. Please make a conscious choice to do something good during this season of Lent, something that you can look back on with some pride and a sense of achievement.

It is for the sake of the kingdom. Jesus overcame temptations to proclaim the Good News of the kingdom as it is spelt out in Mark 1.15 "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the gospel."

Have a good Lent season and may God continue to bless each and everyone of you.

Dino

Family News

Peter Sharp.

It is very good that Peter has now returned from having an operation in good voice. Whilst in St George's Hospital, Tooting he attended services at the Hospital chapel. He gave our best wishes and love to them and Hilary Johnson, the head of chaplaincy at St Georges sends us the following message.

Dear Reverend Deano,

I have met Peter Sharp today and we have received your greetings from Peter. My friend Marion and I send our best wishes to you, as we share worship with Peter in our Lord's name.

Hilary Johnson

Head of chaplaincy at St Georges Hospital.

Jane Shields.

We think of Jane as she is undergoing prolonged treatment following operations and investigation over many weeks. She now prepares for treatment by chemotherapy which we all hope will be successful. We ask that you think of her in your prayers.

Rochelle Inbakumar.

On March 1st Rochelle is received into our family as she becomes a member of the church, and we welcome her, and pray that her life is enhanced as a member of God's flock.

Elsie Blanchard

On Sunday 15th February after the service finished she joined us as usual at the rear of the church for a social time and cup of tea. We also had a visit from two ladies who claimed to have arrived in this country only two days previously. Communicating with them was difficult as neither of them were able to understand or speak English. They enjoyed a cup of tea with us before leaving.

Unfortunately, when Elsie arrived home she discovered that £170 had gone missing from her handbag, and the police were called. We arranged that Elsie was reimbursed for her loss from the church benevolent fund. She was uncomfortable about receiving this money, and may have donated it to either the church or a charity.

Please keep your bags and wallets safe at all times, and do not leave them unattended even in the church, where we all expect them to be safe.

Anyone who thinks they may have information which would be helpful to the police please do come forward.

Calling all Key Holders

The Property Committee has recently carried out an audit of the electronic key fobs which we use to open the main doors of the Church and Hall buildings. In the process, we have identified a small number of keys which we cannot positively associate with named individuals and/or organisations.

To preserve the security of our premises, **these keys have now been disabled and will no longer allow access to either building.** However, in the 10 years since the door entry system was installed, it is possible that some of these 'missing' fobs may have been legitimately passed on to new keepers and in that case, it could be our records which are incorrect.

If you find that your key fob no longer works, please let either Brian Taylor or Mike Seviour know as quickly as possible so that your key fob can be re-enabled with the access you need.

Any key fobs which haven't been 'claimed' by the end of March will be permanently deleted from the system.

Mike Seviour.

Junior Church.

The junior church staff have been consulted in an effort to increase the relevance of the lessons and activities which our young people enjoy on Sunday mornings. The difficulty has been that by the time they have considered and rehearsed their short presentation to the congregation, there has been little time for a learning session.

Therefore, as from Sunday 8th March, the young people will join us in the church at the beginning of our service, and we will ask the preacher to give a blessing to the young ones after the first hymn and they will then proceed to the junior Church for the rest of the service. They will only be expected to address the congregation on special occasions, but will join us in the church for Holy Communion.

Roy Brunnen.

Gift Aid

Many of our members and adherents Gift aid their weekly offering and we are able to claim back, from the Inland Revenue, at no cost to the donors, the amount of income tax that they have paid on their offerings. This is a great benefit to the Church as in the last tax year the Church received £5,559.62 in reclaimed tax on these gift-aided offerings.

We have also benefited from an alteration to the regulations, which allow us, from 5th April 2013, to reclaim the tax on "small donations" without the necessity for a formal Gift Aid form being signed, and there is no bar to claiming on small cash donations, up to £20, so we were able to receive another £636.06 on the weekly collections. There is a limit on the small donations of £5,000.00.

This money, totalling £6,195.68, helps greatly in balancing our accounts and it would be lovely if we could increase this amount by increasing our giving to the Church. Each pound extra means that we can claim 25p from the Inland Revenue at no cost to the donor.

Our budget for freewill offerings for the current year is £26,000 and this, together with other small items we anticipate, is, say £26,800. If we add to this the reclaimed tax, you will see that it just about covers the anticipated expenditure, not allowing for unexpected expenses. We need to think, therefore how we can cover any shortfall that arises, without draining our reserves.

Our total expenditure budget for the current year (excluding the property costs) is nearly £33,000.00, which is roughly £635 per week. We have just over 70 members and this averages out at £9 per week per member. Obviously, we are not all in the same financial position and some are able to contribute a lot more than others. I am not suggesting that everyone should contribute £9 per week, but I would ask everyone to think about whether they could give a little more. It only takes a small increase by everyone for a difference to be made on our collections and the amount of tax we can claim.

**Brian Grinham,
Gift Aid Secretary.**

'A Taste of Spring'

Saturday 21st March 2015 7.30 pm

The New Essex Choir will be giving another concert in the church, this time including English folk songs, spirituals and Easter music.

To daffodils	Roger Quilter
Little David, play on your harp	
Agnus Dei	Gounod

and much more

Tickets £10 (£8) from Brian Taylor

Diary for March.

Sun	1st	11.15am	Morning Service. 2nd week in Lent Led by. Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue	3 rd	8.00pm	"Seeing change" Lent session at St Andrews Church
Thu	5 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri	6 th	2.00pm	Women's world day of Prayer at St Andrews Church.
Sat	7 th	10.30am	Worship Leaders course at Goodmayes Methodist Church.
Sun	8th	11.15am	Morning Service. 3rd week in Lent Led by. Revd. Stuart Jordan
Tue	10 th	10.00am	Morning Communion in the Prayer Chapel
		8.00pm	"Seeing change" Lent session at St Andrews Church
Thu	12 th	8.00pm	Church Council meeting
Fri	13 th	10.00am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Cafe
Sat	14 th	10.00am	Valentines Mansion. Share a skill in the church parlour, Followed by Lunch in the parlour. All are invited. Put your name on the list at the back of the church
Sun	15th	11.15am	Morning Service 4th week in Lent Led by. Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue	17 th	8.00pm	"Seeing change" Lent session at St Andrews Church
Wed	18 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Barking Methodist Church
Thu	19 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun	22nd	11.15am	Morning Service 5th week in Lent Led by. Our Junior Church.
Tue	24 th	8.00pm	"Seeing change" Lent session at St Andrews Church
Thu	26 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice.

Sat 28 th	10.00am 10.30am	Share a skill in the church parlour. Worship Leaders course at Goodmayes Methodist Church.
Sun 29 th	11.15am	Morning Service for Palm Sunday Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate Followed by the annual church meeting and Buffet in the church parlour. Place your name on the list at the Back of the church.

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.