

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

# NEWSLETTER

November 2017



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

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.

Our Minister writes:

Dear Friends

I am writing this letter during One World Week. The theme for this week is something like 'being a good neighbour.' The lectionary readings for the week are about loving one's neighbour. So I would like you to ask yourself this question; "Am I a good neighbour?"

Our communities are filled with the kind of neighbours that Jesus talked about. We have among us the neighbours we always knew; we grew up together; went to the same schools. There are neighbours that kept moving into our community that we gradually lost the sense of where they have come from, and now we are becoming resentful because we can no longer recognise our neighbourhood. The demographics of our communities have changed so much that in some cases we are becoming the minority.

The needs of those neighbours vary from well off to desperately in need. We have people sleeping rough in growing numbers. Some places are becoming bedrooms on the street where people retreat to overnight and in the morning go out in search of survival means. With this situation also grows a sense of fear for obvious reasons. How can one be a good neighbour in such a desperate situation? It is easy to give up on any possibility of help, being resentful and wish they can all pack and go home, wherever home may be.

Being a good neighbour is about asking oneself, what is it that I can do to alleviate the needs in and around my community? It is about joining efforts with others to try to help where possible by providing basics where possible. Support community initiatives; support the Food Bank in our neighbourhoods or in our local supermarket. Many large

supermarkets have a Food Bank trolley; some churches have a Food Bank box which you could support by putting in a few cans of soup, beans, cereals or whatever you think you can help with. This goes a long way towards alleviating the dire needs hidden in our communities.

No one single person can be a good neighbour alone, but together we can be a community of good neighbours, loving, caring and being concerned about the welfare of those in our communities who happen to have desperate needs. It is not only the refugees, or asylum seekers who need good neighbours. There is a great need even among our own.

Let us open our eyes and see the need. Let us be good neighbours as Jesus Christ commanded us to be.

God bless

Dino



We ask for God's blessing on all those we have concerns for at this time and remember them in our prayers.



Birthday Greetings

We wish very happy November birthdays to:  
Feyi Fadina, Rohit Selwyn, Leah-Avalee Gorden and  
Rochelle Inbakumar.



Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Frank

Dad has been a member of the Drive church for over 60 years. Many of those years spent as the organist. He met his sweetheart, Catherine, here at the Drive and they celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in April.

Congratulations Dad and Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.  
Jo Wright

(Many congratulations on your special birthday Frank on 5<sup>th</sup> November from all your friends at The Drive – Ed.)

Elsie Blanchard

Happy Birthday wishes also to Elsie on 14<sup>th</sup> November. We send our love and hope to see her in church again very soon.

Macmillan Coffee Morning Thanks

A big thank you to all at The Drive who joined us at Redbridge Social Centre to make our Coffee Morning a convivial and profitable day. It was pleasing to see Sandra and Colin there. Once again Kay and her staff provided their popular Asian food and Joan Dalby's bread pudding flew off the plate. Our team are delighted to report the final total raised was a magnificent £1,255.

Audrey Taylor

A big thank you to all who helped with the Macmillan Coffee morning in the Church Parlour. We raised £900. We will take this to the Macmillan Centre UCLH and let people know how it is spent at a later date. Thank you once again.

Janet and Jeff Wragg

(Thanks to you Audrey, John, Janet and Jeff for organising these events. Two splendid amounts raised for a good cause – Ed.)

## Scout Group News

At the Group AGM in September, John Taylor retired as Group Chairman after nine years in the role. This followed more than 50 years as a leader, meaning that John has completed over 60 years in adult roles at the Drive. In recognition of this, I'm pleased that John has accepted the honorary role of Group Vice President. We owe a debt of gratitude to both John and Audrey for their support for Scouting at the Drive over many decades.

I'm delighted that at the AGM, the Group Council also approved the appointment of Colin Runeckles as Group Chairman. Colin has been a Cub, Scout, leader and Group Executive member in the 14th over the years, making him the ideal candidate. He, of course, follows in the footsteps of his father, Bert, who was Chairman for over 25 years from 1972. Mike Seviour, Group Scout Leader

## Community Defibrillator

Could you help to save the life of a victim of Sudden Cardiac Arrest? There will be another demonstration and training session for the newly-installed emergency defibrillator on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Church Parlour starting at 7.30 pm. Please invite friends who live near the church.

## Property Committee Work Day

There will be a special work day on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November for a general tidy up in the Church, around the grounds and garden. We will start at 10am and work through to mid-afternoon with a break for lunch. Any support that you can give, even for just a couple of hours, will be most appreciated.

Jeremy Foster on behalf of the Property Committee

## Remembrance Day Service



Our Remembrance Day Service will be led by Mr Ian Sheach on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November. Please note the service will start at 10.45 am in order for us to observe the two minutes silence at 11.00 am.

## Operation Christmas Child 2017

We are again supporting the Shoe Box appeal this year, and the boxes are available at the back of the Church. Unfortunately, we were a bit late ordering them this year, and the last drop off date is 18<sup>th</sup> November.

Please take one or more boxes to fill and return them to the Church by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November together with a donation of £5.00 which helps towards the transportation and shipping costs.

I wonder if we can beat last year's total. Unfortunately, I can't remember what that was as I was not involved in delivering the boxes!

If you have any questions, please ask Brian Grinham or Jo Wright.

## Junior Mission for All (JMA) Presentation Service

This will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November and will once again be led by Sanya Strachan. Please join us to see our JMA collectors receive their badges and certificates and to hear about projects supported by JMA.

Diane Foster



## Bible Reading group

The Bible Reading group will meet on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 10:30. We will be discussing the Gospel of John, chapters 8 to 14 followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Jan and John Pearson

## Action for Children Slides Evening

Please join us for our annual slides evening in aid of Action for Children on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November starting at 7.30pm in the parlour. This is always an enjoyable evening with a light buffet supper served during the interval. There is no need to buy a ticket in advance, but if you would like to come please let us know for catering purposes. Everyone is welcome.

Jeremy and Diane Foster

## Junior Church - Dates for your diary

Here are some key dates for the Junior Church members and their families.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November is a work morning at the church. All help will be gratefully accepted to keep our premises looking neat and tidy.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November is Remembrance Sunday.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November is our JMA celebration and we will be staying in for the service.



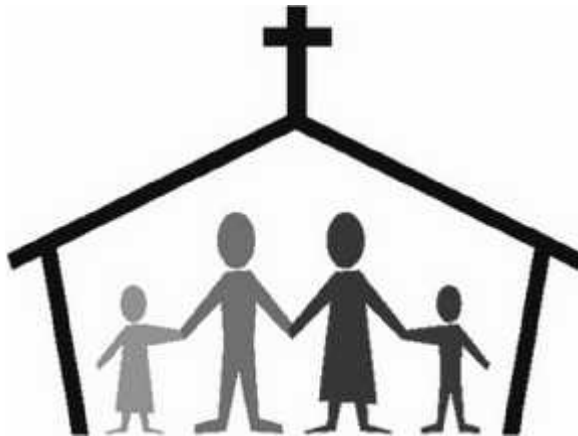
Nativity rehearsals will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, during our Junior Church sessions.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2.00-5.00pm is our Nativity rehearsal in the church, after which we will be having a Christmas chill out session in the hall.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December is our Nativity and toy service. If you can, please bring new toys or books to the service. These will be donated to the family centre where Lorraine Bendon works.

There will be no Junior Church sessions on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December, but everyone is welcome to stay in the service.

Jo Wright



## Advanced Notices

### Christmas Starts Here!

Have you heard the story of the poor humble shepherd men,  
Sitting on the hillside with their flocks at night?  
Suddenly the angel tells them: 'Hurry to Bethlehem:  
Go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light.'

The New Essex Choir will give a concert of Christmas and other music in the church on

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 7.30 pm

There will be carols old and new, including Vaughan-Williams 'Ceremony of Carols' with baritone soloist Simon Tatnall.

Tickets £10(concessions £8) in advance from Kathleen and Brian Taylor. Tickets on the door £11/£9, under 14 free.

### Circuit Meeting

The next Circuit Meeting will be held at Old Dagenham Methodist Church on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm.

## The Revd Francis Ackroyd

A packed congregation attended a service at The Vine United Reformed Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate his 48 years of Christian ministry.

A coach brought his former congregation from, I think, Tottenham. Various Christian denominations were represented. I could see some Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim friends. I am sure that members of other faiths were there too.

Unfortunately the service went on for nearly three hours. As people left due to other commitments, an opportunity to catch up with news was lost. I have yet to find anyone who stayed for refreshments, which I am sure were excellent.

We shall miss Francis, his inspiration, his musical talent as organist and pianist, his ability to communicate. Good Friday in Ilford Town Centre will not be the same.

Doreen Weller of Ilford Town Centre Churches has added her thoughts:

"Francis is a true man of God. He never criticises and is always ready to listen. He is also blessed with the knack of gentle persuasion when it comes to finding volunteers.

Also sad to announce the passing of Joy Sadler, another stalwart of The Vine URC. You will know her from her Fair Trade stall."

Susan Ruckes



## All Aboard the 'John Wesley'

A new train on the Great Western Railway is to be named after John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church.

The announcement comes following a competition to find "the 100 greatest Westerners of all time" run by the Bristol Post and the Great Western Railway. David Worthington, manager of The New Room, Bristol, put forward 'John Wesley' which was selected alongside 49 other names of great people from the West of Britain.

David said "John Wesley was an itinerant preacher for much of his life, and probably one of the most well-travelled men of the 18th century, so we thought that, although he pre-dates Brunel by about 100 years, a train was a good thing to have his name on."



The Autumn edition of Methodist Heritage News is a 'New Room Special' and focuses on the rededication of The New Room, Bristol following the completion of the major development project that had been taking place over several years.

I was there recently for a meeting and the finished works are certainly impressive. At the rededication service in June, the then Vice-President of Conference, Rachel Lampard, spoke of the heritage of The New Room which "will continue and be enhanced by the new facilities, offering refreshment in the new café and with new opportunities for research in the library and with outreach and engagement in the chapel, meeting room, new museum and the refurbished Charles Wesley's House."

Another interesting article is on page 8 from Philip Thornborow, the Liaison Officer for Methodist Archives, who confirms that a copy of all church newsletters are required to be deposited with the British Library.

I will take note!

Please help yourself to a copy of Heritage News from the back of the church. I can get more if need be.

Diane Foster

## Diary for November

Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00pm	Church Council
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Community Defibrillator training See page 5
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Property Committee Work Day See page 5
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.45am	Remembrance Day Morning Service led by Mr Ian Sheach, see page 6
Fri	17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	19 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	JMA Presentation Service led by Ms Sanya Strachan, see page 6
Fri	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 am	Bible Reading Group 104 Wanstead Lane, see page 7
Sat	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Action for Children Slides Evening See page 7
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr David Pender

## December

Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.30 pm	New Essex Choir Concert The Drive Church see page 9
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.15am	Morning Service
		4.30 pm	Circuit Advent Service Seven Kings Methodist Church

(Last date for items for the December/January  
newsletter: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November)

Lord Jesus Christ, you were there when the Spirit hovered over the waters at creation and you will be there when a new heaven and a new earth come into being.

You were there when we took our first breath and you will be there when we breathe our last.

You have begun a good work in us and you will continue that work to its completion, as we make ourselves available to you and to the work of your Spirit in us.

Thank you that there is nothing that has been, or is, or will be, in our lives or in the life of the world, which is not known to you or of concern to you.

Thank you that, because all things, past, present and future are in your hands, there is nothing in our past, present or future with which we cannot trust you. Amen.

Gill Newton, Sheffield District Chair