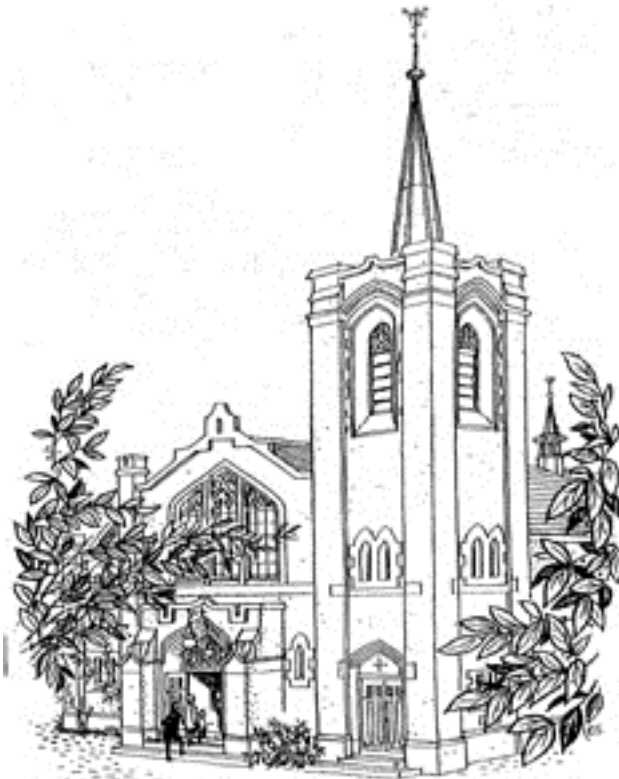


The Drive Methodist Church  
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

# NEWSLETTER

June 2017



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

## **Editors note.**

This is the second month of Bernardino's sabbatical break and he is somewhere around the world. Here at The Drive life continues, so far there have not been any disasters, so we have not had to call in reinforcements. I thank God for looking after us to ensure our happy church continues to enjoy our services and meetings.

The monthly Bible book studies meet at Janet and Johns home on the last Friday of each month, we managed to fill their front room at the last meeting, and I am sure they would find more space were we to be joined by more people. Why not come and join us? but we do understand that for some of you there is a need to work during the daytime. It is a blessing that many of you have jobs to go to.

I understand that Eileen's Tuesday prayer meeting at midday in the church vestry from noon until 2pm for a short session of prayers is now enjoying support from a number of people. They pray for our church, their leaders and post holders, and any members who are going through difficult times, also any known needs of local people whether members or not. I am sure they would welcome any of you who would like to join them. You can drop in and leave whenever you choose. I have not yet managed to get there due to weekly hospital visits.

On the evening of 29<sup>th</sup> of June the Choir will be holding their annual end of term evening prayer at 8pm. Please do try to attend if you possibly can. We enjoy having the choir each Sunday, and they would value your support at this prayer. It is short but important.

**Dear Lord, we thank you for the privilege of being able to meet to learn from you, pray to you, and have the preachers giving your messages and beliefs at our**

**services. May it last for many years yet, reading and singing your praises.**

**Amen.**

***Roy Brunnen.***

### **Scout & Guide Group Plant Sale**

Many thanks to all who supported our Plant Sale on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. It was a fine day and we were grateful for the response from Church members and our neighbours in the surrounding roads. We were very pleased with the resultant addition to our funds especially as we have recently had a fallen tree at the Rodings which has had to be dealt with by professional tree surgeons at considerable expense. We look forward to welcoming you at the Church Picnic on July 2<sup>nd</sup> – see Jo and Michelle's notice which appears later.

### **The bible reading group**

We will meet at John & Janet Pearson's home at 10:30 on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of June. We will be joining with other Methodists to read the letter of James. Everyone is welcome please join us if you can. Refreshments after our discussion.

In July we will meet on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 and in August Friday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 at the same venue. Please note Friday 21<sup>st</sup> is not the last Friday in July this change is due to holidays.

***Jan and John***

## **Junior Church picnic and BBQ**

Everyone is invited to our annual get-together from about 1pm on Sunday 2nd July, after the anniversary service.

Weather permitting, we will make our way to the Rodings for this event. We do count on a cast of volunteers to help make this happen, so please speak to us if you are able to help.

**Jo and Michelle**

## **Thoughts from the organ stool**

I think We recently sang Graham Kendrick's hymn *Beauty for brokenness* in church, and it prompted a comment from one member of the choir that due to the up-coming General Election, we are not hearing much news from around the world at the moment. The words "Refuge from cruel wars" and "Peace to the killing-fields" are always pertinent when we of the consequences of conflict in Syria and South Sudan, to name just two.

It made me think how much we reflect on the words of hymns and songs as we sing them. *Beauty for brokenness* has become a favourite, chosen regularly by our preachers. But of course the danger is that familiarity can make us gloss over the meaning of the words we are singing. I'll confess to being guilty of this – as a musician I was always attracted to hymns first by the tunes! As an organist, I tend to look at where the punctuation is to try to be a sensitive accompanist, and worry more about whether the chorus follows every verse, or how I'm going to change the stops if there's not a break between verses. But if you're lucky, I will have looked at the words for each verse to decide on appropriate stop combinations and dynamics. You may have noticed that not every hymn ends with a loud verse!

Every now and then, the discussion of whether to install a screen and projector system in church comes up. Just for the record, I'm in favour, but not necessarily for the words for

songs. One big argument in favour of using books over words on screen is that you have the whole song there in front of you instead of it being served up verse by verse. Good hymn and song writers conceive their songs as a whole. With a book, you have the option of reading through the songs either before or after you have sung them, and you can see what is coming up as you sing it. I think it's quite important to know if the verse you are singing is the last one, or maybe the third of twelve (check out *Singing the Faith* 461!).

So I would encourage you to spend some time either before or after a service reading through some or all of the hymns or songs (the numbers are always on the boards at the front of the church). And I pledge here in writing to do the same.

**Andrew Taylor**

### **New organ tuner**

The organ at The Drive was installed when the church was built in 1928. It was built by A. Noterman and Sons and additions were made some 60 years later.

For many years our organ was in the care of David Pawlyn, who took over the Noterman business in the 1980s. David was well-known in the theatre organ world, and was involved in rescuing a

number of cinema organs around the country, as well as looking after the Compton organ at the Odeon, Leicester Square.

When David died in 2011, his assistant Tom Lane continued to look after our organ, until last year when he decided the time had come to retire. The Pawlyn business has now closed, so a new organ tuner was required.

We have engaged Martin Cross of Grays to tune and maintain our organ. Martin and his team look after many other church

organs in this area and Essex as a whole. On his first visit before Easter, he identified a problem with the transformer for the organ's electric action, which was old and not performing well. This has now been replaced, and the new unit has made the organ stops and keyboard action much more responsive.

With proper care and attention there is no reason why the organ should not be leading worship at The Drive for many years beyond its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday next year!

***Andrew Taylor***

### **Ghana Fundraising update**

Thea and I would like to thank you all very much for your generous support in raising money for her trip with the Girl Guides. Thea still has money coming in from some Smarties tubes she gave to the Guides, but so far she has raised £2,767 from a total of £3,040.

We have two more fundraising events scheduled, but I quite understand if you've had enough cake!

Thank you again for all your help. Please see below for our final two events.

### **Coffee Morning and Car Wash**

Please join us to have your car cleaned on Saturday 17th June from 10 am. We will take good care of it and while you wait, you can chat and enjoy some home-made cakes with a cup of tea.

***Thiadora***

## Quiz Night

Saturday 24th June is the date for our Quiz Night, from 6.30 pm. Tickets will be on sale soon, but we'll start with our fish and chip supper and then the quizzical fun will begin! You can make up your own team or you can just come along and join a team on the day. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions or to buy tickets.

***Michelle & Thea***

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## VALENTINE SINGERS

present a concert of

## MIDSUMMER MUSIC

Musical delights for voices and piano  
from Mozart, Handel, Rossini, Schubert, Elgar and more  
plus a colourful array of traditional songs from around the  
world

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 8:00pm  
Seven Kings High School  
494 Ley Street, Ilford. IG2 7BT

Tickets in advance £12 (£7 students/benefit holders)  
(£2 more on the door)

from Andrew Taylor  
or online at [www.valentinesingers.org](http://www.valentinesingers.org)

**Evening Prayer with the Choir  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June  
8pm in the church  
followed by refreshments**

Please come and join the choir as we lead an informal service of Evening Prayer to mark the end of another choir year. The perfect way to start our Church Anniversary celebrations!

***Andrew Taylor***

**Methodism**

Although we are Methodists it's surprising how little even long-time churchgoers seem to know about John & Charles Wesley and Methodism in general, so in each of the next few issues of our newsletter there will be a little write up about our great heritage, which we hope will encourage you to find out more about the Wesley's and Methodism for yourselves.

The first of these little write-ups is printed below.

**What's a Methodist and why are you one?**

Many years ago when I was a very junior typist in a city office my boss took his little boy to the zoo during his school holiday, but he had to come to the office for a brief meeting first, so he brought the child with him and guess who got lumbered with the job of keeping an eye on him?

I was trying to show him how my typewriter worked and he was bashing away at it merrily when suddenly he stopped looking straight with no preliminary at all, he said "We're Church of England, but Daddy says you are a Methodist. What's a Methodist and why are you one?"



I was so surprised that I nearly swallowed my tonsils, but having had many of my questions fobbed off irritably when I was his age and not wishing to inflict grown up indifference on him, I scrabbled around in the bottom of what I'm pleased to call my mind for some sort of sensible answer and I mumbled something about John and Charles Wesley and somehow managed to remember John Wesley's rule for the people called Methodists which I'd learnt in Sunday School and which went :-

“Do all the good you can  
by all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can”

He just looked at me sideways as if I'd fallen off a Christmas tree and I think he was just about to say something when his dad suddenly materialized and whisked him off leaving me to try and sort out the mess he'd left my typewriter keys in.

When I retired 43 years later that same small boy, now a Merchant Banker and recently Knighted wished me all the very best and gave me a prettily wrapped parcel as a retirement gift. It contained a beautiful enamel jewelry box and engraved on the lid was that Rule for the people called Methodist which I'd stumbingly recited to him all those years before and which, Anglican or no Anglican, he'd always remembered.

I rarely cry: I just bleed inside, but that day I had a good old weep.

If anyone asked YOU right out of the blue “What's a Methodist and why are you one?” what would YOU answer?.

Think about it for a moment please for if you worship in a Methodist Church you really ought to know, didn't you.

***Betty Griffiths.***

### **What a Wonderful World?**

A summer buffet concert of music from every continent  
sung by the **New Essex Choir.**

Saturday 8th July 2017 at 7.30pm in the church.

Tickets £12 from Brian Taylor

## Diary for June.

<b>Sun</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Mr Allan Ramsden.</b>
Thu	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service with Holy Communion, led by Revd. Ermal Kirby</b>
Mon	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Ilford Lane Methodist Church
Thu	15 <sup>th</sup>	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Fri	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee in the Park. Gardener's café Valentines Mansion Emerson Road, Gants Hill.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Mr Alfred Mensah.</b>
Wed	21 <sup>st</sup>	8.00pm	Property committee meeting.
Thu	22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.45pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service let by Mr John Pearson.</b>
Thu	29 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Choir Annual Evening Prayer.
Fri	30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible book reading group

**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.

## Coffee Morning and Car Wash



Enjoy homemade cake and get your car washed!!!

**Where- The Parlour,  
Drive Methodist Church**

**When- Saturday 17th<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Time – 10:00-12:30**

(Fundraising event for a trip to Ghana  
with Girl Guiding)



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**Save this date for our ...**

**Quiz Night  
at The Drive**

on

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June

at

6.30pm

**Raffle**

**Fish and chip supper**

**A**

**Q**