

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

NEWSLETTER

November 2015



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

From Revd. Bernardino Mandlate

Hi Friends

I hope and trust that God is doing His best to keep us all going, in spite of our pains and aches as time pass us by. It is always my prayer that God will continue to be kind to each one of us. His love and care for us does not, of course, make us immune from any pains and suffering, that is part of the package of being human. We all go through ups and downs.

I was reading the story about A blind man called Bartimaeus. His story of living in the margins of society and not being acknowledged by society reminded me of how often we are blind to many situations around us. We are blind sometimes by choice and sometimes because we don't really see what is around us.

The gospel invites us to open our eyes and see what lies around us. There is too much pain, anger and suffering, homelessness and poverty, angry people that cannot think of other people's needs. Because if we can't see what is around us, we are as blind as Bartimaeus. However Bartimaeus had a purpose for his life and when the opportunity presented itself, he did not let it escape. He couldn't see but he was desperate to see. He was ignored and even rebuked by the crowds around Jesus but he made himself heard. He called with a loud enough voice for Jesus to hear and stop and invite him closer for a brief conversation that ended with him seeing and following Jesus.

As churches and Christians, we have the job and responsibility to usher people towards Jesus at every opportunity that presents itself. This is no easy task, especially now that society has become so concerned about not offending other people. Still we have work to do. Tell people that Jesus is calling them to follow him. Try to do likewise. Let's try to open our eyes and see what Jesus would have us see.

Christmas is upon us with its demands on our time and resources. Let us try and enjoy ourselves avoiding excesses at the same time and share as much as we are able to. Don't be shy to share. Rejoice because God has blessed you. Bless others to the best of your abilities.

Kind regards **Dino**

Fundraiser by the Junior Church

As you may know, our previous minister here at The Drive, Stephen Normanton and his wife Philippa are in the early stages of developing a charity to help people with depression. Their project is called 'PeerTalk'.

After the dress rehearsal of the Junior Church's nativity play, we are holding a fundraiser in aid of 'PeerTalk'. The fundraiser will take place **from 2-4pm** on **Saturday 12th December**. Activities will include arts and crafts, a bake sale, bring and buy/table top sale and more, so there is something for everyone!

Rochelle Inbakumar & The Drive Junior Church

Newsletter Deadlines

This is to give notice that I will not be accepting late items for the newsletter.

It gets very difficult to adjust the setting of the news at the last minute before I send the material to John and Audrey for printing. We do try to get the newsletter out by the end of the month, so it is therefore necessary for me to have items by the second Sunday before the end of the month. I can then finalise the items and get the draft to John early in the week so that he can get it printed by the last Sunday of the month.

Please be kind enough to stick with these times.

The next edition will be a two month one for December and January, and all items must be with me by Sunday 22nd November.

Roy Brunnen.

Christmas Concert

*What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our heav'nly king?*

Start your Christmas by joining the New Essex Choir for music and mince pies in the church. There will be some familiar carols as well as less well-known music, and opportunities for audience participation.

7.30 pm Saturday 5th December 2015

Tickets £10 (concessions £8) in advance from **Kathleen and Brian Taylor**. Tickets on the door £11/£9, under 14 free.

Information from Revd. Normanton & Philippa

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous gifts towards the work of PeerTalk. We have been overwhelmed by the kindness of so many friends in their support of the project.

It is early days but our hope is to have two groups established by the end of 2016. This will involve recruiting and training up to 20 volunteers to facilitate the groups.

We have to establish training programmes and how we can support the ongoing development of the volunteers.

We will keep you informed of how PeerTalk develops and thank you for your support and prayers.

Phillipa & Stephen

Chafford Hundred WI

Dear Janet,

Firstly, sincere apologies for the long delay in writing to you but I have been inundated with WI work, especially planning our 6th birthday party and other events.

I was overwhelmed to receive the knitting yourself and your craft ladies had produced, the items were lovely and the little jackets, hats and booties so well matched, the teddies were excellent too, well done!! All of the items have been taken to the premature baby unit at Basildon Hospital, which is the hospital we have been supporting

with our own knitting for the past two years. The staff at the unit are always very grateful to receive the donations of knitted items, as I am sure you will appreciate many expectant mothers are unprepared for a premature birth and the teddies go home with mother and baby and become family heirlooms to be treasured forever.

Once again thank you so much for your great support it is very much appreciated by the members of Chafford Hundred WI.
Yours sincerely,

Patricia F Henry
President
Chafford Hundred WI.
Submitted by Janet Wragg.

Walk and Talk Together

For people living with dementia and their carers

London Borough of Redbridge Living Well Team and Vision are working together with Dementia Adventure to bring together local people and organisations to deliver Park Walks all over the country.

We all know that fresh air and exercise are good for us. We also know that it is good to be amongst friends and have a special invitation to come out. We have worked hard to make Park Walks available in the local area. People with dementia, their carers, friends, families (and dogs!) will all be welcome to come for a walk **every Thursday morning at 11am.**

At: **Valentines Mansion Gardeners Cottage Café**
Please Call: ***Gemma Tully on 020 8708 0954 to book your free place***



A Date for your Diary

On the third of January there will be a welcoming service here at The Drive for our new superintendent minister and his wife.

Revd Ermal Kirby and Jenni are currently working in South Africa, and will be returning to England to take up this post at the beginning of the year.

We are awaiting details of the service, but it will be in the afternoon.
Brian Taylor.

Diary for November

Sun	1st	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Ian Sheach
Thu	5 th	8.00pm	Church Council
Sun	8th	10.45am	Remembrance Service With Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardo Mandlate
Thu	12 th	7.45	Choir Practice
Sun	15th	11.15am	Morning JMA Service led by Sanya Strachan.
Thu	19 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	22nd	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Thu	26 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sat	28 th	7.30pm	Slides evening for Action for Children
Sun	29th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr John Nicholls

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.