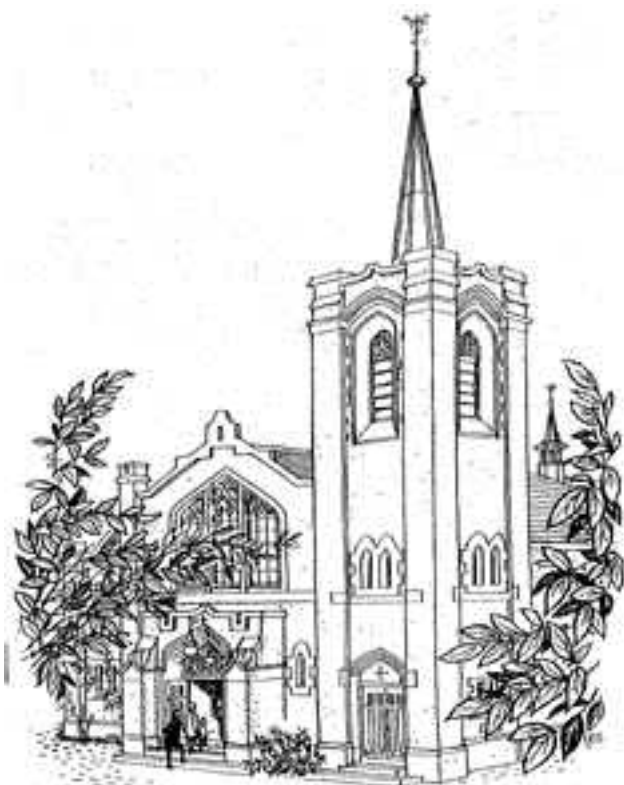


The Drive Methodist Church  
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

# NEWSLETTER

April 2016



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

## **A Message from Rev. Bernardino Mandlate**

Hi Friends

It is time to write that 'He is risen'. This is one of the central messages of the Gospels. It is the resurrection that gives Christians the belief in life eternal. Jesus, according to the gospels, conquered death so that we may have life abundantly. It is resurrection that starts the church.

We have been through Lent, passion and Good Friday when Jesus was nailed on the cross for the sins of the world. According to differing opinions of theologians, there is a possibility that Jesus was killed for being a revolutionary?! Inciting revolts against the authorities?! These conjectures are a result of analysing the context at the time and what historians can provide us for that time when Jesus was around.

But the gospels talk about the religious authorities handing him over to the Roman authorities to be dealt with as someone calling himself a King. This is in a way a political statement. But also a religious issue for the Jewish authorities, because Jesus was said to be the king of the Jews.

The prophets, in particular Isaiah, talk of him as a suffering servant, who is sent by God to come and suffer for the sake of God's own people...

His resurrection creates and energises a movement of followers that dedicate their lives to proclaiming the good news that Jesus brought and signified. By so doing, they created the early church which strived to expand to all corners of the known world.

We are a product of that movement. And we have a duty and responsibility to continue the vision of carrying on the proclamation of the good news of the kingdom of God.

We have a duty of care and love as Christian communities. We are surrounded by homeless people and refugees. We are surrounded by poverty. We can choose not to see. However, the gospel tells us that we have a duty and responsibility to care for those in need. We cannot pick and choose bits and pieces of the gospel, we have to respond to all of the gospel. Take the challenge if you are able, in your own small way.

May the good Lord continue to bless you all.

***Dino***

## **Bible Reading Notes**

You may not know that for many years Frank Sayers has arranged to get, on behalf of those members who wished to follow the Bible Reading Fellowship Notes, the four-monthly booklets.

Frank has reluctantly decided that he would like to be relieved of this service, and has asked me if I would be willing to take over. I have just distributed the "May – August" booklets, and the next edition should be available during July. The cost of each edition is currently £4.35, and if anyone would like to join the eight members who take the readings at present, I shall be pleased to get more copies each time.

I have a few past copies you can borrow to see if you are interested, and I can get more of the "May – August" edition if you wish. Please see me if you are interested.

***Brian Grinham.***

## **Annual Beetle Drive**

On Saturday afternoon, 5th March, a hush fell over the church hall. Heads were bent in deep concentration, cups holding dice were grasped and pencils were poised in anticipation. The whistle blew and they were off, marking the start of our 24th Annual Family Beetle Drive and Tea.

The excited rattling of dice continued for some minutes until that inevitable first cry of "Beetle" After 24 games we had our two winners, Thea and Audrey. Well done to them! A hearty tea followed which was well received after all that excitement. The amount raised was a splendid £345! Thank you to everyone who made the afternoon another great success – to those who came along and played and to those who very kindly made donations.

Thanks also to Michelle and John for their help with preparing the tea, and to Jeremy for keeping all the players under control!

You can see photos of the event on The Drive's website [www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk](http://www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk)

***Diane Foster***

## **Jeremy Foster**

Congratulations to Jeremy on his retirement from HSBC after a career spanning 42 years. On Thursday, 17 March, Louise and I were pleased to join Jeremy with his colleagues, past and present, in the dining rooms at the Pall Mall Corporate Office to give him a great send-off. Unfortunately, Matthew was unable to be with us as he was taking part in sea trials in the Firth of Clyde.

On Monday, 16 September 1974, as an 18-year old school leaver, Jeremy arrived at the Midland Bank Training Branch, Holborn, for his four-day induction course before commencing work as a junior clerk at the bank's Queen Victoria Street

branch. Following completion of his banking exams and many appointments later, Jeremy became a Senior Corporate Banking Manager at Pall Mall, before finishing his career as an Area Manager at HSBC, Canary Wharf.

It was on his first appointment in 1982, as an Assistant Accountant at Midland Bank Hornchurch, that I met him. The rest, as they say, is history. Jeremy has plenty of activities, including walking, fishing, and other projects lined up to keep him busy. For the present I will continue working three days a week at Methodist Church House. I'm looking forward to coming home to having dinner all cooked and ready for me!

***Diane Foster***

## **Peertalk.**

The latest update from the peer talk charity is printed below.

Dear All,

We are currently trying to make arrangements for the first two awareness day/day conferences. We have a structure for the day and would very much value your prayers as we seek to book speakers. Pray that we might invite the right people and they will be available. The dates are 18<sup>th</sup> June at Huddersfield Mission and 25<sup>th</sup> June in Preston at a venue to be confirmed.

June in some ways seems an age away when we look at the weather, but in reality is only 4 months and we know how fast the weeks come and go.

Prayers appreciated

***Liz***

***Administrator***

***Peer Talk***

## **Stairway to Heaven.**

The worst civilian disaster of the second world war occurred on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1943 at Bethnal Green tube shelter. 173 people were crushed to death when a woman tripped on the stairs. Schoolboy Alf Morris and his aunt had been trapped near the bottom of the stairs. Alf was rescued by a warden and sent into the shelter.

His aunt also survived. Alf was told not to tell anyone of his ordeal. He kept silent for 50 years. I attended the 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary memorial service, which was held at St John on Bethnal Green on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

It was a very moving service, survivors and relations of victims read the list of 173 names. The Rector and Rabbi gave simple but positive messages.

After the service many of us crossed the road to the memorial the memorial. Many had photographs attached.

We then returned to the church for refreshments.

Before the church service, Alf Morris shook hands with everyone and thanked them for coming.

Having read of his ordeal, this was an unforgettable experience.

***Susan Ruckes.***

## **Women's world day of prayer.**

When Janet Crosland moved away last year it was wondered if the next event would continue. Ilford town Centre churches felt that it should take place in 2016. It is always on the first Friday in March. Doreen Weller was asked to be the coordinator. No-one could have done better.

The women of Cuba developed the service – A really happy, positive service – very different from some other years. Thanks to Revd. Francis Acaroid, who not only offered his church, Vine United Reformed, but played all the music, the service went ahead as planned. Sister Felicity Young, Barbara Foster's cousin, presented the meditation.

The Mayor of Redbridge, Barbara White and two other councilors attended. Local MP Mike Gapes, a regular attender for many years, sent apologies as he had recently left hospital after major surgery.

There were 85 people in the congregation and over £311 was raised. Who could have foreseen the recent changes in Cuba? President Barack Obama's visit?

***Susan Ruckes***

## **The Religious Education Resources Project.**

Providing advice resources and training  
On Christian Religious Education for Schools.

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing this I am in the midst of fulfilling many requests from schools to tell and explain the Easter story. The early Easter this year has meant that this is a short half term and I am juggling requests to fit them in.

Nevertheless, 29 separate lessons will have been completed on Easter or Jesus by the end of term, at least 5 assemblies and a church visit.

Children in the early years will explore the story through artefacts which I take into the classroom. Years 2 and 3 explore feelings and how artists through the years have expressed the story. Years 4 and 5 look at how Christians

celebrate Holy Week and year 6 children study the different accounts of Easter Sunday in the Gospels.

It is a lot for many children to take in especially if they have no previous context in which to understand it. Some children confuse it with other topics. This year I had to explain that Jesus was not Guy Fawkes and was not in trouble with the king.

I am very seldom invited to talk about Lent and never about Pentecost so children can miss out on the wider Easter story. They sometimes ask me 'what is the big deal about Easter?' or 'why do Christians think it is so important?'

I aim to answer these questions clearly and in the most suitable vocabulary for each age. I hope I succeed.

***Carol Dawson***

***Outreach Worker.***

## **April Diary**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>11:15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Funmi Coker.</b>
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup>	8:00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Church work morning. Please come and help if you can.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11:15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Mr. R Debrah</b>
Fri	15 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	Coffee morning in gardener's café Valentines Mansion, Emerson Road.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11:15am</b>	<b>Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.</b>
Thu	21 <sup>st</sup>	7:45pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11:15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Ms F Egbo</b>
Thu	28 <sup>th</sup>	7:45pm	Choir Practice

## **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.

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.***