

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

NEWSLETTER

April 2018



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

www.drive-methodist.church

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

For some of you it will be Easter by the time you read this newsletter. It comes out on the verge of Easter, so I will say Happy Easter to all of you. He is risen indeed. There was joy and trepidation at the news at the time. Some found it hard to believe that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, and others would conveniently choose not to believe.

The disciples initially had doubts at the prospect of Jesus being alive again. We know of Thomas who said 'unless I see the wounds from the nails, and put my finger into his side, I will never believe it'(John 20:25); the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke24:13-35) even with the testimony of other disciples, some were still sceptical.

No wonder even today some of us continue to be sceptical at the notion of Jesus being raised from the dead. We rely on the written word of those witnesses who recorded the stories for our benefit. John 20:30-31 '...these are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God...'

Although we believe in the risen Christ, we still have to deal with the suffering Christ in the world today. There is too much pain and grief, people still suffer inhumane treatment, wars are still provoking pain and suffering, hunger is with us, millions are still stuck in poverty forever, the world community struggles to share the resources that the world offers. This, for some of us, is still inflicting pain and suffering on the risen Lord.

The best way to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus is to begin to alleviate the pain and suffering of others, from our neighbours to the worldwide community. Something needs to

be done to change the course of the world. Our politicians need to revise their priorities in the terms of governance. They can easily spend billions on wars but there is no political will to tackle poverty, homelessness and hunger in our societies and communities.

Let us pray for a change of heart of our political leaders, but also engage with them in order to help them make sense of their commitments and responsibilities to the masses.

Allow me to commend you friends for your commitment to the life of the church and also your commitment to the various charities that we support. Keep it up and keep proclaiming the risen Christ through your actions and commitment.

May the Lord bless you and bless those who benefit from your generosity.

Dino



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

Verney Braithwaite

As many of you may know, Verney underwent surgery for cancer last December and has just completed 15 days of Radiotherapy. She has a lot of tiredness which she was told to expect but considering everything, she is doing remarkably well.

I visited last Monday for a cup of tea. She thanked everyone for their good wishes and will be back at Church as soon as she has a bit more energy.

Ruth Joyce

Birthday Greetings

We wish a very Happy Birthday to:
Sheridan Eshun will be 11 in April
Sebastian Eshun will be 13 in April



Church Council – 15th February

The members of the Church Council met on 15th February to carry out the business of the church and their responsibilities as trustees.

The officers were re-elected for a further year. There was discussion of the need for assistants or deputies for officers so that someone else could takeover easily if the officer was unable to undertake their duties. This will be discussed further by a small group of stewards and raised at the Annual Church meeting.

Becoming a member of the church is a significant and important step in anyone's life and it was felt that the responsibilities should be explained more fully. The minister was asked to speak about this in the service before the Annual Church Meeting.

The dates of committee and similar meetings have become bunched so a review will be carried out for next year.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday 8th November 2018.

Brian Taylor

Women's World Day of Prayer – 2nd March

The service at Ilford Methodist Church went ahead, in spite of the weather – snow and slush. Although numbers were down, £100 was raised, including Gift Aid. Three other services in Redbridge were cancelled on the day. The service at Goodmayes Methodist Church was re-scheduled for 7.30 pm on 16th March, the day before the next blizzard. The amount raised will be announced later.

Barkingside Methodist Church has re-scheduled their WWDP services for April. More details later – but keep an eye open for notices.

Susan Ruckes

Beetle Drive - 3rd March

A big thank you to all those who very kindly gave their ticket money or made donations to the Beetle Drive even though it didn't happen! These gifts will be included in our annual giving to JMA and be put to good use supporting projects at home and overseas.

This is the first time in 26 years that we haven't held this annual event and we were very sorry to cancel because of the weather – but don't worry – Beetle will be back!

Diane Foster

Circuit Meeting – 13th March

The meeting, held at Goodmayes Methodist Church, was attended by the five appointed representatives from The Drive. The opening devotions were led by the Revd Ermal Kirby and included a remembrance of Ian Sheach.

Safeguarding

Mr Graham Snelling, Safeguarding Officer, London Methodist District, spoke about the responsibilities we all have to ensure that both children and vulnerable adults are protected from abuse. Each church must have a policy which is prominently displayed, reviewed regularly and kept up to date. It should include online and domestic abuse.

Church members should be the eyes and ears of the community. Trustees have an overall responsibility - this failed at Oxfam.

Starting from September 2018 every church is to be visited and assessed for good practice - an Ofsted-style inspection.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This new regulation comes into effect in May and churches need to check their adherence to its requirements. The Methodist Church has published guidance on its website www.methodist.org.uk based on '9 Steps' to good practice.

Staffing

There is a risk that it will not be possible to replace all the ministers who will be leaving the circuit and the meeting agreed that a strategy needs to be in hand for coping with this situation. An open meeting will be held on Saturday 21st April 10.00 - 12.30 at The Drive to consider the matter.

Other points:

Jean Jones will step down as a Circuit Steward in August. Phillip Korsah will join the team.

Lorna Brown will replace Ola Sonekan as Synod Representative.

A Circuit Summer Festival is to be held on Saturday 7th July in Barking Park.

iCare is an initiative based at Ilford Methodist Church where young people invite young homeless people to a meal and chat. Helpers and materials are needed.

Brian Taylor

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AT THE DRIVE

PALM SUNDAY

25th March 5.00 pm Circuit Service



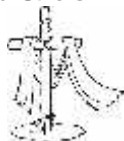
MAUNDY THURSDAY

29th March 8.00 pm Ecumenical Service
with Holy Communion
led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate



GOOD FRIDAY

30th March 10.00 am
led by Janet & John Pearson



EASTER SUNDAY

1ST April 11.00 am Dressing the Cross
followed by
Service with Holy Communion led by
The Revd Bernardino Mandlate



THE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY 31ST MARCH 10.30 am – 12.30 pm
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL



The Junior Church invites everybody, young and old, to join in with a morning of crafts, refreshments and fun.

The cost will be £1.00 for children.
Come and enjoy a hot cross bun,
fun and fellowship.

All are welcome!

PLEASE SPONSOR AN EASTER EGG



Our young people enjoy the annual Easter run around hoping they will find an egg. Please would you sponsor an egg that will be hidden for our Easter egg hunt?

During March there will be Easter branches at the back of the church. You will find Easter gift cards to write a message on. There will also be a donation box. All money will go towards buying Easter eggs for the hunt.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Junior Church Team

Esther Olujinmi – A Celebration of Life

To celebrate Esther's life, there will be a Service of Songs on Thursday 5th April from 7 pm to 9 pm at The Drive Methodist Church.

Her funeral service will be held on Friday 6th April at 10.30 am also at The Drive, followed by the committal at The City of London Cemetery at 12.30 pm.

A coach will be available to convey people from the church to the cemetery and to the reception which will be held from 2 pm to 9 pm at Isaac Newton Academy, 1 Cricklefield Place, Ilford.

The family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, you might kindly consider a donation to The Drive Methodist Church, Premier Christian Media Trust (www.premier.org.uk) or Worth Unlimited (www.worthunlimited.co.uk).

Church Prayer Meeting – 26th April

Thanks to all who supported the recent Lenten prayer meetings. We were greatly encouraged by all those who attended or prayed with us at home. We intend to hold a 30 minute prayer meeting with the same format once a month.

The date and time for the April meeting is Thursday 26th April from 7.15 pm to 7.45 pm in the Minister's vestry. All are welcome to join us (sheets will be provided at the back of the church for those unable to attend but who would wish to pray along with us).

Jan and John Pearson

Bible Reading Group – 27th April

The Bible Reading group will meet on Friday April 27th at 10:30 am at 104 Wanstead Lane. We will be discussing Luke Chapters 10-16, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Jan and John Pearson

Church 90th Anniversary



As a church we will celebrate our 90th Anniversary this year and apart from various activities to commemorate this milestone we would also like to hear about your memories in being part of life of The Drive Church. These can be long held memories or thoughts of more recent times.

Perhaps you have been coming to The Drive since you were a child; were you an especially good child who came along with their family to church without complaint or did you protest? Maybe you were involved in the physical changes to our church premises. I can remember the strength of feeling about having the pulpit removed; difficult for some at the time but we coped and moved on.

We especially would like to hear from our young people and those who have been married or had their children baptised at The Drive. 90 years is a considerable time, so we hope to get a multitude of memories from you all - past and present.

It will be helpful if you write your memories down as these can be displayed around the church along with any photos you may have. If you would prefer to tell me your memory,

I will record it for you. Following the display, I will incorporate your written accounts and photos into an album to be kept in church and produce an Anniversary booklet for you all to keep. Please write your name clearly on the photos as I will copy them and return the original to you.

For the next few Sundays along with your hymn books, you will be given an envelope inside which you will find a sheet of paper on which to write your memories, the envelope can then be used for you to return your contribution and photos to me. Alternatively, I am happy to receive items by email.

Any queries please give me a call on 0208 2528326 or 07929973430. lorrainebendon@gmail.com
Looking forward to hearing from you all.

Lorraine Bendon

90th Anniversary Service – 1st July

We are pleased that The Revd Stephen Normanton, our former minister and Circuit Superintendent, will be leading our 90th anniversary service at The Drive. This will be a special celebration for our church and further details of the day will be announced shortly. Please save the date.

An Important Reminder!!

Please remember that our email addresses have changed. If you wish to submit an item for the newsletter by email please send to:

newsletter@drive-methodist.church

Thank you

Mike Seviour, Diane Foster



Church Donations to Woodlands

I thought you might be interested to know how we have been using your generous gifts of money this year to support the children and families in need that are referred to our service.

19 year old Rachel, a young mum with a small baby returned home following a gall bladder operation and was found to have no bedding as she was spending her money on her baby. We were able to buy her a mattress protector, duvet, pillows, duvet covers and a bedside lamp in her favourite colours. We made her bed up for her and she was thrilled at how lovely and cosy it looked. We continue to support Rachel to look after her baby.

Christine is a grandmother who has taken on the care of her 10 year old granddaughter and 8 month old grandson under a Special Guardianship Order as the children were on a Child Protection Plan and would otherwise have been fostered or adopted. Christine's money does not go far as she tries to make up for all that her grandchildren have previously missed. We were able to assist and buy her a safety gate. We continue to support Christine to adjust to caring for her grandchildren.

Emma is a 12 year old girl who cannot bath as she has a fear of deep water due to the abuse she suffered. We were able to purchase a shower attachment for her to use. Her mum was most grateful.

Angela and Michael have recently become the parents of twin girls. As they already have 4 and 7 year old boys, space in their small flat has become very limited and storage is a problem. To assist with this we purchased 2 space saving drawer units to store the twins clothes.

On behalf of the staff team at Woodlands, thank you.

Lorraine Bendon

Redbridge Islamic Centre Open Day

I lived in Clayhall in the 1950s and attended Parkhill School. Sometimes my aunt, who lived opposite the school, took me with her to visit her friend, Hilda Lloyd at the Tyne Main Coal Office in Woodford Avenue. Hilda and her husband, David, lived in the house behind the office. Later on, I used to walk past the office on my way to the then Ilford County High School at Gants Hill.

A few years ago the former coal office became a mosque and earlier this year an open day was advertised.

After The Drive service on 18th February and lunch at Woodford Bridge, I made my way to the Redbridge Islamic Centre. I had my own personal guide, who took me to see each part of the centre.

I met some of the women and saw their worship area. Hilda's former office is where the men pray. It was a thrill for me to see how the original building has been adapted. You can still work out where everything was.

My visit coincided with that of Ilford North MP Wes Streeting, Redbridge Mayor Linda Huggett and Ilford Recorder Faith Forum reporter Aaron Walawalkar. You may have seen the Recorder for 22nd February, (page 29). If not, I have a few copies.

Some years ago some people from The Drive Methodist Church visited our neighbours in the Eastern Avenue mosque. They paid us a return visit. As a member of Redbridge Faith Forum, I have visited several other mosques in the borough. During my visit to the Woodford Avenue mosque, there were tea, coffee and delicious home-made cake to enjoy.

Susan Ruckes

Diary

March

Sun	25 th	5.00 pm	Palm Sunday Circuit Service
Thurs	29 th	8.00 pm	Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Fri	30 th	10.00 am	Good Friday Service led by Janet & John Pearson
Sat	31 st	10.30 am	Easter Egg Hunt see page 8

April

Sun	1 st	11.00 am	Easter Sunday Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate see page 7
Thur	5 th	7.00 pm	Service of Songs for Esther Olujnmi – see page 9
Fri	6 th	10.30 am	Funeral of Esther Olujnmi see page 9
Sun	8 th	11.15 am	Morning Service led by Mr Collins Frimpong-Manso
Sun	15 th	11.15 am	Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Sat	21 st	10.00 am	Circuit Open Meeting - see page 6

Diary contd.

Sun	22 nd	11.15 am	Morning Service led by Dr Leela Knight
Thur	26 th	7.15 pm	Church Prayer Meeting – see page 9
Fri	27 th	10.30 am	Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane - see page 10
Sun	29 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Members of the Congregation

May

Sun	6 th	11.15 am	Morning Service with Holy Communion and Baptism led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
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(Last date for items for the May Newsletter:
Sunday 22nd April)

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.
We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen

(The Revd Michaela Youngson)

ONE MISSION MATTERS

Spring 2018 No 56

UPDATE

Mission at work

The challenge of local churches and other members of the faith community to the Greater Tyneside Mission and Area Development Board is to work in the service of unity. It is, of course, an unprecedented event that no one expected. It is, however, a welcome and necessary response to a timely opportunity.

In the midst of this challenge and other faith groups (including staff) become partners of information, support and a resource. Their operations, day features of this work were not only the provision of space for the community, but a partnership with organisations and individuals of local churches who shared the same of angels, spirit and compassion for the faith's witness, here and now. Because a partnership is a common cause, in which the church and local partners (and not other) acted as a catalyst, enabling the 'come-unity' to come together and express itself in so doing, the kingdom of God is made manifest.

Our experience suggests that we could be mission in action in not asking to control the agenda but being witnesses. It is about being in the presence of, not necessarily knowing the outcome.

“Enabling the ‘come-unity’ to come together”

We find this same theme in articles in this edition of One Mission Matters, from Greater Methodist Church's building youth meeting (see pages 6 to 10) to the Tyneside Centre in the Tyneside Centre (see page 8). A strong characteristic.



That each story shows how a person is engaged in the day-to-day lives of those they encounter. It is about the Church as to be present in its mission.

Revd Mike Long, Minister, Nelling Hill Methodist Church

Revd Mike Long, Minister, Nelling Hill Methodist Church

The Methodist Church
Living generously

One Mission Matters reflects God's heart for mission, and that we are one, wherever we are and whoever we are with.

One Mission Matters magazine is published three times a year and shares stories of Methodist mission happening in Britain and around the world today. Please help yourself to a copy from the back of the church.