

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2019



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

Welcome to the new year with its challenges. As we may all be aware, Revd Ermal Kirby is leaving the circuit at the end of this connexional year. We have been expecting a replacement for him since December. So far nothing has happened. We find ourselves in a situation where it is becoming more likely that there will be no replacement and we may have to make adjustments to the workings of the circuit from September. That would mean, to start with, that we will be short on ministerial staff and that may be the new normal. We need to work on possible implications thereof. To that effect, an open meeting of the circuit has been called for Saturday the 2nd February at 10am, being held at Seven Kings Methodist Church. Looking ahead will be the main focus of the meeting. Change is coming.

When situations like these arise, everyone's skills and gifts become important. We all have God given gifts that are meant to enable us to share with fellow Christians in enhancing the life of the church. We need everyone's help to deal with the changes that are coming.

Would you please take some time and read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. It is a reading where Paul speaks to the Corinthians Christians, who were new converts, about the gifts of the Spirit and the need they had to share those gifts with each other for the good of their community, their fellowship and for the sake of the kingdom. God has not given us uniform gifts, but a variety so that we may complement each other. No gift is negligible in relation to others, they are all equally important before God and they should be so before our eyes.

We need to be forthcoming with our gifts for the sake of the church to which we belong and the fellowship thereof.

Let us face the challenges this new year brings with the belief that God, in Jesus Christ is with us, to lead us and encourage us on. Every suggestion is welcome to help us move on. We will need to be innovative, creative, think outside the 'box', to make it with only three presbyters if we don't definitely get a replacement for Ermal. Let us all pray for a better solution but let's also work for the possible outcome and not leave it for the last minute, where we will be under pressure to come up with a solution to our possible dilemma.

Think of what your gifts may be and how can you use them in the church.

May God's blessings be with all of us.

Dino

Editor's note

Welcome to the February newsletter. January is almost over and Christmas 2018 seems a long time ago! But after celebrating Christ's birth, we can now look ahead to 2019 when we will share worship, special services and fellowship together at The Drive.

Please continue to send me items of news and interest for our newsletter.

Diane Foster



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

John Francis Taylor

Audrey and Andrew would like to thank everyone for their love and support following John's death at the end of November. The full church on the day of his funeral was testament to how much he meant to so many people. It is very reassuring to know that as we adjust to life without him, we will have the continuing support of the church family at The Drive. Thanks to the generosity of many people, we collected £700 in John's memory which has been split equally between the British Heart Foundation and Bloodwise (formerly the Leukemia Research Fund).

Brian writes about his friend:

John and I had known each other, and been friends, for most of our lives.

We both joined the Cubs when we were old enough, and our love of Scouting saw us progress through the Cubs and Scouts (at that time we did not have a Senior Scout section) and eventually into Leadership. There were many happy times and memories, too many to mention here, but one particular memory was, when camping at Gilwell Park over a bank holiday weekend, we both had dates in the evening of the Monday, and were in a hurry to get home, as were some of the other four campers. Everything was packed on the trek cart, and the site cleaned, when our two leaders went to find a member of Gilwell Staff to inspect the site. We decided that we would start the trek (7½ miles) home instead of waiting. The leaders caught us up some time later as they had a motor bike, but we made it back to the church in just under 1½ hours, which was a record (and we were in time for our dates).

John and I remained good friends, although as time went on we both got married and did not hang about together so much. At one camp which we were running in 1962, I knew that Audrey had been feeling a bit under the weather, so asked John how she was. His reply was something like "it is nothing that she won't get over – she is pregnant!" to which my reply was "That's funny because so is Pat!" Some of you will know that the result of these pregnancies was that Andrew and my eldest daughter, Susan, were both born on the same day in the same hospital! Andrew is about 12 hours older!

We continued to be good friends and sometimes met up on holidays, as we all went camping and had some great times.

The death of Stephen was a real shock to us all and Pat and I did what we could to help John and Audrey through this agonising time.

Eventually the time came when I gave up active Scouting to concentrate on my first spell as Senior Steward in the Church. John and Audrey continued to give as much time as always to Scouting, and gradually John got involved with the District, as well as the Group, and on reaching the age of 65, said to the District Commissioner, words to the effect that "Now that I have reached 65, and can't be Group Scout Leader any more, I will have to retire!" The D.C. replied, "No need for that you can become Group Manager!" John therefore kept on in that post, as well as others, until his passing.

John was a very public minded person, who gave willingly of his skills and abilities, to help youngsters through their formative years, and was rewarded by the Scouts by receiving

the Silver Acorn and then the Silver Wolf, which is the highest honour that a Scouter can receive.

John was a great friend, on whom I could rely, and I will miss him greatly.

Brian Grinham



Christmas 2018 at The Drive

Church Christmas Tree

On behalf of the Church I would like to thank everyone who helped to set up the church Christmas trees and the candle holders. Particular thanks go to Peter Bendon, who used his car to tow the Scout trailer to collect the trees, to John Higgins who helped with the decorating, to Mike Seviour who helped with the decorating and dismantling and to Brian Taylor who set up the candle holders.

Jeremy Foster

Nativity and Toy Service 16th December

Many people have commented on how much they enjoyed the Nativity. Thanks go to Rochelle, who wrote the play, and to all our young people who took part in it. A story that we all know so well, but written with a different twist.

You'll be pleased to know since the Nativity I have tidied out one of the cupboards!

As always my thanks go to all the TDY leaders, including our new members of the team Bambo and Lola, for their continued support and nurture of our young people here at The Drive.

Jo Wright

Carol Service 23rd December

For all of us who look forward to Christmas there has to be one moment that heralds the beginning of such a special celebration. My own is the moment that I enter the church for the Carol Service. I see the warm glow of candles in the dimmed light and the Christmas tree covered in sparkling baubles. Beautiful flowers, pine cones and red berries on fir branches brighten corners and ledges and the aroma of warm mince pies permeates through the church from the parlour kitchen.

There are many people who ensure that all these things are in place in time for the service to begin. Service sheets are printed ready to hand out to people as they are greeted at the door. Some of those people may join us just once a year but they know that the welcome will be just as warm as any other year and that the programme of readings, prayers, music and carols will uplift them. For all of this we have many people to thank and their dedication and commitment is immeasurable.

Our special thanks to Andrew Taylor who continued with rehearsals and the preparation of the programme of music and carols, through such a difficult time.

The service commenced with Thea Garner singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City', the following verses were sang by the choir and congregation. Lessons, prayers and carols were interspersed with compilations of music beautifully arranged by Andrew and sung by the Choir and Chorale. Refreshments were waiting in the Parlour and Andrew played seasonal tunes on the piano accompanied by everyone singing at the top of their voices. This sing-a-long has become a regular event now.

Thank you to everyone at The Drive Church who helped to make our Carol Service 2018 so special.

Anne Dellow

My son, David, works at the weekends so can't often come to church, but one of the services he always tries to come to is the Carol Service. This year he commented on how wonderful the Choir and Chorale sounded and what an amazing voice Thea had as she sang the first verse of Once in Royal David's City.

He always says Christmas starts once he's been to the Carol Service at The Drive.

Jo Wright

Woodlands The West Essex Family Centre

Once again at the Nativity and Toy Service, Woodlands received gifts of toys, games and money from our friends and supporters at The Drive to use in our work with vulnerable children and parents. We are so thankful for your continued support of our work and use your gifts wisely to benefit the families who are referred to our service.

I am excited to share with you that the result of the very recent OFSTED inspection in West Essex was...OUTSTANDING!

Best Wishes from Woodlands Family Staff Team.

Lorraine Bendon

Lost property

On the 29th December I found a silver bracelet in the doorway that leads from the church to the parlour, it may have been dropped by someone who attended the carol service?

If you know of anyone who has lost a bracelet please contact me.

Anne Dellow

TDY News

We held our first TDY meeting on 5th January. We had eight members who came to participate in discussing what we are leaving behind in 2018 and something new that we would be bringing into 2019. Our next meeting will be on 2nd February, we hope to see everyone there again.

Lola Fadojutimi

TDY Charity for the year

At the beginning of the year, our young people and leaders came together and chose a charity to support in 2019. We put all our ideas in Thea's hat and Dementia UK was pulled out. TDY are planning a number of fundraising events in the year, starting with a table-top sale which we're hoping to hold in February and we will be sure to let you know the details as soon as we have them.

Thank you very much for your support of our 2018 charity, WE - supporting communities to improve their situation and then to help others. We will put the final total raised on our board at the back of the church - drum roll please....!

Michelle Garner

Ashurst Baptist Church, Ashurst Drive 16th February

There is a free event at the above church on Saturday 16th February at 6.30pm:

‘A Special Evening with Dave Bilbrough’

Dave is recognised as one of Britain’s premier worship leaders and a singer/ songwriter.

Anne Dellow

Bible Reading Group 22nd February

The Bible Reading group will meet on Friday 22nd February at our house at 10:30am – 11.30am. We will be discussing the book of Joel. Refreshments to follow. If you cannot meet at this time but would like to read and discuss these passages of the bible please speak to Roy Brunnen and he will arrange something after the service.

Jan and John Pearson

Service of Commemoration for Edith Chapman 23rd February

There will be a short service of commemoration on Saturday 23rd February at 11.30am in the church grounds when Edith’s ashes will be scattered around the tree that was planted in memory of her husband Eddie.

Church Prayer Meeting 28th February

The Church Prayer Meeting will be on Thursday 28th February in the Minister’s Vestry from 7.15pm – 7.45pm. Please come if you can otherwise prayer sheets will be available at the back of the Church so you can pray along with us at home.

Jan and John Pearson

Advanced Notices

Church Work Morning 2nd March

The Property Committee has organised a work morning for Saturday 2nd March. We will start about 10am and finish before lunch. As always, there are plenty of jobs to do, such as light cleaning, gardening and generally tidying up. All help will be welcome.

Jeremy Foster



**Our annual JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA
(and raffle) will be held on:**

**SATURDAY 9th MARCH 2019
2.30pm for 3pm START**

**THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL
Adult: £5; Children (under 16): £2.50**

All profits go to JMA (Junior Mission for All)
raising funds for projects both at home and abroad.

Come along and enjoy an afternoon of
fellowship, food and fun!

Tickets from Diane Foster

Property

After many years, Brian Taylor has asked to be relieved of the responsibility for looking after the lettings at our Church. On behalf of the Church I wish to record my thanks to Brian for the tremendous job he has done in managing the bookings so efficiently. The income which we receive from the lettings is, of course, a vital source of income, however sharing the premises with many local community groups also helps us to fulfil our mission to "Be a good neighbour" in the local community.

I have agreed to take on responsibility for the regular users, however I am not willing to assume responsibility for the casual bookings eg parties. As matters stand, the Property Committee has therefore agreed that we will no longer accept requests for "one off" bookings from individuals outside of the church family. That said, if there is anyone who would be willing to take on this responsibility please let me know.

I am very pleased that Brian has agreed to continue to manage the invoicing process, which will be a significant help to me and that he will remain a member of the Property Committee. I am yet to agree a formal handover date with Brian so in the short term please continue to refer booking enquiries to Brian.

I will write again in next month's Newsletter with a further update.

Jeremy Foster

Flowers at The Drive

Our church flowers arrangers Janet, Anne, Ruth and Lorraine hope you have taken pleasure in the flowers placed in and around the church during 2018. We certainly enjoy arranging them; and in particular those donated and dedicated to loved ones and in celebration of special occasions.

Many thanks to all who use our flower calendar which can be found on the notice board next to the coffee hatch at the back of the church. Do add your name if you would like to dedicate flowers, and speak to one of the flower arrangers who will be happy to advise you and include your dedication message in our weekly notices.

If anyone feels they would like to have a go at being an 'apprentice' flower arranger; please do speak to one of us.

We look forward to providing many more beautiful displays for you through 2019.

The Drive Flower Arrangers

Thoughts from the Church Kitchen

It came as a surprise last year when I 'celebrated' 35 years on the refreshment rota. Others have come, gone away and returned but my 35 years have been continuous.

The one golden rule is to turn on the water heater **before** the morning service. (If you forget, you will not have been the first).

During the last century, when I began, there was a large urn. It was difficult to judge when the water was hot enough without making the kitchen resemble a Turkish bath. On one particular Sunday I checked it during each hymn. One concerned worshipper thought I was ill! The present water heater has made such a difference.

We all do the teas and coffees our own way. I prefer to make tea in a teapot. I request preachers to choose a **long** hymn at the end of the service. This enables the tea to look like tea before the hatch is opened. Some prefer to fulfil each order at a time. I prefer to do several teas or several coffees at a time.

Also special thanks to our young people. Paige and Funmi always remember to return their tumblers to the hatch. They have been very helpful in tracking down 'lost' cups and saucers. On one occasion they located five that were 'missing'.

And another tribute to Catherine Sayers who would often set out everything ready perhaps when my bus was late.

Thank you to Ruth, who now organises the rota, and to all the team.

Susan Ruckes



Diary

February

Sat	2 nd	10.00am	Circuit Open Meeting at Seven Kings Methodist Church - see Dino's letter page 2
Sun	3rd	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Allan Ramsden
Wed	6 th	8.00pm	Church Life Committee
Sun	10th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Thur	14 th	8.00pm	Church Council
Sat	16 th	6.30pm	Dave Bilbrough event at Ashurst Baptist Church see page 10
Sun	17th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Jan Pearson
Wed	20 th	8.00pm	Finance Committee
Fri	22 nd	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Fri	22 nd	10.30am	Bible Reading Group 104 Wanstead Lane, see page 10
Sat	23 rd	11.30am	Service of Commemoration for Edith Chapman - see page 10
Sun	25th	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Tue	26 th	8.00pm	Pastoral Committee
Thur	29 th	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's vestry - see page 10

March

Sat	2 nd	10.30am	Church Work Morning see page 11
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***(Last date for items for the March Newsletter:
Sunday 17th February)***



2019 marks the 350th anniversary

of the birth of Susanna Wesley – “the Mother of Methodism”. Although most known for her influence on her sons, John and Charles, Susanna deserves recognition in her own right as an accomplished writer, teacher and theologian. A selection of her writings will be published this spring and celebratory events are planned throughout the anniversary year. More information will become available on www.methodistheritage.org.uk

Living, loving God, Trinity in Unity,

We praise and thank you for the life of Susanna Wesley, Mother of Methodism.

Inspired by her regime of private prayer and meditation, may we grow in our devotion to you.

Following our conscience as she did, may we think for ourselves and dare to act on Kingdom values.

Aware of her programme of teaching her children, girls and boys alike, may we value and nurture all in our care, sensitive to individual needs.

Encouraged by her determination to build up the faith of her family and the parish of Epworth, may we lead others to follow Christ more closely.

Discerning the Holy Spirit moving powerfully in the life of the nation as she did, may we be open to new challenges and expect great things from you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

*Jenny Carpenter
Vice-Chair of Trustees, Epworth Old Rectory*