

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

# NEWSLETTER

June 2015



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

## **From our Minister**

Friends

It's Pentecost as I write this short contribution to our newsletter. The Spirit is upon all of us. Some of us will welcome him with open arms and warm hearts. Yet some of us will resist to receive the Spirit because we are not sure how he will make us behave.

The Holy Spirit of is meant to transform our lives, thereby transforming our communities and society through us if only we will accept that God uses us to continue his work of salvation.

Jesus promised his disciples, as he was preparing to depart, that he would send them the Holy Spirit whose fruits are love, peace, joy, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness and self control. These are the qualities that Jesus Christ wants us to have so that we can transform the world which God intended to be a better place for everyone who lives in it.

We, who call ourselves Christians and followers of Jesus, are expected to behave according to the fruits of the spirit. We are expected to make this world a better place for all. We are expected to be the agents of God in the transformation of society. For this to happen, we need to be willing to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, we need to be part of the Pentecost event, which continues up to our days because God continues to send His Holy Spirit to all who call on his name.

As a church, we need to portray in our daily life the fact that we have been transformed, we need to share the fruits of the spirit with those around us and those who come in and out of our buildings. We have the duty and ability to share God's love with our neighbours.

John Wesley felt his heart strangely warmed when the Spirit of God touch him and he told us all about it. He shared his experience with the world and world celebrates every year the fact that around this time of the year all those years ago, the Holy Spirit touch him and he received it graciously and his life was transformed. Our lives will also be transformed when we accept to receive the Spirit of God in our lives. It is offered to all regardless of our backgrounds or cultures or social status. God loves us equally and he share s his gifts with all of us.

May the Spirit of God be with you always.

Receive and accept God's blessings.

***Dino***

### **Junior Church**

We are pleased to tell you that we now have a new "teenage" section in our junior church. This will be called "The Grid". The sessions in the scripture union resources that we use cover issues that our teenage children have to deal with in their everyday life.

Our young people are all growing up fast and we want to keep them challenged and interested so we have had a reshuffle of the groups.

These are the groups that we now have:-

- The Grid for our teenagers
- Extreme for our Junior aged children
- Splash for our infant aged children
- Bubbles for children aged two and three
- Crèche for our babies and toddlers

If anyone is interested in coming and seeing what we do in Junior church then please speak to me or any junior church leader.

***Jo***

### **Share – A – Skill**

Many thanks to all those who knitted premature baby blankets, clothes and trauma teddies. They will shortly be on route to Basildon Hospital.

***Janet Wragg.***

### **Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro**

In September this year, my daughter Clare is climbing Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for street children in east Africa as part of Hope for Children. Sponsorship is most welcome, as she has a long way to go to reach her target, either online at <https://2015surrey.everydayhero.com/uk/clare> or just hand it to me.

Kind regards,

***Pauline Rodway.***

### **Matthew's whereabouts**

We won't be seeing Matthew in church for a few months. This is because, on 1<sup>st</sup> May, Matthew flew out to Bahrain to join HMS Shoreham, a minehunter currently deployed on 'Operation Kipion' in the Gulf. The Royal Navy maintains a permanent presence in the Gulf consisting of mine countermeasure vessels. It provides continued support by playing a role in the UK's ongoing commitment to maintaining peace and stability, the freedom of navigation and ensuring the safe flow of trade and oil in the region. Presently four vessels are deployed there; HMS Quorn, HMS Atherstone, HMS Shoreham and HMS Ramsey.

After this current deployment, the ship will return to the UK to Faslane, Scotland at the end of August so hopefully Matthew will make it to church then. In September, he has exams before finding out where he will be off to next!

If you are interested, more information about the ship and the operation can be found at [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/operations/red-sea-and-persian-gulf/kipion](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/operations/red-sea-and-persian-gulf/kipion)

***Diane Foster***

### **Scout Plant Sale.**

Thank you to all who supported our plant sale. It was a fine sunny morning and the event was very well supported by the local community making it a successful day.

A special thank you to Kaye and the pre-school for selling the surplus plants to parents.

Such an event does not happen without good planning and preparation and my thanks for this go to Andy Marriott and Tony Holton, supported by the group committee and leaders selling on the day.

The Guides ran a cake stall and Maggie was in her usual place organising refreshments, ably assisted by Carol.

***John Taylor,***  
***Group Chairman.***

### **Raysin Hope**

I would like to thank everyone who supported our two fundraising events last month. The table top sale raised £173 and the quiz evening and supper raised £428 after the catering costs were met.

My thanks to Jane Shields and others who kindly donated items for our table top sale and to Janet, Jean and Lorraine who helped me on the day. Thank you to Peter Bendon who offered to present the quiz evening and thanks also to Jordan and Tim who assisted him.

Lorraine helped me so much prior to the event and on the evening her help with the catering was invaluable. Joanne and Charlotte were 'back of house' and their help was very much appreciated.

I had many favourable comments about both events and we hope to organise more in the future. Last but not least my grateful thanks to the church for the loan of the parlour and the hall and to Brian Taylor for his help with the bookings.

***Anne Dellow.***

### **Tea Dance – Earl Gray Big Band**

When? Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 3pm to 530pm  
Where? The Drive Church hall  
Tickets? On sale now, adults £7.00 Children £2.00  
Supporting people with depression.

***Janet Wragg***

### **Raffle prizes for “Peertalk”**

I will be running a raffle at Janet Wragg’s tea dance on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June (3pm to 5.30pm)

The money raised from the raffle will be used to help establish the “Peertalk” charity being set up by Phillippa and Revd. Stephen Normanton.

I would be very grateful for any prizes for the raffle.  
Please feel free to come and talk to me if you have any queries or concerns.

Many thanks,  
***Corinne Smith.***

Please join the choir for a service of

### **Evening Prayer**

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 8:00pm  
in the church  
followed by refreshments

This is an annual event to mark the end of the choir’s “year” and is also a prelude to our Church Anniversary celebrations on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July.

***Andrew Taylor.***

## **Church BBQ Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

The annual church BBQ is taking place, at the Rodings, after the Church anniversary service on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Any offers of help will be much appreciated.

Please sign the list at the back of the church to let us know if you are coming and what food you will be bringing.

Thank you

***Michelle and Jo***

### **Valentine Singers 1215 AND ALL THAT**

a programme inspired by  
the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta

including

Vaughan Williams ***In Windsor Forest***

and

Gilbert and Sullivan ***Trial by Jury***

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm

St Mary's Church, South Woodford E18 2PA

Tickets £12 (£7 students/benefit holders) if bought in advance

Ask Andrew Taylor

### **Betty Says One fixed ground.**

For some years the leader of the youth club at The Drive, to which I belonged as a teenager, was a splendid man called Harold Wood, and on my twenty first birthday he and his wife Dora gave me a book by the great Methodist Preacher Leslie Weatherhead entitled "Jesus and ourselves". I think I've got pretty well all Dr Weatherhead's many, but the one Mr and Mrs Wood gave me has been read and re-read even more times than his great (and controversial) masterpiece "The Christian Agnostic", and that's saying something!

It's a collection of some of the sermons he preached when he was the Minister of Brunswick Wesleyan Church in Leeds, and the one chapter I've turned to time and time again is chapter 6 – "Jesus' answer to all our unsolved problems. I'm amazed that the pages haven't been worn away completely and there are enough fingerprints on them to keep Scotland Yard busy for years.

With depressing frequency we hear about air crashes, natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, cyclones, forest fires, all of which bring ruin, desolation, calamity and death to so many innocent people and at one time or another most of us find ourselves battling suffering, bereavement or some unexpected catastrophe and we all but fall apart and cry out in our anguish "If God is a loving father why does he allow these terrible things to happen? Why? Why? Why?"

Way back in the eighteen hundreds a serene, compassionate, courageous Quaker with a funny name wrote:

*"Yet in the maddening maze of things  
And tossed by storm and flood  
To one fixed ground my spirit clings  
I know that God is good".*

I don't know about you, but sometimes when life's been throwing one rotten thing after the other at me, and I haven't been able to find a scrap of comfort anywhere, my ground of faith has been decidedly wobbly or it just simply has not been there at all and that's when I take a certain well loved book with a scruffy old cover out of the bookcase and for the umpteenth time, turn to dear old chapter six.

And what does Dr Weatherhead say that puts the ground firmly back in place and has my battered spirit clinging to it for dear life? Well he says that there are just some things we are never going to understand this side of heaven and we know that God is good and loving father, however much evidence there sometimes seems to be to the contrary, BECAUSE JESUS SAID HE WAS. Nobody has ever seen farther into the being of God than Jesus who without a shadow of a doubt was the world's greatest religious teacher. HE SAID IT WAS TRUE and He put his views to the test and tried them all out in his life and His death and it's up to us who call ourselves Christians to do just the same, even though it's a whole lot easier said than done, and that's throwing roses at it!



The last paragraph of that chapter reads:-

*The God who on Easter morning  
vindicated the faith of Jesus will  
vindicate those who bet their lives and  
ask everything for the belief that God  
is what Jesus said he was, even  
though they found what Jesus found  
that Gethsemane and Calvary lie between.*

So when life's tearing you to bits remember the Quaker with the funny name's one fixed ground and let your poor weary spirit cling and cling to it. I most certainly do my best to do and so far it's held fast. But then that great Saint of Methodism Leslie Weatherhead, who at the end of his amazing life was hounded on all sides for his radicalism, said it would and he had a funny way of always getting things absolutely right, didn't he?

**Betty Griffiths.**

### **Alzheimer's Awareness**

#### **Mission & Social responsibility Event**

About forty people attended the event on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May at Grange Hill Methodist Church. Probably all the ten churches in the circuit were represented.

The speaker was Caroline Waira, who works at the memory clinic based at Goodmayes Hospital. She came originally from Kenya and now lives in Romford.

Caroline spoke to us and showed us pictures on a screen. We were given a group activity. We had to list the steps needed for making a cup of tea. There were about twenty seven, proving that a seemingly simple task is really very complex.

A useful, thought provoking morning ended with an excellent buffet lunch, organised by the circuit stewards.

**Susan Ruckes.**

### **Dr Old Geezers Clinic (Continued from last month!)**

Dr Young having now lost £1000 left the surgery angrily but comes back after several more days.

Dr Young – My eyesight has become weak .... I can hardly see!!!

Dr Geezer – Well, I don't have any medicine for that, so here's your £1000 back.

Dr Young makes a quick scan of his outstretched hand: "But this is only £500..."

Dr Geezer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be £500"

The moral of this is – just because you're "Young" does not mean that you can outsmart an "Old Geezer"....

### **Mission Statement 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.

## Diary for June

Mon	1 <sup>st</sup>		Pre School term starts
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning service with Holy communion Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate. (Communion collection in aid of the Church benevolent fund)</b>
Tue	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Morning communion in the prayer chapel.
Wed	10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Circuit meeting at Barkingside Methodist church
		8.00pm	Property committee meeting
Thu	11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners cafe, Valentines Mansion.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning service for Methodist homes for the aged Led by members.</b>
Thu	18 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	3.00pm	Tea Dance in the Church hall.(see page 4)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning service led by Revd Jan Tate</b>
Thu	25 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning service led by Mrs Sharon Grundy</b>

**Last date for items for the July Newsletter – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**