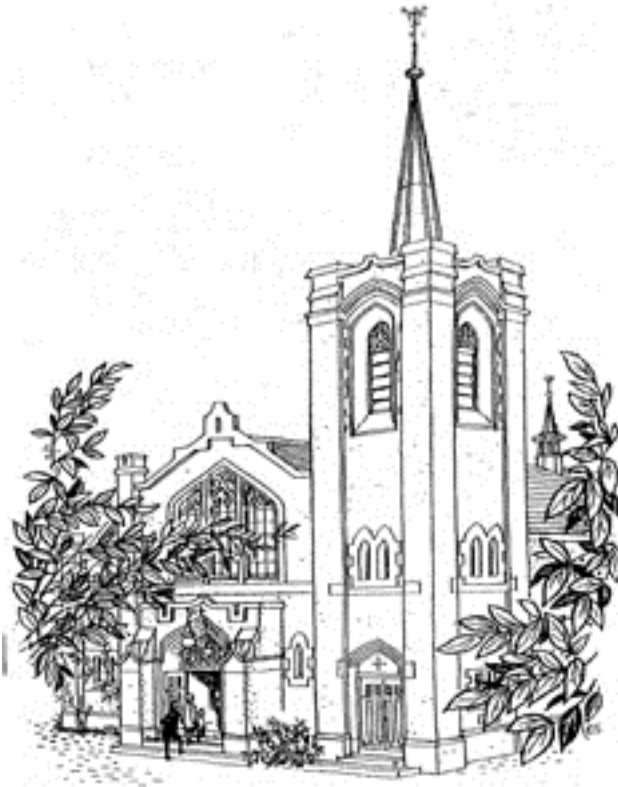


The Drive Methodist Church  
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

# NEWSLETTER

March 2017



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

## **From Revd. Bernardino Mandlate**

Friends

We are entering the Lent season soon. In truth by the time this newsletter is out, it will be Lent. We are gearing up to the preparations for Good Friday and Easter. Sometimes the scriptures challenge us to move on and to reflect on our lifestyles so that we are ready to be as Christ in the way we see and interact with the world around us.

The world today in developing new language. We now talk of fake news, alternative facts, and a world of suspicion. Do we believe what we read in newspapers or see on our television screens?! We are compelled to make our own assessment of the situations around us and work our own truths in the face of discords in the media and social media those who have access to social media.

The truth is, poverty is around us staring at us and we can see it, violence is present in our communities and we are aware of it, hatred is around us and we can touch it. Lent is an opportunity to revisit all these issues around us and our role in it. Jesus said in Matthew 5.48 'be perfect...' really? How do we become perfect in the face of the world in which we live with all its controversies and misgivings and leaders who are so concerned about their power and what they can get out of it. How do we become perfect when we are encouraged by our political leaders to be otherwise. We are encouraged to be suspicious, to be anti- immigrants, to be sceptical of anything around us and eventually to be more concerned about our own selves and nothing more?!

Yet, as Christians we are supposed to follow Christ's instructions, we are expected to be as perfect as Jesus was. This is something we do within the limitations and scope of what society affords us these days. We do everything with suspicion, we do help, with question marks, and sometimes we struggle to help others. But we have a duty to help regardless. Take time, during Lent, to think about your role as an individual and as a community regarding community issues like homelessness, night shelter, hunger in our borough, refugees in Redbridge, and other related situations that you can think of. We don't have to do it all, but we have a responsibility to do something. Do your bit.

May the good Lord bless you as you try to be a perfect follower of Jesus Christ.

***Dino***

### **Please include in your prayers**

Those people who give freely of their time and talents to ensure the many tasks needed to ensure the church runs as smoothly as possible. Unless you are involved it is impossible to know just how much time is given without any thought of the consequences. Our Lord God has called them to serve him and make it possible for us to learn his ways and enable us to pass that on to others.

God is great, and so are his servants in our midst.

***Roy Brunnen***

### **Bible Book Study Group The book of Joel in March**

We are looking forward to hearing what people think about Joel. We read Joel recently. Peter, on the day of Pentecost announced the fulfilment of this prophecy and he says in Acts 2: 16 "this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel". We were curious to see what Joel did say. At the time, we found it a good read. We liked the way it was written, the immediacy and the descriptive language. It also caused us to ponder about a couple of questions. What picture of God did Joel have and how differently do we see him today? Do all human beings have the spirit? No doubt when we reread Joel before the end of the month we shall have other questions to think about. We look forward to sharing our thoughts together. Our group will be meeting on the last Friday of the month (March 31) at 10:30 AM. All are welcome.

***Jan and John.***

## Small Choirs Festival

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, a small group from our choir and some singers from Ilford Methodist Church travelled to All Saint's Church, Margaret Street in the West End to take part in this year's Small Choirs Festival.

Run by Phillip Norman, the festival has been going since 2004 and gives church choirs with few or no men the opportunity to come together to sing specially arranged music as part of a larger group.

This year the music ranged from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, and included a reminder that 2017 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation with the singing of Martin Luther's great hymn "A Safe Stronghold".

There was a thoughtful homily from Father John Burniston, parish priest of St James', Islington, himself a life-long church musician. The number of singers was a little lower than previous years, but it was still a privilege and joy to sing in such wonderful (if a little chilly!) surroundings.

***Andrew Taylor***

### **VALENTINE SINGERS**

A rare opportunity to hear  
Handel's 1744 oratorio

### **BELSHAZZAR**

a dramatic masterpiece that enshrines the virtues of  
peace, liberty and harmony between nations,  
in which triumphalism and bloody revenge have no place  
R.Wigmore

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm**  
**St Andrews Church, The Drive, Ilford IG1 3PE**

Tickets £14, £8 students /benefit holders  
(£2 supplement on the door)  
or speak to Andrew Taylor  
or visit [www.Valentinesingers.org](http://www.Valentinesingers.org)

## SINGING THE FAITH – THE FIFTH YEAR BE STILL, FOR TO GOD BE THE GLORY HAS TWO NEW FRIENDS...

We first used the new Methodist hymnal *Singing the Faith* on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2016.

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 164 different songs from *StF*, which is 17 fewer than were used in 2015, and actually the smallest number of different songs we have used in one year since we started using *StF*. These were the most frequently used songs:

6 times	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>
	94	<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done!</i>
	531	<i>What a friend we have in Jesus</i>
5 times	51	<i>Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father</i>
	82	<i>O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder (How great thou art)</i>
	495	<i>Dear Lord and Father of mankind</i>
	545	<i>Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart</i>
4 times	35	<i>The trumpets sound, the angels sing</i>
	42	<i>O sing to the Lord</i>
	59	<i>Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus shine)</i>
	345	<i>And can it be that I should gain</i>
	351	<i>In Christ alone my hope is found</i>
	364	<i>O for a thousand tongues to sing</i>
	465	<i>Guide me, O thou great Jehovah</i>

4 times	556	<i>Just as I am, without one plea</i>
	663	<i>I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry</i>
	693	<i>Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair</i>

A further 8 songs were chosen 3 times, 36 twice and the remaining 103 just once.

Of the total 164 songs used, 14 were completely new to us. This brings the total of new songs we have used since the introduction of *StF* to over 100.

For the first time, we have 3 songs sharing the top slot. 94 *To God be the glory* is there for the fourth year running! It remains the only song to appear in the most frequently used list in all the five years we have been using *StF*. 20 *Be still* returns to number one for the first time since 2012 and 531 *What a friend* is at the top for the first time.

Taking the five years we have been using *StF* overall, we have now used 372 of the 790 songs available (not including the Canticles and Psalms section) which is forty-seven percent of the book covered – still just short of that elusive fifty percent!

The top two hymns in those five years remains unchanged from last year:

32 times	94	<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done</i>
22 times	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>

It's interesting to note some of the songs which used to be popular but have not been used at all since introducing *StF*, among them 73 *Fill thou my life*, 312 *The head that once was crowned with thorns*, 368 *When morning gilds the skies*, 455 *All my hope on God is founded* and 748 *Glorious things of thee are spoken*.

**Andrew Taylor**

## **Scout Group News**

Our Beaver colony re-formed on Tuesday 10th January. Led by **Rizwana Khan and Henry Watson**, and supported by staff from Gilwell Park and our District, they've made an encouraging start with a steady flow of new recruits. We are planning to invest the first group of Beavers in early March and have high hopes for their future. If you know any 6-7 year olds who might be interested, please contact Mike Seviour or Rizwana Khan (see back cover of Newsletter).

In another exciting development, for the first time in the Group's history, we are now pleased to welcome both boys and girls into Beavers and Cubs. We hope that this change will help us to grow the numbers in the group again more quickly.

Congratulations to **Jeremy Foster** on receiving his Long Service Award marking 40 years as Assistant Scout Leader. He has also been the Group Quartermaster since the early 1970s and it is testament to his skills and dedication that we have equipment in our store which has served even longer than him! Thank you Jeremy for all your hard work and support.

**Mike Seviour**

## **Church Library**

At the last meeting of the church council we discussed the book case which has been at the back of the church for many years. It was decided that it needs some attention with some of the books which have outlived their usefulness, and should have some newer books added.

This task has been undertaken by Coreen Smith who will recruit a young person or two to assist her. If any of you have particular books which are of interest or have historic connections please speak with Coreen, who will take these into consideration.

**Roy Brunnen**

## **The Gladstone Connection**

Does anyone remember Revd. Charles Gladstone when he was the minister of Goodmayes Methodist Church?

When he retired, he and his wife moved to Reigate, Surrey, where they attended Reigate Methodist Church. My parents attended the same church from 1965 to 1981, when they moved to Clacton.

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February, the Gladstone's son-in-law, Allan Ramsdon preached at The Drive after a long absence.

While working in Toronto French School, Canada, I lived for a year near St Clair Avenue and attended York Minster Park Baptist Church, where the minister was Dr. John Gladstone who was the Rev'd Charles Gladstone's nephew.

One thing I missed most on my return to England, was singing in the church choir. As well as the usual anthems each Sunday, works such as the Faure requiem and the Mozart requiem were performed on palm Sunday. I had practiced Mozart's Coronation mass for Palm Sunday 1978 but did not take part as I was on holiday in Hawaii. I had to wait about twenty years to sing that particular work with Ilford Choral Society, which I joined in 1979.

If anyone has a cassette player and is interested, I have the fiftieth anniversary services on tape with leaflets of some sermons.

***Susan Ruckes.***



## **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, here at The Drive Methodist Church.

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.

## **Gounod and Mendelssohn**

**The New Essex Choir** will be singing in the church on

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30 pm.**

The programme for this concert will consist of two choral works:

Gounod : Messe Solonnelle for St Cecilia

Mendelssohn : Hymn of Praise

The setting of the Mass was written soon after Gounod had decided to become a composer instead of a priest and there is a freshness and simplicity in the writing. The Hymn of Praise is the final movement of a symphony. The words are from Isaiah and Psalms giving thanks to God for his salvation. Some of the nine sections shared between soloists and chorus have become well known as arias and anthems.

Tickets £10(concessions £8) in advance from **Kathleen and Brian Taylor.**

Tickets on the door £11/£9, under 14 free.



## **Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**The Drive Methodist Church Hall**

**10.30am - 12.30pm**

**All are welcome to join in the fun**

**Lots of craft activities**

**Hot cross buns and refreshments**

**Children £1.00 - adults are free!**

**Parents/carers must accompany their children at all times during the morning**

## Church Diary

<b>Sun</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>8.00 pm</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate</b>
Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.45 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup>	2.30 pm	Annual Beetle Drive in the Church Hall.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate</b>
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Morning Service led by Mr John Pearson Followed by the Annual Church Meeting.</b>
Thu	16 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Church coffee morning at the Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion Emerson Road, Gantshill.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Morning Service led by Revd Nigel Cowgill</b>
Thu	23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.45 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Table Top Sale in the Church Hall in aid of Theodora's Guides visit To Ghana.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent and Mothering Sunday Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate</b>
Thu	30 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm	Choir Practice