

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

# NEWSLETTER

July 2017



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

## **Editor's Note.**

As I write this note I am quite aware that our minister, Revd. Bernardino Mandlate will have arrived back from his three-month sabbatical, rested, refreshed and ready to start back leading his three churches, The Drive, Seven Kings, and Goodmayes. We hope the break turned out to be everything he had hoped for when he planned it.

Thank you for supporting Theodora Garner with her fund raising to enable her to undertake the visit to Ghana as a member of a small group of Guides chosen to be given the opportunity to go. We are also pleased that one of the leaders of the group will be Susannah Normanton who is one of the leaders of the Guide company who meet in our hall. We thank God for these, and pray that they will return safely at the end of their visit.

We continue to support organisations with our regular donations, both the Methodist wide appeals, and local voluntary organisations which includes Whitechapel Mission, Voluntary care, Raysin Hope, Cold weather centre, Samaritans, Haven House and others. My sincere thanks to you all for making this possible.

As for me, this will be the last newsletter I shall be editing. I gave notice at the last Annual church meeting that I felt it is time for me to reduce my work load and it is probably time for someone with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm to take over anyway. I have thoroughly enjoyed compiling the newsletter since taking over from the late Barbara Foster some years ago, and if the next editor has as much satisfaction as I have had, can look forward to a rewarding time.

My heartfelt thanks to all those who have contributed items during my term, as without them it would have been a very sad and inadequate monthly letter.

I am very grateful for the support, advice, and skill I have received from John & Audrey in doing the final setting and printing of these productions. Without them my job would have been much harder, as they have much more skill and experience than I in this area.

I shall be continuing as senior steward to the church whilst my health will let me, and you the members wish. My philosophy has always been that I only undertake serving where it is the will of the people,

and the Lord God gives me the strength to continue. At present, I believe I have both those things, but am very aware that nothing can last forever.

So as I sign off from this newsletter, very grateful for having had the privilege of being editor, I hand over to a new person, who will be Diane Foster, to who I will support as much as I can, without interfering. In future, all items for publication in the newsletter should be sent to –

[newsletter@the-drive-mrthodist-ilford.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@the-drive-mrthodist-ilford.org.uk)

**Roy Brunnen.**

## **Junior Church**

We have not seen some of our Junior Church families for a little while, some have been away, or visiting family and friends and some have been a bit under the weather. We miss them all and hope to see them again soon.

As we approach the summer holidays I thought I would reflect on some of the activities that our young people have been involved in.

Our two senior groups have been thinking about Pentecost and the holy spirit, a topic which is quite complex, but our young people always bring new thoughts and ideas to the conversation.

We also discussed our personalities and how different we all are, but that we have a lot in common too.

The sad and tragic events that have happened over the last couple of months have also been a focus. We have discussed where God is in all of these dreadful situations. All our young people agree that, even in the deepest and darkest of times, Gods love is eternal and shines through the darkness.

It is good that our young people feel they have a safe place to discuss issues that affect them and the world around them.

Lorraine organised a session where our young people wrote some notes of comfort and support to the people who have been affected by the Grenfell tower fire. She is sending them to the Notting Hill Methodist church, which has been involved in supporting the local community. Copies of them can be seen at the back of the church.

I think you will agree that our young people are very empathetic and compassionate.

Kathleen Taylor has been a member of our Junior Church team over many years. A few months ago Kathleen decided to retire from Junior Church duties. We had a little "thank you and goodbye" session and some of our young people wrote messages for Kathleen. One of the young people said Kathleen had amazing knowledge of the Bible and the lessons she did were informative and interesting. Rochelle quoted a very appropriate verse from the Bible.

Proverbs 22 v 6

*"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart it."*

Thank you Kathleen for all your time, love and support you have given our young people over the years.

Thea has been busy fund raising (with her Mum!) and we wish her all the best for her trip to Ghana with the Guides.

It's been good to see the young people taking part in Jan Pearson's service and singing in The Drive Chorale. It's great our young people are so active in our church. We hope this continues.

In August there will be two weeks where Junior Church will be staying in the service. These dates are Sunday August 20<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Finally I would like to thank all the Junior Church staff who prepare lessons each week and nurture and support our young people. Thanks also to all the young people and their families who manage to juggle school work, sports events and family commitments, but still come to church when they can.

I wish you all a very happy summer holiday.

***Jo Wright***

## **The Bible Reading group**

We will meet on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 104 Wanstead Lane (the Coffee morning in Valentines Park will be on 28<sup>th</sup> July). We be reading Psalm 119 verses 81 to 120. We meet again on 25<sup>th</sup> August when we will read 2 Thessalonians. Both meetings are at 10:30am and will be followed by refreshments. Please join us if you are able.

***John & Janet Pearson.***

## **Circuit Meeting**

The Circuit meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> June at Ilford church. The opening devotions concentrated on "Holy Habits" with a sub title of "Knowing and doing God's will".

This was presented with a paper showing a hand with an element at the tip of each finger, starting with Bible study at the thumb, Fellowship at the next finger, moving on to Giving and Serving, Evangelism, Signs and wonders (Catching the attention of people) on each of the other fingers, and Prayer and Worship at the wrist.

We then moved on to the agenda business of the meeting which covered the necessary considerations for the successful running of the circuit.

Our next meeting will be on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

***Roy Brunnen.***

## **150 Years of Methodism In Ilford.**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017 saw the Ilford Lane church celebrating 150 years of a church in central Ilford.

Early in the 1980s Lorna Brown, now senior steward and Property steward, and Shirley Best, now a church steward and pastoral visitor, started attending the Ilford Methodist church. They have made the following report on how life was in the church. The congregation was larger in those days and had a thriving mixed community.

At that time, there was much going on in the church week. The Sunday school was thriving, and we had uniformed organisations which met regularly and took part in monthly parades.

Of the many activities which took place were House groups, singing groups, drama, accommodation on Sunday nights for homeless people, suppers etc.

Our membership has fallen over the years and we now rely on lettings to mainly commercial organisations, plus some religious groups who come weekly or monthly.

This is not the full document but I have shortened it somewhat as much of it contains detail which is more for the church family.

***Roy Brunnen.***

## **Methodism John & Charles Wesley The Founders of Methodism.**

Friends who are Methodist local preachers tell me that they have been astonished to find that even those who have worshipped in a Methodist church for years seem to know very little about John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism.

Umpteen books have been written about them and many of the hymns we sing Sunday after Sunday came from Charles' pen, but life is so busy and rushed these days that time for reading is limited and novels are a lot easier to absorb anyway, but not being genned up about two of the greatest Englishmen who ever lived is not really anything to be proud of, so here for what it is worth is a very brief and very inadequate write up about them.

They were born in Lincolnshire and were the sons and grandsons of clergymen. They had the most amazing mother and when they were at university they formed a group of young men who tried to lead methodical lives, praying and reading the Bible together and going to church regularly. They were nicknamed Methodists.

In 1738 John Wesley had an experience that changed his life when at a Gospel meeting he felt his heart "strangely warmed" and Charles had a similar experience.

For fifty years John travelled all over England holding services and preaching, sometimes in churches but often in fields and market places. He organised Methodist societies and used ordinary people as

preachers. He always wanted to remain loyal to the church of England in which he had been ordained, but in 1784 when he broke rules by ordaining a group of Methodist preachers he reluctantly watched his movement grow into a separate church.

His brother Charles wrote an enormous number of wonderful hymns and Methodists have always sung their faith. We are renowned for it.

There are many Christian denominations which all through the years have done an enormous amount of good in all sorts of ways including "Methodism" and they still do.

Just now and not for the first time in the history of our poor battered old world they are all going through dark difficult and dangerous times and church congregations are dwindling, but God in times past has always stirred them into life again through his faithful servants. He still has faithful servants, are we amongst them? Are we managing to keep the flame of faith burning in the darkness? Are we? It is up to us. Do not let us fail to follow in the footsteps of dear old John and Charles. We owe them so much and after all we are Methodists, aren't we?

***Betty Griffiths.***

### **A short Prayer.**

Thank you, God, for the life we enjoy here at The Drive Church, please help us to learn more of your teaching and will from the preachers who visit us each week, and guide us in seeking to help any who need our love and guidance whether they be of our faith, other denominations or none.

Amen

***Roy Brunnen.***



**A Church BBQ**



## **Our Peter Sharp**

Peter has received a letter and poem from Anne Dellow in recognition for the support he gives to Anne's charity "Raysin Hope". He has asked me to consider printing the poem in our newsletter, which I willingly do.

### **Growing Dreams.**

Now Peter is a kindly chap  
Who had a dream one day  
That he would grow some vegetables  
And give them all away.

It took a while to get a plot  
But then he bought a shovel  
And gave it all he got.

He battled with the elements  
And slugs and snails to boot  
Then God smiled on his efforts  
And seeds began to root

Soon he gathered rhubarb  
Beans and lettuce too  
Then he had a great idea  
And said "I know what I can do"

When good folk want my produce  
And give a bob or two  
I'll give it straight to "Raysin Hope"  
For everything they do!

***Submitted by Peter Sharp.***

## Diary for July

<b>Sun</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service and Church Anniversary led by Revd. Nigel Cowgill. Followed by Our Annual BBQ at The Rodings. (Weather permitting)</b>
Sat	8 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Circuit Summer Family Fun
		7.30pm	Afternoon followed by a farewell Service for Revd. Jan Atkins at 5.30.
			New Essex Choir Buffet Concert In the Church.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Action For Children Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Members of the church.</b>
Fri	21 <sup>st</sup>	1030am	The Bible reading group,
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Revd. Armstrong Fummey</b>
Fri	28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion, Emerson Road, Gants Hill.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.</b>

## Diary for August

<b>Sun</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Mrs. Rosemond Mensah</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service With Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.</b>
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Café, Valentine Mansion, Emerson Road, Gants Hill.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Mr. David Pender.</b>
Fri	25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	The Bible reading group,
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Morning Service led by Mrs. J Pearson.</b>

**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.