

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

# NEWSLETTER

April 2017



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

## **From Revd. Bernardino Mandlate**

Friends

The recent events of Westminster, which affected many families from around the world, remind us of the need to be vigilant all the time, and realise the fact that, unlike D Trump who bans a few countries, the problem of terrorism is no longer necessarily from outside but also from those who have lived with us for a long time. Westminster one was a British born and bred and so many others have been of similar nature.

We ought to be grateful to God for each day that we are kept safe as we go about our daily routines. We need to be on our knees often, praying for ourselves and a peaceful world where people can discuss ideas, agree to disagree and live together in harmony.

We need to pray for respect of human life. We need to pray for those whose jobs is to risk their lives to keep us safe.

Our prayers and thoughts at the moment are with the victims of Westminster, their families and all those who may have been traumatised by it.

It was wonderful to baptise and confirm teenagers during my last service before my sabbatical. It gives us hope of the continuity of church life. We all need to encourage them to carry on loving and worshiping Jesus Christ our Lord. We need to learn to give them space and use their talents and gifts.

Friends, I will be on sabbatical from 1st April to beginning of July and will be travelling. I hope to keep in touch through with some through social media and following the news as best as possible so that I am aware of events and happenings around.

I pray to God that he will keep us safe through that time wherever we may be in the world and that He may also keep you safe until such time we are back together by his grace.

May the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour continue to bless each and everyone of you.

***Dino***

## **Lectern Bible**

Some time ago the Bible was knocked off the Lectern causing damage to the spine which had worsened over the years. Our thanks to Jeremy Foster who located a bookbinder in Clerkenwell and organised the rebinding. It is a very good sympathetic repair.

***Audrey Taylor***

### **Beetle celebrates a silver anniversary!**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea on Saturday 4 March – to all those who came along and played and to those who very kindly made donations. It was once again a great fun family afternoon with the beetles coming thick and fast! The final total raised was a splendid £314. The under-16 winner was Thea Garner with Brian Taylor winning the prize in the adult category. Well done to both of them.

As well as our regular participants it was good to see some new players this year who I hope will come along again.

Many thanks to Michelle for her help once again in preparing the tea and to Jeremy for keeping control of the game and making sure people were sitting where they were supposed to be!

This has been an annual family event for the past 25 years and I'm sure there must be a few people who have been to all of them!

***Diane***

### **A message from Ian Warden.**

Dear all

I would like to thank all those at the Drive Church that took the time out to visit me or send me cards when I so ill and poorly at Barts Hospital back in February, to know I was thought about and prayed for make quite humble.

One month on and my progress is slow but steady, you do not realize how much the operation takes out of you, but Anne's friend says you are 10 years older than the first time you had the pacemaker fitted. Anne's friend went about 10 days after my return making sure I was mobile enough to look after Anne, they still come round once a

week to take Anne out in her chair and her husband takes me shopping as I am still not driving, we cannot thank then enough.

With Easter just round the corner Anne and I wish you all well and we will let you have our new address when we moved.

With every good wish.

***Ian Warden.***

### **The Bible reading Group.**

We have a Monthly Bible book (or part of a book) which we ask you to read during each month, followed by a gathering at the Home of Janet and John Pearson on the last Friday of each month to discuss the months read.

This month we are reading Psalm 119 verses 41 to 82, and will meet at 10.30am on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April at Janet and John's home.

Everyone is welcome and there is always a tasty sandwich and cup of coffee or tea to enjoy. Please come and join us if you can.

***Thanks Jan and John.***

### **Ash Wednesday.**

The service took place at The Drive this year we were joined by our friends from Cranbrook Baptist, St Andrew's and the Pakistani church that worships at St Andrew's, it was lovely to see so many worshipers.

The Drive choir was there unofficially as we had just had our spring break.

***Susan Ruckes.***

## **Circuit Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

The latest circuit meeting was held at Becontree Heath Methodist Church. As this meeting was held on a Monday instead of the normal Wednesday or Thursday evening there seemed to be a smaller number of attendees than usual.

A large part of the meeting was the formal agreement of the 2015/16 accounts, the proposed budget for 2017/18 was also agreed and confirmed.

Our probationary minister, Angela Potheary will be ordained on Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Coventry. This is because she comes from the Birmingham Circuit. She will remain with our circuit after her ordination. Reverend Janet Atkins, who is retiring later in the year, is on sick leave until the end of April.

The next meeting is on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at Ilford Methodist Church.

***Corinne Smith.***

## **Ilford Methodist Church**

A Steppe mammoth found on the site had never attended a church service, as far as I know.

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March Ilford Methodist church celebrated 150 years of worship in Ilford Lane.

Martin Fairhurst told a brief but fascinating history of the land bought from Lord Salisbury during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Martin had also mounted an interesting display of photos and newspaper cuttings.

There have been three churches on the site. The second was bombed during the second world war. The present church was built in 1961. Some readers may have been at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service six years ago.

Several present members of the Ilford Methodist church told of their experiences when they joined around 1980 and the differences today. It was a most interesting reflection. Messages from past members and ministers were mentioned.

Once again The Drive choir joined forces with Martins Ilford choir and we sang two items from the 2017 small choir festival. Maggie Smith from St Andrews joined us partly because of her family's connection with the church. Barking Methodist church sang a hymn, "Lift up your heads". No other church choirs took part, but there was plenty of congregational singing and not a Charles Wesley hymn in sight.....Andrew Taylor played the organ and adapted very well, as usual, to the minor changes to the schedule.

It was lovely to see Philippa and Revd. Stephen Normanton, who spoke on Saturday and preached on Sunday morning.

Revd. Ermal Kirby led the service and he was later joined by his wife Revd. Jeni Kirby, who had been at another event in the circuit. The Mayor of Redbridge, Councillor Gurdial Bhamra, arrived directly from the Kenneth More Theatre, and spoke of the importance of places of worship in the area. The Mayor has visited many during his term of office.

A buffet meal followed the celebration, but some of us had to leave before as the Havering Singers were performing the Faure "Requiem" at St Mary's church, Ilford High Road. It was a tribute to their late music director, Ian Gorman. Julia Wilson James sang the "Pie Jesu" magnificently. Thank goodness for the 86 bus enabling us to arrive on time!

An enormous "Thank you" to the members of Ilford Methodist Church for organizing the anniversary event. It must have been a mammoth task.

***Susan Ruckes.***

## **Shrove Tuesday.**

Redbridge Faith Forum met at St Alban's Church of England in Albert Road for a discussion on Prayer in the Christian churches. As it was Shrove Tuesday a brief explanation of lent was given and we ate pancakes.

***Susan Ruckes***

## **A Hymn and a Prayer for this Month**

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Break me, melt me,  
Mould me, fill me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,  
Stay within my heart.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Stay within my heart.  
Guide me, teach me,  
Rule me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Stay within my heart.

Spirit of the living God,  
Be my strength for life.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Be my strength for life.  
Feed me, lead me,  
Steer me, send me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Be my strength for life.

Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Break me, melt me,  
Mould me, fill me.  
Spirit of the living God,  
Fall afresh on me.

v.1 Daniel Iverson  
vs. 2 - 3 Frank Sayers

# 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





## **Am I being unfair to you?**

It would be enough to bring the whole workforce out on strike. Jesus told a story about a man employing people at different of a day for a set wage to work in his vineyard. (Matthew 20 verses 1 to 16)

When the working day ended, those employed late in the day were paid first and given the same as those who had started work early in the morning. No wonder the latter complained.

The above question was the theme for the Women's world day of prayer 2017 service. It was produced this year by the women of the Philippines.

I attended the afternoon service at St Peter and St Paul Roman Catholic church in Ilford High Road and the evening service at St Francis Church of England in Fencepiece Road, Barkingside.

The Mayor of Redbridge, councillor Gurdial Bhamra and Mike Gapes MP were present at the afternoon service. There were about a hundred in the congregation.

The evening service was attended by a smaller number of people but included a talk by Father Michael Bradley, now called Father Michael, vicar of St Francis Church.

Father Michael began by reminding us that while we were asleep the previous night, the first day of Prayer service was taking place in Samoa. Services would continue around the world until the last in American Samoa.

Father Michael spoke about the Bible reading and how God offers forgiveness for all a person's sins at any stage of his or her life. This is God's way of treating everyone fairly.

Father Michael also played the organ. In the afternoon the organist came from St Margaret's church of England in Barking. Both were excellent and assisted us to cope with some challenging music. Hymn 4 in "Singing the Faith" is based on the Philippine folk melody. Just to confuse us, the words in the day of Prayer service were slightly different from the book. I don't think no 4 is likely to rival the top 3

in Andrew's "Singing the Faith" hit parade. (March 2017 newsletter p4)

"The day though Gavest" is always the final hymn and I hope it is never changed. It is so appropriate.

The service lasted just under an hour. As the Mayor and MP were escorted down the aisle, the bells began to ring for the Angelus.

It was a privilege to take part in a service at such a beautiful church with such an excellent sound system.

In the evening, being back in St Francis Church brought back so many happy memories.

***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.

## Diary for April.

|            |                        |                |  |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning service for Passion<br/>Sunday led by Mrs Janet Pearson</b>                   |
| Thu        | 6 <sup>th</sup>        | 7.45pm         | Choir Practice.  |
| Sat        | 8 <sup>th</sup>        | 7.30pm         | Concert in our church by the New<br>Essex choir.   |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning service for Palm<br/>Sunday led by Mr David Pender</b>                        |
| <b>Fri</b> | <b>14<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10.00am</b> | <b>Service for Good Friday led by<br/>Janet &amp; John Pearson.</b>                      |
| Sat        | 15 <sup>th</sup>       | 10.30am        | Easter egg hunt for our young<br>people, Tea, coffee and craft<br>In the church hall.    |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>11.00am</b> | <b>Dressing the Cross outside the<br/>Church or In the Foyer if<br/>weather bad</b>      |
|            |                        | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Easter morning service with<br/>Holy Communion<br/>led by Revd. Jenni Kirby.</b>      |
| Fri        | 21 <sup>st</sup>       | 10.30am        | Coffee morning at the Gardener's<br>Café, Valentines Mansion<br>Emerson Road, Gantshill. |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning service led by<br/>Mr David Pender.</b>                                       |
| Thu        | 27 <sup>th</sup>       | 7.45pm         | Choir Practice.  |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>30<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning service led by<br/>Mr Collins Frimpo</b>                                      |

# NEW ESSEX CHOIR

Conductor – Lawrence Tatnall      Organ – John Rippin

Soprano – Jennie Tatnall, Janet Baldacci

Tenor – Guy Elliot      Bass – John Evans

## Charles Gounod **Messe Solennelle**



## Felix Mendelssohn **Hymn of Praise**

7.30 pm Saturday  
8<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**The Drive Methodist Church**

The Drive Ilford IG1 3PP

(at junction with Eastern Avenue)

Tickets £11 (£9) under 14 free

**In advance £10 (£8)**

Box Office 020 8550 5303

[www.newessexchoral.org.uk](http://www.newessexchoral.org.uk)



SUPPORTING &  
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