

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

NEWSLETTER

October 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

We have just celebrated harvest with songs and gifts for the needy. Unfortunately we are surrounded by needy people in our communities and towns despite the ostentation of wealth around. Harvest should remind us always that we have been blessed by God in what we have, and in having our basic needs met by God's provisions. For this reason, being grateful comes to mind. Grateful to God for all his blessings to us and our families. In Deuteronomy 26:11, the writer tells us to be grateful for what God has done for us and our families, and also reminds us to share with foreigners, refugees and the less fortunate.

As we enjoyed the harvest lunch after the service on the last Sunday of September, one person who has been a feature for many years organising these kinds of lunches and more was missing, and she will be missed for years to come. I am talking about Catherine Sayers who God called to higher services in September after spending a few weeks in Whipps Cross Hospital. May her soul rest in peace and may God comfort Frank and the family as they mourn her and learn to carry on without her physical presence. Her contribution to the life of our church over the years was so much appreciated by all who knew her and saw her doing all sorts of organising, cooking, arranging flowers, singing in the choir, etc.

We need more people with her level of commitment and dedication to the life of the church to carry on from where she left. One doesn't have to do it all. But even doing the small things is a contribution that is much appreciated.

Discussions are ongoing in the life of our circuit as we enter into a phase where we may lose a minister and have to cope with less. Conversations continue to take place in different

churches and once completed some form of a report, may be with suggestions as to what we may have to do in the future, will be shared and discussed with all churches for a consensus to be reached before the implementation of any recommendations. Please continue to participate in those meetings when they are called. It is in all of our interests to be part of those discussions.

Let us please continue praying for each other and for the mission of our church. We need to seek guidance from the Almighty.

Blessings to each and all of you.

Dino

Catherine Elizabeth Sayers

Frank thanks everyone for their cards, kind wishes and prayers during Catherine's time in hospital. They were very much appreciated. Catherine was a member of this church for over 55 years and she will be greatly missed.

Frank, Jo, Andy and family would also like to thank everyone for their cards, thoughts and prayers following the death of Catherine. At such a sad time the messages of comfort and love were much appreciated.

Thank you also for your kind donations to Action for Children, in memory of Catherine. Just over £500 has been raised and will be used to support vulnerable children and families.

Frank, Jo, Andy and family

Cath

Cath and I were born within a few months of each other just before the 1920s turned into the 1930s. That was when our dear England was at peace for a while and we grew up just a

few doors away from each other in the same pleasant suburban road called Windermere Gardens.

She was one of four children and I was an only child, but I never missed not having brothers and sisters because there were several families in Windermere Gardens and all the children played together happily (well not all the time!) in and out of each other's houses and gardens.

We didn't all go the same day school but nearly all of us went regularly every Sunday to the same Sunday School – the one in the Methodist Church on the corner of The Drive, where at that time there were over 200 pupils and where we sang our hearts out at those wonderful Sunday School anniversaries in a church packed to the very doors and had so much fun at those never-to-be-forgotten Christmas parties.

Those golden years came to an abrupt end when the Second World War burst upon us. Dads were called up and most of us knew the trauma of evacuation, at least for a time, but came back to find ourselves in the midst of the blitz and when one terrible night our house was razed to the ground it was Tom Guppy, Cath's Dad, who was our air raid warden, who saved my life.

When the War Damage Commission finally rebuilt our house the Guppy family were our neighbours again and Cath and I were enthusiastic members of the Church Youth Club. When we outgrew it and got our first jobs, we both became very active in church life, which at that time was absolutely buzzing, but in different ways for she was a born organiser and committee woman and I wasn't but we worked together often, particularly preparing those lovely monthly church

lunches year after year. Cath was a marvellous cook and she could make sixpence do the work of half a crown. It was hard work but we had so much fun and laughter. Happy, happy days!

She was the soul of reliability and kind and caring in a practical down-to-earth, unsentimental way. She always said what she thought and you knew exactly where you stood with her. She was quietly there for you in sorrow and in joy, but chose to keep her own problems to herself.

When she married a young teacher called Frank Sayers the whole of Windermere Gardens rejoiced and if ever a marriage was made in heaven that one most certainly was.

The last few years have not been kind to Cath and Frank. They have had to battle severe health problems, but their faith and courage has never faltered and although after 33 years Frank had to give up being the church organist and Cath was no longer able to continue the many jobs and responsibilities which she'd shouldered for so long, they still came to Sunday services as often as they could and it was always good to see them there singing the hymns they loved and knew so well.

If a church has kept going for 90 years through a war and good times and bad in an ever-changing world, if Christ is still preached, children are taught and the local community is served, it's because all through the years there have been those for whom it was been at the very centre of their lives, who dedicated their time and their talents wholeheartedly and who kept the faith. They have been a blessing of blessings and we thank God for them from the bottom of our hearts. Of such was a much loved lady called Cath.

Betty Griffiths



Birthday Greetings

We wish a very happy birthday to:
Josiah who will be 5;
Yetunde Fadojutimi who will be 15 and
Lamarion Gordon who will be 12 in October.

Multi-Faith Walk of Peace 23rd September

The walk began with a tree-planting ceremony by the Holocaust Memorial Garden in Valentines Park. I missed this but arrived in time for a talk given by a member of the Jewish community.

I then cheated by taking a bus to Ilford Town Centre to visit the Ilford Hospital Chapel. This was open as part of London Open House Weekend. Liz Amah came with me to the Chapel.

I then caught up with the "Peace Walkers" at the Buddhist Vihara in Balfour Road. We proceeded to the Hindu Temple in Cleveland Road for another talk.

From there it was a short walk to the Islamic Community Centre where the 40th anniversary was being celebrated. The place was packed. After a talk and cake-cutting, the "Peace Walkers" left after sampling some samosas and spring rolls in an outside marquee. Delicious.

The Kimbanguist Church meets on Sunday afternoons at The Vine Church. We arrived just in time to hear the ladies sing. What an inspiration! Their singing reminded me of two South African funerals I have attended in this country.

We reluctantly left the beautiful music and made our way to the Karamsar Gurdwara in the High Road. This time the young people played some very different music on some unusual instruments. It was the first time the young people have taken part.

We then went down to the ground floor for a delicious vegetarian meal and yes – it included their excellent rice pudding.

Four of us walked back through Ilford Town Centre agreeing that the timing of the visits had been better this year, apart from one problem that is unlikely to occur again.

In spite of the rain at the start, the event was well supported by many faith groups.

Susan Ruckes

Macmillan Coffee Morning at Redbridge Social Centre 28th September

I am pleased to report that we had a successful day raising £1238 from sales on the stalls and generous donations.

My thanks again go to Kaye and her staff at the Drive Preschool who once more arrived at lunchtime with Asian goodies cooked in the morning.

Audrey Taylor

Church Prayer Meeting 25th October

Scripture verse Philippians 3:6-7

The next monthly prayer meeting is on Thursday 25th of October 7.15pm to 7.45pm in the Minister's Vestry. We are encouraged by the people who come and it is also good to hear that some of you who can't make the meetings take the prayer sheets which we put at the back of the church about two weeks in advance and pray those prayers at home.

Bible Reading Group 26th October

The next Bible reading group meeting is at 104 Wanstead Lane on Friday 26th of October at 10.30am. We shall be reading Genesis 37 to 42 which starts the story of Joseph.

Here we shall be asking each other what we thought, enjoyed, found encouraging, learnt etc. There are no experts, it's like any other book club but all our books come from the Bible.

It's a time to share our experiences and also to choose what we would like to read next.

If you are reading along at home but cannot make our meeting please tell Roy Brunnen. I am sure some of us would be happy to chat together over a coffee after church for 15 minutes once a month and Roy could arrange it. We are learning that talking about the Bible can be fun.

Jan and John Pearson

Advanced Notices

Postponed showing of The Shack 3rd November

The new date for the showing of the film "The Shack" is Saturday, November 3rd at 2.00pm sharp. We have brought the time forward half an hour as the clocks go back the previous weekend, and it will get darker earlier for people going home.

As before, because this is basically a trial run, this will be a free showing, and the refreshments will also be free.

Please make a note of the date and be aware that if you are late you will not see the start of the film, and you will also disturb those who are already watching.

If you cannot come on November 3rd, we will be showing it again, probably in January.

Brian Grinham

Concert 4th November

VALENTINE SINGERS



ANYTHING GOES

The 20s and 30s in song featuring
Gershwin, Cole Porter, Samuel Barber
Ain't Misbehavin', Begin the Beguine, I Got Rhythm
Chicago, Cabaret, Thoroughly Modern Millie,
The Boy Friend

Sunday 4th November at 4:00pm

Seven Kings High School, Ley Street, Ilford

£12 (£7 students/benefit holders)

(buy in advance - £15/£9 on the door!)

Phone: 020 8550 6454/visit: www.valentinesingers.org

or see Andrew Taylor



JMA Presentation Service 18th November

The JMA certificates and badges will be presented during the morning service of 18th November, led by Jan Pearson.

Diane Foster

Action for Children Slides Evening 24th November

The Slides Evening will be on Saturday 24th November starting at 6 for 6.30pm in the Church Parlour. This is always an enjoyable evening and it would be great to welcome some new attendees in addition to the regulars.

As well as our usual presenters, we hope Matthew will be available to show some photos from his recent deployment. If you would like to present some slides please let us know.

During the interval we will break for our usual buffet supper. There is no charge for admission and you are welcome to just turn up on the evening but it would be helpful to let us know for catering purposes.

A collection for the work of Action for Children will be made. If you would like a lift to and from the Church, again please let us know.

Diane and Jeremy Foster

Not That Old Hymn Again...

How old are the hymns and songs we sing on a Sunday morning? And by extension, how old are the authors of those hymns and songs? On 23rd September we enjoyed singing

one of the newer hymns in *Singing the Faith*, "In the wonder of creation" (StF 110) by Andrew T. Murphy, born in 1981.

This prompted one choir member to wonder if he was the youngest author in our hymn book. Well, I've skimmed through the index of authors at the back of the book (yes, my life really is that exciting!) and the answer is - I don't know. Many authors of modern songs don't have a date of birth given. Neither does that prolific writer, Anon! Andrew T. Murphy however does seem to be the youngest of those whose dates are given. I'm happy to be proved wrong if anyone wants to spend time looking at the index more closely!

So if Andrew T Murphy is one of the youngest, who is the oldest author? By which I mean, who was born the earliest? "We plough the fields and scatter" (StF 130) which we sang at our Harvest Festival on 30th September comes from a 17-verse German poem written by Matthias Claudius in 1782. Not the earliest author, though. Surely someone like Charles Wesley (1707-1788), writing his 6,000-odd hymns earlier in the 18th century? Not even close! Bianco da Siena, then, author of "Come down, O Love divine" (StF 372), who died in 1434. No, keep going back... to the time of several saints.

The 13th century Italian Dominican friar St Thomas Aquinas (c1225-1274) was an influential theologian and philosopher. He wrote many eucharistic hymns, including the Passiontide hymn "Sing my tongue, the Saviour's glory" (StF 268). Just a little before him came St Richard of Chichester (c1197-1253) whose famous prayer "Day by day" (StF 444) has been set to music by many composers, perhaps most famously in the 1970s musical *Godspell*. But travel back another five centuries and you find St John of Damascus (c675-749), a Father of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and author of the Easter hymn "The day of resurrection" (StF 311). No, not even he can claim the prize.

The accolade of earliest author of a hymn or song in *Singing the Faith* (subject to verification!) goes to Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (c348 – 413). Prudentius was born in northern Spain, at the time still a part of the Roman Empire. He was a lawyer and provincial governor, before being summoned to the court of Emperor Theodosius I. After retiring from public life, he dedicated himself to writing poems, hymns and works in defence of Catholicism. By all accounts (i.e. Wikipedia), he also became a vegetarian. Two of his hymns are in *Singing the Faith*, both taken from longer works: the great Advent hymn “Of the Father’s love begotten” (StF 181) and the Epiphany hymn “Bethlehem, of noblest cities” (StF 225). The words we are familiar with today are mostly the work of Victorian translators, as is the case with so many of these early hymns.

So there you have it – 1,600 years of song praising and worshipping God, all bound up in one book. I invite you to take a look at the names and dates of the people responsible for the words of the hymns and songs we sing, and reflect on the generations of Christian folk of all denominations who have sung those words in the past, still sing them today and, hopefully, will continue to do so well into the future.

Andrew Taylor



Diary for October

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Sun | 7th | 11.15am | Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate |
| Sun | 14th | 11.15am | Morning Service led by The Revd Angela Pothecary |
| Fri | 19 th | 10.30am | Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion |
| Sun | 21st | 11.15am | Morning Service led by Dr Leela Knight |
| Thu | 25 th | 7.15pm | Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Vestry - see page 8 |
| Fri | 26 th | 10.30am | Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane - see page 8 |
| Sun | 28th | 11.15am | Morning Service led by Members of the congregation |

November

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| Sat | 3 rd | 2.00pm | The Shack - see page 9 |
| Sun | 4th | 11.15am | Morning Service with led by Mr Collins Frimpong-Manso |
| Sun | 4 th | 4.00pm | Valentines Singers Concert at Seven Kings High School – see page 9 |
| Thu | 8 th | 8.00pm | Church Council |

***(Last date for items for the November newsletter:
Sunday 21st October)***

3Generate is The Methodist Church annual children and youth assembly held in November which was attended last year by almost 1000 children and young people.

This year the Church is asking you if you could write a letter to those attending 3Generate to help them be courageous in their faith by sharing something of your own faith story. Help our children and young people to feel connected; to feel part of the big Methodist family!

A handwritten letter is more personal, but you may type it if you wish. Ideally your letter should be no longer than one side of A4. Just sign it with your first name – do not include any other personal contact details. Your letter will be displayed at 3Generate to be read by the children and young people.

Some ideas of what to include:

- Something of your faith story, parts that you think the children and young people would find interesting;
- Your experience of being part of a church/faith community; perhaps you were part of a church when you were younger;
- Things that you have learnt about life and faith that would be helpful to share.

Send your completed letter by **the end of October** to:

3Generate, 6th Floor, Methodist Church House,
25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR or email to:

3generate@methodistchurch.org.uk

or if you prefer hand to me and I will deliver.

Thank you
Diane Foster