

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

NEWSLETTER

March 2019



Minister: Rev'd 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

Greetings to all of you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have been wondering for sometime now about possibilities of getting a new minister to replace Ermal in the circuit. It has happened. We were given a minister, by direct stationing, who will be in pastoral charge of The Drive, Barkingside and Seven Kings from 1st September. As a result, I will be taking pastoral charge of Barking Methodist church and Ilford. I am not leaving the circuit as some may have thought. I will be much around and hope to continue to see all of you in my travels.

This appointment does not answer our serious questions about the future yet. It is likely that Revd Angela will not extend her time in the circuit. This means that immediately we need to start applying for her replacement and we expect the same difficulties in getting a replacement. There are circuits in worse situations than our and soon we may not be able to have four presbyters. We still need to think creatively about the future.

We continue to appeal for volunteers to take on some church responsibilities and even to shadow those who are doing it at the moment so that there may be a smooth transition when it comes to others wanting or being ready to step down for a break. I was glad to see two volunteers joining the church stewards. It is a positive move. We are hoping to re-apply the six year rule, which means each person will be a steward for no more than six years at a time. For this to happen, we need a new church steward every year, from 2019 on. Don't be a spectator, God needs you, your church needs you. Speak to us and we'll be able to guide you.

Lent is fast approaching and there will be, at Cranbrook Baptist Church, an ecumenical Bible study, combining the Drive, St Andrew's and the Baptist Church. Please make an effort to attend. It is usually a good time for fellowship with other people around us in the community and Christians of other churches.

Let me take this opportunity to thank our very committed and dedicated friends who have now asked to take it easy and be relieved of their duties. Roy is stepping down from being senior steward for a good number of years. Brian Taylor is stepping down from lettings and Liz Amah is stepping down from Communion stewardship. They have all given the best of their time and skills in serving our church. We grateful to God for their services. We will continue to use their knowledge of how things work and may they enjoy the deserved rest. We'll miss your commitment and availability to get on with it. May the Lord bless you.

Blessings to all
Dino

Our thoughts are with a number of our friends from church who are unwell at present. We ask for God's blessing on them and others we have concerns for at this time and remember them in our prayers.

Birthday Greetings

We wish a very Happy Birthday to:
Iris Bennett-Wright will be 7
Tunrayo Fadina will be 11



Redbridge Faith Forum– Rough Sleepers and the Homeless in Redbridge 29th January

There were several excellent speakers at this lunch time meeting of the Redbridge Faith Forum at Redbridge Central Library.

There were two ways suggested for us to help with this problem. Firstly we were asked to support the organisations which have expertise in working with the rough sleepers – the Salvation Army, The Welcome Centre and others. Secondly we were asked to call a number to report any homeless who may not be known about. We were told do not give them food, drink or cash in the street because this will encourage them to stay there.

(It is better to give a donation direct to a relevant charity-Ed.)

Circuit Open Meeting at Seven Kings 2nd February

About 65 people met at the Circuit Open Meeting. All ten churches in the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit were represented. Each church was asked to supply beforehand one hymn and one Bible reading. On the day a representative introduced the chosen hymn and reading.

A brief summary of future plans was given within a maximum of twelve minutes. Most churches said that there would be more reliance on worship leaders.

Grange Hill no longer have weekly Sunday services and some of their members now attend Gants Hill. The meeting ended well before the appointed time of 4pm.

Susan Ruckes

Church Prayer Meeting 28th February and 28th March

The Church Prayer Meeting will be on Thursday 28th February and 28th March 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

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

**Don't forget to get your tickets for the
JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA**



**SATURDAY 9th MARCH 2019
2.30pm for 3pm START
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL
Adult: £5; Children (under 16): £2.50**

***Tickets are available now from Diane Foster
jma@drive-methodist.church***

Bring all your family and friends!

Quiz Night 9th March

Old Dagenham Methodist Church are holding a quiz night in aid of the New Community Hub on Saturday 9th March at 6pm. Tickets available from Jackie Saito at the Circuit Office: bdicircuitoffice@btconnect.com

Lent Study Course from 12th March

This will be held on Tuesdays 12th, 19th, 26th March; 2nd, 9th April at Cranbrook Baptist Church, Wellesley Road, Ilford at 8pm.

Bible Reading Group 29th March

The Bible Reading Group will meet on Friday 29th March from 10:30am to 11:30am followed by refreshments at John & Janet Pearson's home. We will be discussing 1 Samuel chapters 1-7. Join us if you can.

Jan and John Pearson

(see Betty's item on page 13)



Further tributes to John Taylor

In February 1959 I joined the Cub pack at the Drive. Audrey was the leader and John, her fiancé, was Assistant Scout Master, helping to run the Scout section. A few months later I was privileged to take part in a guard-of-honour with other Cubs and Scouts outside the Eastern Avenue door of the church as they came out after their wedding.

The fact that 60 years later, I am still with the Scouts at the Drive is due in no small measure to John. His enthusiasm, knowledge (and patience!) in teaching not just the 'HOWs' but also the 'WHYs' of core Scouting skills such as mapping, navigation, rope craft etc. clearly inspired me and is something I always tried to emulate when later as Scout Leader I was helping to train the next generation of Scouts.

My own career in Scouting has closely followed John's – as Assistant Scout Leader, Scout Leader and now as Group Scout Leader. He has been my mentor throughout and it has been a comfort knowing that whenever I was in need of support, John's experience was available to draw on and he would always be ready to step in with sound words of advice or practical help. I'll miss that.

I'll miss him too as a friend. Times spent round the fire at Scout camp laughing at his amusing stories of his life in Scouting, the RAF and the Civil Service. Many happy hours spent helping him service and repair some of the old cars he'd owned over the years and more recently, helping to recover seemingly lost data from his computer 'crashes'! Sometimes challenging but always fun!

Over the years, many hundreds of young people have passed through the 14th Ilford Scout Group. Most will have met John. Many, like me, will have been influenced and inspired by him, but every one of them will have their own reason to be grateful to John for his life and dedication to Scouting.

Mike Seviour

My first encounter with John was in 1968 when I was 12 years old. We were at Scout camp near Cobham in Surrey. My patrol was on duty in the kitchen and John was supervising. I was wearing my favourite blue denim style shirt, but as it was a hot day I had left it loose and unbuttoned. I was told to stir the stew and to make sure it did not stick. I suddenly felt rather hot and looking down I was horrified to see that my shirt was well and truly on fire. A moment later a bucket of cold water cascaded over me – John had come to the rescue.

The following year I managed to tread on a nail which punctured my plimsole and my foot! John was our First Aider and he tended to the wound and then took me to hospital for a tetanus jab. And the following year I remember having an upset tummy. John convinced me that the best cure was to eat a raw egg, assuring me “it will bind everything together”.

John supported me when I became a young leader with the cubs and as a mentor when I became an Assistant Scout Leader. In his official capacities as Scout Leader, Group Scout Leader, Group Manager and finally Group Chairman John was a consistent and reliable presence. But John was also a friend. Some of the best times were at camp sitting round the camp fire in the evening eating fried egg sandwiches (if Audrey didn't see) when John would re tell some of his many stories. He was a great raconteur with stories about his early days in

Scouting and his National Service. The stories may have been a little embellished, but they were always amusing.

Diane and I were delighted when John agreed to be a Sponsor at Matthew's christening and both John and Audrey have been wonderful god parents taking a keen interest in his progress.

The many people who attended to John's funeral was testament to the many roles and activities in which he was involved, but was also confirmation of their affection for him.

I was privileged to know John both as a fellow Scouter and a friend.

Jeremy Foster

Newsletter Printer

I first started printing the Newsletter when Dorothy Seviour became Senior Steward and gave up that duty, (probably late 1970's). At this time we were using the Scouts gestetner and Frank Sayers was typing the stencils from Barbara Foster's handwritten script. I'd cycle down to print one morning in the week – often the same day as the seniors lunch day when occasionally Cath Sayers would invite me to join them as the 'oldies' liked a younger person to chat to!! Mrs Grinham, Brian's mum being one of them.

The Church later purchased its first printer – printing red and black, which I mastered. Format was still A4. After John retired and we progressed to be members of the lunch club he assisted me on lunch days. By then we had the second printer. When Barbara had to stand down as our brilliant editor Frank relinquished his job – computers were taking over. Roy took on the job of editor. We then changed to the

current smaller size and Roy sent the newsletter to us by computer and John got more involved with the printing.

When Roy stood down as editor we get up to date with Diane taking on the job and showing her flair for the task. Recently age caught up with us and regrettably collating is now a chore for me and Andrew has come to my rescue as I cannot now master the printing.

Audrey Taylor

An update on Church Notice Boards

I understand that it was reported at the Church Life Committee that the Property Committee had vetoed the idea of a new notice board on the corner of The Drive on cost grounds. This is not actually the case. Whilst it will be expensive, the Property Committee works to a budget which is agreed annually by the Church Council. The delay is due to the difficulty of finding a manufactured notice board that is practical, looks right and meets our requirements. Once we have found the right notice board we will refer back to the Church Council for approval.

We are also looking at how we might replace the 'Welcome to the Drive' notice in the church foyer. We can purchase letters in a nice script that can be attached to the wall. This would look alright, but it would not be very creative. I have written before in the newsletter inviting suggestions, but I have not had any firm proposals. We need something colourful, eye catching and well made. Can I again appeal for some ideas for what we can do and importantly how we can get it made.

Jeremy Foster

Advanced notices

Film shows at The Drive Methodist Church from 6th April

As you probably know we have been trying out showing "The Shack" on two occasions. As the second showing was a success, we have now arranged some more dates when films will be shown, and we already have the first two dates organised.

The dates and films are as follows:

Saturday 6th April: "The Case for Christ"

Saturday 1st June: "Wesley – a heart transformed can change the World"

Saturday 27th July: "God's not dead" (tbc)

Saturday 21st September: To be arranged

Saturday 16th November: To be arranged

The 3 films above are all certified as PG – Parental Guidance.

All showings will take place in the Church Hall starting at 2.30pm with a comfort break at a suitable place during the film with tea/coffee and biscuits for a small charge.

There will be no charge for attending the film, but we would welcome a donation towards the expense of purchasing the licence, the films and covering our overheads.

We will be inviting people from the other churches in the circuit, and also our friends from St. Andrew's Church.

Brian Grinham



THE NEW ESSEX CHOIR
Saturday 13th April 2019
7.30pm at The Drive Methodist Church

Mozart: Solemn Vespers
Vivaldi: Gloria

The soloists will be Jennifer Tatnall and Natalie Davies

The setting of the evening service of Vespers was written in
1780 for performance in Salzburg

Tickets and further information from Brian Taylor



The Annual Easter Egg Hunt 20th April

TDY invite everybody, young and old, to join in with a morning of crafts, refreshments and fun.

This will take place in the church hall from
10.30am-12.30pm on Saturday 20th April.

The cost will be £1.00 for children.

Come and enjoy a hot cross bun, fun and fellowship, all are welcome.



Jo Wright

Philemon

At their last meeting the Bible Reading Group studied Philemon and learned so much from it that they hope that others in the church will study it too. It's the only personal letter Paul wrote and it was written to a member of the church he had founded in Colosse whose name was Philemon.

It is only 25 verses long and it's about a slave of Philemon's called Onesimus (which means useful) who had run away, perhaps because he was incompetent or dishonest, and had somehow ended up in Rome where Paul was being held prisoner. He was converted by the apostle and became so useful to Paul that he didn't want to part with him, but he asked Philemon to forgive him, take him back and treat him like a brother.

That's all there is to it really but the group found real treasure in those few verses for they're a sort of guide to living the Christian life. Their lively discussion would probably have gone on indefinitely if Jan and John hadn't quietly done their famous disappearing act and returned bearing cuppas and goodies the way they always do.

Betty Griffiths

Singing The Faith – The Seventh Year The Seven Year Itch?

We first used the new Methodist hymnal *Singing the Faith* on Sunday 15th January 2012. Since then I have kept a note of the hymns and songs used (from now on, I'll just refer to them as "songs"), and for those of you interested in statistics, here is a summary of those we used in 2018.

Not included in these figures are the 13 songs chosen by preachers that are not in *StF*, and any songs the choir has sung alone.

Over the year we sang 155 different songs from *StF*, which is 4 fewer than were used in 2017, and the smallest number of different songs we have used in one year since we started using *StF*. These were the most frequently used songs:

| | | |
|----------------|-----|---|
| <u>5 times</u> | 20 | <i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i> |
| | 94 | <i>To God be the glory, great things he has done!</i> |
| | 362 | <i>Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity</i> |
| | 395 | <i>Spirit of the Living God</i> |
| <u>4 times</u> | 59 | <i>Lord, the light of your love is shining</i> |
| | 79 | <i>I'll praise my Maker while I've breath</i> |
| | 465 | <i>Guide me, O thou great Jehovah</i> |
| | 470 | <i>Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided</i> |
| | 499 | <i>Great God, your love has called us here</i> |
| | 611 | <i>Brother, sister, let me serve you</i> |
| | 662 | <i>Have you heard God's voice</i> |
| | 663 | <i>I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry</i> |
| | 563 | <i>O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end</i> |

A further 15 songs were chosen 3 times, 32 twice and the remaining 95 just once. Of the total 155 songs used, 13 were completely new to us. One of those new songs, 662 *Have you heard God's voice*, was used 4 times in its first year.

A more even spread in 2018, with 4 songs sharing the top slot. Some songs remain constant choices year on year – 30 have been used at least once every year. Surprisingly, some “blockbusters” have wildly fluctuating fortunes - 503 *Love*

Divine, not sung at all in 2016 and then chosen 7 times in 2017, made only one appearance in 2018.

Taking the seven years we have been using *StF* overall, we have now used 416 of the 790 songs available (not including the Canticles and Psalms section), which works out at 53 percent. We're beginning to make inroads into the half of the book that we have not yet used.

The top two hymns in those seven years remains unchanged from last year:

40 times 94 *To God be the glory, great things he has done*

35 times 20 *Be still, for the presence of the Lord*

So 94 *To God be the glory* is hanging on to its top slot. Will it ever be caught?

Andrew Taylor

The Religious Education Resources Project (RERP)

The Religious Education Resources Project (RERP) has been working in local schools for some 16 years and is acknowledged as an important resource within the Circuit.

The current Management Group recognises that support for the project is extremely high and is conscious that some members in the Circuit may wish to be more involved, in a practical way, and join the team. We are looking for fresh ideas, particularly, in seeking funding and actual help/experience in applying to relevant trusts for financial support, and ways in which we can support further the work that Carol Dawson undertakes.

Anyone who is interested in helping, as we look to the future, should contact me via the Circuit Office for more information.

Jean Jones

Member of the RERP Management Group

Diary

February

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|---|
| Sun | 24th | 11.15am | Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate assisted by Mr Roy Brunnen |
| Tue | 26 th | 8.00pm | Pastoral Committee |
| Thur | 28 th | 7.15pm | Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's vestry see page 5 |

March

| | | | |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Fri | 1 st | 7.00pm | Women's World Day of Prayer at Seven Kings Methodist Church |
| Sat | 2 nd | 10.30am | Church Work Morning see page 5 |
| Sun | 3rd | 11.15am | Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate |
| Wed | 6 th | 8.00pm | Ash Wednesday Service at The Drive Methodist Church |
| Sat | 9 th | 3.00pm | JMA Beetle Drive see page 5 |
| Sat | 9 th | 6.00pm | Quiz Night at Old Dagenham Methodist Church see page 6 |
| Sun | 10th | 11.15am | 1st Sunday in Lent Morning Service led by Mr John Pearson |
| Tues | 12 th | 7.30pm | Circuit Meeting at Seven Kings Methodist Church |
| Tues | 12 th | 8.00pm | Lent Study Course at Cranbrook Baptist Church see page 6 |
| Sun | 17th | 11.15am | 2nd Sunday in Lent Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate |

Diary contd

Tues 19th 8.00pm Lent Study Course at Cranbrook Baptist Church

March

Fri 22nd 10.30am Coffee in the park
Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion

**Sun 24th 11.15am 3rd Sunday in Lent
Morning Service led by
Mr Collins Frimpong-Manso**

Sun 24th 3.30pm Circuit Vision Event/
Lent Celebration at Grange Hill Methodist Church

Tues 26th 8.00pm Lent Study Course at Cranbrook Baptist Church

Thurs 28th 7.15pm Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's vestry see page 5

Fri 29th 10.30am Bible Reading Group
104 Wanstead Lane, see page 6

Sun 31st 10.30am Coffee Morning at Seven Kings Methodist Church

**Sun 31st 11.15am Mothering Sunday
Morning Service led by
TDY**

April

Tues 2nd 8.00pm Lent Study Course at Cranbrook Baptist Church

Sat 6th 2.30pm Film show at The Drive see page 11

**Sun 7th 11.15am 5th Sunday in Lent
Morning Service with
Holy Communion led by
The Revd Bernardino Mandlate**

**(Last date for items for the April Newsletter:
Sunday 24th March)**

Daily Acceptance Prayer

I accept myself completely,
I accept my strengths and weaknesses,
My gifts and my shortcomings,
My good points and my faults.

I accept myself completely as a human being,
I accept that I am here to learn and grow,
And I accept that I am learning and growing,
I accept the personality I've developed and
I accept my power to heal and change.

I accept myself without condition or reservation,
I accept that the core of my being is goodness
And that my essence is love, and
I accept that I sometimes forget that.

I accept my own life as a blessing and a gift,
My heart is open to receive and I am deeply grateful,
May I always share the gifts that I receive
Fully, freely and with joy.

*Anon, from The Friendship Book
Submitted by Betty Griffiths*