

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2016



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

Message From our Minister Rev. Bernardino Mandlate.

Hi Friends

Happy New Year to all. It's never too late to wish all a wonderful new year. Every new year begins with its challenges, some leftover from the previous year. New challenges are always ahead of us.

There are personal challenges, societal challenges, church community challenges and more, all waiting for each of us to face and have our take from.

I find it important if I can prioritise my challenges and begin to tackle them one by one. For me the goal is not necessarily to be able to complete them all, but to be able to say that I succeeded in some goals while continuing to try on the others. Relying on God to give us the strength to accomplish whatever be possible.

As I write, it is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the theme for the week is 'Salt of the earth.' That is what Jesus Christ expects us to be. Not just being salt kept in a safe place, but useful salt that adds flavor to our community, our families and the church. We need to actively seek to be the ones who recognise the need for change and be the agents of that change. I invite and challenge each one of us to be active this year in bringing about positive change to ourselves and those around us for the sake of the kingdom of God.

The plight of refugees continues to be on our TV screens and so do the effects of climate change. We have seen unusual flooding in this country and abroad, we continue to see unusual droughts in many countries, and conflicts in many regions of the world continue to affect people's lives and wellbeing. We ought to pray to God for mercy and forgiveness of the mistakes we have made and continue to make. We ought to pray to God to give us the strength to be the difference in our society and community. You be the difference!

God bless

Dino

The Nativity 2015

Thank you to all the young people who took part in the Nativity and toy service. It was wonderful to see how their confidence has grown and developed over the years.

Thanks also to John Higgins who, each August, researches Nativity plays for our young people to choose from.

Also thanks to our Junior church team who give up their time to encourage and support our young people here at The Drive.

Jo Wright

Christmas at the Drive.

Sunday 29th November 2015 was Advent Sunday when we read the first weekly Advent reading and lit the first candle on the Advent ring. Each Sunday after, another reading was read and another candle lit, until we reached Christmas Day when the last candle was lit.

Our Nativity and Toy service was on December 13th, when our Junior Church presented their Nativity play to the Church. This was a very well presented and produced play which we all enjoyed immensely. The dedicated staff and pupils succeeded in showing that their standard of professionalism and dedication continues to increase annually.

6.30pm on Sunday 20th December we held our Carol Service, which was prepared and led by our organist Andrew Taylor.

It started with Theadora Garner singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City as a solo at the back of the church before the choir paraded down the church isle to the choir stalls. Revd. Bernardino Mandlate introduced the service, and the rest followed without comment, until Revd. Bernardino Mandlate read the last lesson, led prayers, before we sang our last carol which was Hark the herald angels sing. The whole service was held with only the candles for lighting.

Our team of flower arrangers did the church proud, arranging remarkable displays which together with the wonderful Christmas tree which was put into position and decorated to perfection by Jeremy Foster and his team.

I am sure the church congregation join me in expressing our thanks to all those who made it a Christmas to remember.

Roy Brunnen.

The Circuit Welcome service for Revd Ermal Kirby and Revd. Jenni Sweet.

About 150 people attended the service at The Drive, in spite of the inclement weather. The Revd. Nigel Cowgill led the service and was the preacher. He has been the acting superintendent of the Barking, Havering and Redbridge circuit since the Revd. Stephen Poole left during the summer. Nigel noted that Barking church was there in full, but Ilford? Behind you we should have shouted as it was during the height of the pantomime season. Most members of the Ilford church were in the choir with their music director Martin Fairhurst. We were very glad to have them with us. The introit we sang was a new Commandment by Barbara Honeyball it was a competition winner for the small choirs festival of 2015. I think that Barbara was at the festival to receive the prize, but we were not photographed with her.

We were delighted to have the Mayor of Redbridge Councillor Barbara White and her consort Frank White in attendance. Both are professional musicians. There were visitors from Wesley's Chapel and representatives from all the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit churches. The Revd. Francis Ackroyd of the Divine United Reform church, The Revd. Dr John Brown of St Lukes Church of England, and Doreen Weller of the Hospital Chapel, all spoke on behalf of the Ilford Town centre churches.

After the service we enjoyed sandwiches homemade cakes, tea and coffee in the parlour and in the church.

Susan Ruckes.

Music Matters

LOOKING BACK...

A huge thank you is due to all the members of our choir for their commitment to music-making at The Drive. We meet together on nearly 30 Thursday evenings each year, which makes us the most frequent weekday meeting in our church. Despite our small numbers, there are very few Sundays when we do not have enough people to make a choir for the morning service.

Christmas is the culmination of all our efforts throughout the year. This year's Carol Service went very well and was very well received by the congregation. The singers in the Drive Chorale also greatly contributed to the success of the service, singing one piece by themselves and two with the choir. We hope that everyone who was there felt the true spirit of the Christmas story as it was told once again in words and music, as we did, and that it provided a welcome break from the hustle and bustle that precedes the big day!

LOOKING FORWARD...

Now the New Year has come, the first thing we turn our attention to is the **Small Choirs' Festival on Saturday 6th February**. Once again, we will be joined by singers from our Ilford Lane church, which is always a pleasure. This year, the festival is being held at All Saints Church, Margaret Street, W1W 8JG. All Saints is a marvellous Victorian church in the heart of the West End, close to Oxford Circus and recently restored to its full high gothic splendour. The service begins at 5pm and anyone is welcome to attend, to hear the massed choirs singing and to join in the congregational hymns.

Lent and Easter will be upon us a little earlier this year, and the whole cycle comes round again...

Andrew Taylor



Our Place in the world

By Revd. Jan Atkins.

Discipleship is about learning, but do we see ourselves as learners, and what are we learning as we each find our place in the world.

Beginning in **February**, we start by looking at marriage practice, which has undergone fundamental changes in recent years. This is something the Methodist church has asked all of us to discuss and feedback on. Focusing on Acts 2: 42-47, we look at how we live together in diversity, we cannot agree on everything. In **March** we begin to look at our place as humans in the world. Psalm 8 states we are made a 'little lower than God' and have dominion over the animals. What does this mean for the way we live our lives. **April** arrives and we look at our place in time. Psalm 90 emphasizes our dependence on God and on making every day count. **May** focuses on our place of Safety. Are we reassured that God protects us and we can trust in God. Psalm 91: 9-16 takes up this theme. Finally, **June** finds us praising God, reaping harvests. What harvests do we want to reap? What is fulfilment in life. We take Psalm 126 as our starting point.

The Programme is as follows:

Barkingside	Tuesday 2 nd February	10.30 – 11.30 am
Grange Hill	Tuesday 2 nd February	12.00 – 1.00 pm
Gantshill	Monday 1 st February	10.30 – 11.30 am
	and Tuesday 2 nd February	7.30 – 8.30 pm
Barkingside	Tuesday 1 st March	10.30 – 11.30 am
Grange Hill	Tuesday 1 st March	12.00 – 1.00 pm

Gantshill	Tuesday 1st March and Monday 7th March	7.30 – 8.30 pm 10.30 – 11.30 am
Barkingside	Tuesday 5th April	10.30 – 11.30 am
Grange Hill	Tuesday 5th April	12.00 – 1.00 pm
Gantshill	Monday 4th April and Tuesday 5th April	10.30 – 11.30 am 7.30 – 8.30 pm
Barkingside	Tuesday 3rd May	10.30 – 11.30 am
Grange Hill	Tuesday 3rd May	12.00 – 1.00 pm
Gantshill	Tuesday 3 rd May and Monday 9 th May	7.30 – 8.30 pm 10.30 – 11.30 am
Barkingside	Tuesday 4th June	10.30 – 11.30 am
Grange Hill	Tuesday 4 th June	12.00 – 1.00 pm
Gantshill	Monday 6th June and Tuesday 7th June	10.30 – 11.30 am 7.30 – 8.30 pm

SINGING THE FAITH – THE FOURTH YEAR BROTHER, SISTER, LET ME BORE YOU WITH SOME MORE HYMN STATS!

We first used the new Methodist hymnal *Singing the Faith* on Sunday 15th January 2012. Since then I have kept a note of the hymns and songs used (from now on, I'll just refer to them as "songs"), and for those of you interested in statistics, here is a summary of those we used in 2015.

Not included in these figures are the handful of songs chosen by preachers that are not in *StF*, and any songs the choir has sung alone.

Over the year we sang 181 different songs from *StF*, which is 3 fewer than were used in 2014. These were the most frequently used songs:

8 times	94	<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done!</i>
6 times	693	<i>Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair</i>

5 times	59	<i>Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, shine)</i>
	663	<i>I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry</i>
4 times	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>
	35	<i>The trumpets sound, the angels sing</i>
	51	<i>Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father</i>
	563	<i>O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end</i>
	566	<i>Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee</i>
	611	<i>Brother, sister, let me serve you</i>

A further 14 songs were chosen 3 times, 43 twice and the remaining 114 just once.

Of the total 181 songs used, 16 were completely new to us.

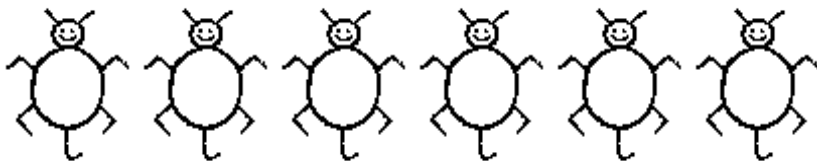
94 *To God be the glory* is number one for the third year running! Will it ever be knocked off the top slot? It is the only song to appear in the most frequently used list in all the four years we have been using *StF*. The other songs which appeared in the same list in 2014 are 35 *The trumpets sound*, 59 *Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus shine)* and 611 *Brother, sister, let me serve you*.

Taking the four years we have been using *StF* overall, we have now used 356 of the 790 songs available (not including the Canticles and Psalms section) which is forty-five percent of the book covered – so edging ever closer to half!

The top three hymns in those four years remains unchanged from last year:

26 times	94	<i>To God be the glory</i>
16 times	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>
	611	<i>Brother, sister, let me serve you</i>

Andrew Taylor



**Our annual JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA (and raffle)
will be held on:**

SATURDAY 5th MARCH 2016

2.30 pm for 3 pm START

THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Adult: £5: Children (under 16): £2.50

All profits go to JMA (Junior Mission for All)
raising funds for projects both at home and abroad.
Come along and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun!

***Tickets are available from me now
so please tell all your family and friends.***



Sweet smell of success.

Three years ago Ruth Joyce had an idea. At the time she told me that any money that resulted from her venture would be given to "Raysin hope" which supports people following their diagnosis of a brain tumour. Initially Ruth sourced the lavender from the gardens of family and friends but such was the success of the bags in the first year, it was clear that in order to keep up with demand a far larger garden of lavender would need to be found and Ruth had another idea.

With permission from the head gardener at the city of London cemetery Ruth cut back and collected a large amount of lavender from the ground. She asked for donations of material and ribbon and with the help of Janet Wragg and share-a-skill members there were sessions of cutting out and sewing up the heart shape ready for Ruth to fill and finish.

Over the past few months I have seen Ruth in various places, she has her bag of tools by her side and worked tirelessly filling the hearts with lavender and sewing them up ready to be adorned with a mix of ribbons and lace. Surrounding her as she works is the delicate fragrance of a plant known for its many uses. It is this aroma that I have encountered many times recently and discovered that Ruth has been in the vicinity earlier. I should not have been surprised when just before Christmas I walked into the entrance of King George Hospital and the sweet smell of lavender was coming from the confines of the shop! Ruth can be seen at the shop on Monday morning throughout the year but the delicate perfume of lavender has wafted away for now unless you purchased one of these delightful bags.

I would like to thank Ruth for the immense amount of time and effort she has put in to making and selling the bags, and most kindly donated £510 to Raysin Hope. Success in deed and helping others all the while.

Anne Dellow.

The Raysin Hope newsletter.

Unfortunately I was unable to produce the newsletter in time for Christmas this year and I hope to get one printed soon. For now I would like to say thank you to everyone who have a Raysin Hope saving pot. It's amazing how much money comes into our funds this way.

Thank you to Peter Sharp who has always donated money from the sale of his produce grown on his allotment.

Thank you to Janet Wragg and share-a-skill members who helped Ruth.

Our thanks to everyone who supports our coffee morning and table top events.

Anne Dellow.

DRIVE PRE SCHOOL

The School was highly commended following a recent inspection by OFSTED. Congratulations to the staff and pupils.

Brian Taylor.

WHAT'S COMING UP IN MARCH

The next **Valentine Singers concert** is on **Saturday 12th March** at St Andrew's church just up The Drive from us. The programme includes Leonard Bernstein's Chichister Psalms, accompanied by organ, harp and percussion. Pieces by Elgar, Holst and contemporary composer Tarik O'Regan are also on the programme. Speak to **Andrew Taylor** for more details.

Scout Group Quiz night Saturday 19th March

Look out for the posters for full details.

Your support is needed

John Taylor. Chairman.

Easter Egg Hunt



With crafts and refreshments on
Saturday 26th March 10.30am - 12.30pm.

HALL FLOOR

The hall floor has worn out and will have to be taken up and replaced. It is expected that this work will be done during the summer holiday period. So the hall will be closed for all August.

Brian Taylor.

February Diary

Thu	4 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	7th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion with Collection for the Welcome Centre led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Wed	10 th		Ash Wednesday
Sun	14th	11.15am	Morning Service, First Sunday in Lent led by Mr David Pender

Last day for items to be included in the March newsletter.

Fri	19 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning at The Gardeners Café Valentines Mansion, Emerson Road, Gantshill.
Sun	21st	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Amos Doughan
Thu	25 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	28th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.

Last day for submitting annual reports for inclusion in the annual report

A thought

You're painfully aware that, although your tongue is still in perfect working order, most of your other bits and pieces are well past their sell – by date and it makes you feel like a two and a half year old mental defective when you cannot for the life of you remember the name of someone you have known since they were just a bump!

Betty Griffiths.

This not only happens when you get older, I started young.

Roy Brunnen.

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.