

The Drive Methodist Church

Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

May 2016



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

A message from our Minister Rev. Bernardino Mandlate.

Friends

I trust that God has been as kind to you as he has been to me. Every time I look around, I see the hand of God at work in the midst of destruction, conflict, unhappiness, distrust, anxiety. Sometimes it is extremely difficult to see God at work when we feel that we are not faring well. Sometimes it is good to question whether God is with us, helping us, sharing our pain and misery. It may be difficult to see God in the midst of a struggling refugee camp.

There is a lot of symbolism in what the Pope did a few weeks ago. Being the head of worldwide church as he is, he left the comfort of the Vatican to go and see firsthand the struggles and pain of refugees, to engage with them and hear their stories, to share in their pain and share with them the love of God. The Pope took with him twelve Syrian refugees to give them accommodation in the Vatican, a symbol of love, care and compassion. The twelve are all Muslims. Not that it matters but there is a bit of symbolism, in my view, with that choice. He could have chosen to take Christian families but, in Acts 11 Peter is instructed to eat whatever animals God has provided for him because God has made them clean. Peter Baptized Cornelius' household and then is taken to task by the religious authorities in Jerusalem, because he has made God accessible to Gentiles. But, as he explains, God gave them the Holy Spirit in the same way that was given to them. We are all God's.

We look forward to welcoming you all theregesture. It is the love of Christ being shared with God's people however they choose to worship him.

It is a good lesson for all of us to learn and try to put in practice. It is a good lesson and example for governments to follow. Sharing the love of God is everyone's responsibility, there are no excuses not love and care for others. There are no excuses not to give a helping hand to people in need around us.

Our church is slowly growing. It is always good to see a few people coming through our doors even if it's for simple visit, but especially a visit by those looking for a place to belong. We are a welcoming church and it feels good. God bless you. Dino

Easter

Thank you to everyone who supported the Easter Egg Hunt. Once again the rain stayed away!

Jo

Music in Holy Week.

Each Tuesday evening during Lent, there were excellent talks and Bible studies on topical issues, for example, migration, slavery, famine. These meetings and the Maundy Thursday Service took place at St Andrew's Church in The Drive. Our choir master Andrew and The Drive Methodist church choir provided the music including "A new commandment" by Barbara Honeyball, as St Andrew's regular organist was away. The focal point of the service was the washing of feet, which was not compulsory.

On Good Friday, a walk of witness took place in Ilford Town centre. (other walks were available elsewhere in the Borough.) People came and went according to the times of their own church services. The walk was preceded by a service taken by Revd. Marie Segal at the Hospital Chapel. It was excellent. Prayers were said and hymns sung at various locations. Revd. Jenny Sweet led the devotions at Lynton House. Revd. Francis Ackroyd was the coordinator. The youngest participant was Abigail Clifton, whose parents are Naomi and John Clifton of the Salvation Army.

Haydon's "creation" was the "come and sing" work attempted at The Drive on Good Friday evening. Thanks to Barbara Fisher, a notice appeared in the Ilford Recorder. Forty eight singers took part and there was a good sized audience. The "Orchestra" was the brilliant pianist, Tim Smith, who is giving a recital at Chelmsford Cathedral on 20th May 2016. The best known chorus of "Creation" is "The Heavens are telling" which takes me back to Herne Hill Baptist Church, South

London and Bethesda United Church in Mississauga, Canada. On Good Friday we had a soprano and a tenor soloist. No volunteer bass soloist came forward. Some sections were sung by all the basses. Often a bass soloist was required. How did he do it? Andrew Taylor sang as well as conducting the choir. The event was to raise money for the Bahay ng pag-asa children's home in the Philippines.

On Easter Saturday two of us from The Drive choir went to St Mary's Woodford to hear London Forest choir sing Stainers Crucifixion. The conductor was Jonathan Rathbone. The libretto was written by W J Barrow Simpson, who was chaplain of Ilford Hospital chapel from 1904 – 1952. On Easter morning we gathered to sing Alleluias. I understand that the key was changed of the final alleluia. This was to fit in with the voluntary widor's toccata, the final movement of the fifth symphony. There is no need to go to Westminster Central hall or Westminster Abbey.
Susan Ruckes

Action for children light collecting boxes

Some time ago we had a visiting speaker from Action for children. As a congregation we were asked if we would like to order some light collecting boxes. They were never sent!

A couple of weeks ago I was asked to send any money, which had been collected, to Action for children. I made some phone calls and a few days later, along with an apologetic email, the light boxes were delivered.

If you would like a collecting box, then please come and see me. Sorry for the long delay!

Jo

Sunday May 8th.
Junior Church craft activity

Thea is planning an activity for the 8th May and would like to ask people to bring in any unwanted DVD's, CD's and records.

The craft will involve breaking them up so please don't bring anything that is important to you, or valuable! Thank you.

Michelle Garner.

Plant Sale – Plant Sale – Plant Sale

Saturday 21st May 10am to 12.30pm

Make a note of the date and come along and support the Scout Group's Plant Sale, Cake Stall and Coffee Morning. There will be the usual array of top class plants for your garden at very competitive prices and you can round off the morning with a coffee, chat and cakes from the cake stall.

We look forward to welcoming you all there

Monthly Coffee Morning

As some of you are aware, we meet on the third Friday of each Month at the Gardeners café in the grounds of Valentines Mansion, which is just off Emerson Road, Gants Hill. This is an opportunity for us all to meet socially over a cup of tea or coffee. Since this was started the meeting time has been 10.00am, but experience is telling us that it would be more appropriate for the time to be 10.30am. Discussion with some of those who come regularly also supports this change. Therefore, future coffee mornings will commence at 10.30am, and all people are welcome to join us.
Roy Brunnen.

Calling all knitters

I've been given a large supply of wool which has been donated to the church and would like it put to good use.

So, we are looking for anyone keen to get involved and handy with the needles to knit squares to be made up into blankets (like Josie is currently doing to great effect) or to continue with Janet's project last year of knitting baby jackets or blankets for the special baby care unit.

Please let me know if you are interested in getting involved and if you can't knit and would like to learn how, also let me know.

Ruth Joyce.

Gift Aid News

HMRC are changing the forms that we sign to confirm our wish for the Church to reclaim the Tax we have paid on our giving. Whilst this does not mean that we all have to sign new forms, I am copying below the part of the form that has changed so that everyone will be aware of the rules.

By completing this form you confirm:

"I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference."

Brian Grinham, Gift Aid Secretary

Peertalk update - Submitted by Corinne Smith.

Dear All,

The first three months of the Peertalk project have passed very quickly. Much of the time has been spent organizing the first two awareness days; finding the right venues, inviting speakers etc. When that was complete we sent the details to Lamberts Print & Design in Settle and a leaflet is the result of all our work. A number of leaflets

and posters are to be sent to the four Yorkshire Methodist Districts and Lancashire District along with a short PowerPoint presentation put together by Stephen and Philippa to promote the event at the Spring Synod meetings. Other leaflets will be sent to ecumenical partners and anyone who is interested. We have learned new things along the way, like using Eventbrite to advertise events on the web.

Your prayers for these events will be appreciated, we are hoping to have 200 people at each event.

Things for us to work on are the website, the next two awareness days to be held in Cumbria and Newcastle Districts in October/November, a five year plan for fundraising purposes and the volunteer training material.

Thank you for your continued interest and support.
Liz

In celebration of the late Barbara Hills

Barbara Hills was a popular and well known supporter of a number of Ilford organisations such as the chapel on Ilford Hill, and the Kenneth More Theatre where she also appeared as a member of the cast.

On May 8th at 7pm there will be a concert in celebration of her life entitled "Our fair lady" at the Kenneth More Theatre, with Roderick Elms at the piano, and soprano Carole Bowerman. Tickets are £15 and there are also refreshments.

Submitted by Audrey Manuel.

12th Ilford Guides

The 12th Ilford Guides meet Every Thursday during term time in our church hall at 7.30pm.

They have spaces available for several girls, ages 10 – 14 and 14+ in the unit. The unit focuses on teaching life skills, while giving the girls space to be themselves. We aim to take the girls out on outings each half term and experience things they would otherwise not get the chance. There are numerous opportunities within the unit and Girl guiding to attend large events, camping experiences, days out and weekends away.

If you are interested, please email Susan Parker, Guide leader – ilfordguides12@outlook.com or register your interest on the central GirlGuiding website at <https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/> Susan Parker.

Diary for May

Sun	1 st	11.15 am	Morning service with Holy communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Thu	5 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	8 th	11.15am	Morning service led by Dave Pender and The Junior Church.
Thu	12 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	15 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs S Grundy
Thu	19 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Fri	20 th	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Gardener's Café Valentines Mansion, Emerson Rd, Gantshill.
Sat	21 st	10am	Scout Group's Plant Sale
Sun	22 nd	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. J Kirby
Sun	29 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Sanya Strachan

May God the father,
 Who made us to enjoy his creation,
 God the son,
 Who called us and asked us to answer,
 And God the spirit,
 Who fills us with joyfulness,
 Bless us all.
 Amen.

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.