

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

# NEWSLETTER

April 2019



Minister: Rev'd Bernardino Mandlate

[www.drive-methodist.church](http://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

I hope you've all survived winter and are ready to enjoy the warmer days spring brings along. Spring brings new life. Trees have been left almost without life and as it is spring, we can see new shoots of life, flowers coming out, joy and beauty coming along to bring smiles to our faces.

It is in the midst of joy and new life that we face the dilemma of death and destruction in other parts of the world. I am talking about the shootings in New Zealand that claimed the lives of at least 50 people in the senseless death spree that someone decided to just do for whatever the reason, if any. I am talking about the knife killings in this country that are going out of control. Almost every single day someone or two are stabbed to death for whatever the reasons may be. I am talking also of the natural disaster that befell Mozambique a few days ago. As most of you are aware, that is my home country and my heart bleeds for the loss of life and the destruction that cyclone Idai has inflicted on the country. As I write, the official number of deaths is 446. I am sure that by the time you are able to read this letter, the number will have climbed further because there are still a lot of bodies to be found as the waters recede.

What made it disastrous and compounded the amount of deaths and affected people is:

1. The short time of prevention. The authorities had about 72 hours to warn people of the impending disaster.
2. Talking of category 3 cyclone to most Africans means nothing because they are not used to cyclones.

3. Talking about 200km/hour wind to people in the African villages means not much because for them wind is wind.
4. The most damaging phenomena was the flooding that came with it. There was so much rain that two rivers flooded and caught communities by surprise and they had no time to run away and many were caught unaware and climbed on trees and roof tops and some of these did not resist the strength of the waters.

For all these reasons the death toll has been high.

What worries me most is what comes after the news media have moved on. People are traumatised, they lost everything, crops were lost, flooded water has combined with pit toilets hence the potential for diseases and cholera and the like, not to mention reconstruction. The main hospital was destroyed and in need of intensive care itself, the mortuary was destroyed and the dead had no peace and bodies were floating. Where does one begin to pick up the pieces? Where does one begin reconstruction? When this happens, the world media will have moved on to the next story. I could go on but...

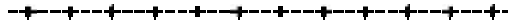
If you are able to help please send donations to the church, or to Christian Aid or even to DEC who has made a fundraising appeal to assist. The country is desperate. Every little bit helps. I don't usually fundraise for Mozambique, but this is extraordinary and I cannot help but plead with you who are able to give a helping hand and donate whatever you can to help these communities in need. Thank God no family of ours is directly affected. Also note that the cyclone affected Zimbabwe and Malawi and between the three countries, as I am writing, about 761 lives have been lost.

We are grateful for the many countries that quickly moved in to help in the rescue of those who were on rooftops or on trees and those countries still moving in even now to help

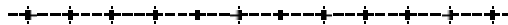
with distribution of basic needs and offering health checks and treatments to the affected communities.

May the Lord have mercy on all who suffer and may he continue to bless you all.

Dino



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



## **Retirements and thanks**

Due to a worsening of my health, I have found it necessary to hand the work I was doing on to others.

That does not mean that I stop coming to church, just that I will have to spend more time sitting than I have been used to. I am still a worship leader which can be done without walking too far. Janet is still as keen on being in the choir as ever, so she will be doing that as long as she can.

I thank all those who have been so helpful by being there when I needed them, and making the weekly services run so smoothly. The lesson readers, vestry stewards, welcome stewards at the doors, book stewards issuing hymn books and any other necessary information, collection stewards, and not forgetting the communion stewards, who also need a fresh leader following the recent retirement of Liz Amah. Thanks to all those who have been so friendly over the years.

I will be there on Sundays, perhaps not every week, but I will be there as regularly as possible.

My thoughts go out to Brian Grinham who is taking it on for a year.

Roy Brunnen

So sorry I am a bit behind with my little bit of news, but I just wanted you to know how much I do appreciate your kindness, especially to all the Communion stewards, and all the help you have given me as Senior Communion Steward for these many years.

Although I have given up the senior position, I will serve if and when I am needed.

Many thanks once again.

Elizabeth Amah

## **Property Bookings**

Brian Taylor has now handed over the administration of the regular property bookings to me. If any members of the church family wish to make a booking please see me in church or email me at [bookings@drive-methodist.church](mailto:bookings@drive-methodist.church) Can I particularly ask that Secretaries to the various church meetings let me know of any meeting dates well in advance so that I can put the date in the diary.

Jeremy Foster

## **World Day of Prayer 2019 - 1<sup>st</sup> March**

"You were invited to the feast but you made excuses at the last minute and didn't come!" This was the theme of this year's World Day of Prayer, which was prepared by Christian women of Slovenia. (Notice that the word "Women" has been

dropped). The service was based on Luke's gospel chapter 14.

The Ilford Town Centre service was cancelled. I went to St. Cedd's C of E, near Clayhall Avenue, for the 2pm service. We were welcomed by the vicar, Father Gary Wilson. At the start of the service, a table was covered with a neatly ironed cloth. Items of food and drink relevant to Slovenia were placed on it. Those who had set the table then invited others to sit at it.

Father Michael Bradley of St. Francis C of E, Fencepiece Road, was the Leader and presented the Reflection, "Come everything is ready!"

If the invited guests back out at the last minute, who do we invite instead? A homeless person, a drug addict or an ex-prisoner? This was the challenge issued. Father Michael brought the parable of Jesus right up to date.

The music was well chosen. The hymns and songs, even the new ones, were easy to follow, whether we had a recording or pianist.

In the evening I went to the 7.30pm service at Seven Kings Methodist Church, near Seven Kings station. A very talented invited pianist played the music. He even sang in Slovenian. At both services a lot of care had been taken with preparation of visual aids.

Each person was presented with a carnation, a symbol of celebration, to take home.

We were able to meet members of different churches over tea and coffee and cake. This is always a valuable part of the day. I found out something new about the former Goodmayes Methodist Church.

## **Redbridge Faith Forum - 5<sup>th</sup> March**

Some of us were invited to the beautiful home of one of our members. We were each asked to speak about one woman who had made a difference in some way. The subject of equality inevitably came up. Many different views were expressed.

About 30 people attended the event. We usually meet at places of worship or Ilford Central Library. We were invited to the feast and we all came! (See World Day of Prayer 2019 above). The food was vegetarian – suitable for nearly all faiths.

I am so grateful to the kind lady who invited us to her home and organised a lovely meal...the day before Lent began.

Susan Ruckes

## **JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea - 9<sup>th</sup> March**

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March – to all those who came along and played and to those who very kindly made donations. It was once again a great fun family afternoon and from where I was in the kitchen it sounded like people were enjoying themselves with the beetles coming

thick and fast! The final total raised was a splendid £376 – a record!

As well as our regular participants it was good to see some new players this year who I hope will come along again.

Many thanks to Michelle for her help once again in preparing the tea, to Thea for selling the raffle tickets and to Jeremy for keeping control of the game, making sure people were sitting where they were supposed to sit!



All money raised for JMA goes to fund projects supported by the Methodist Church's two mission funds - World Mission and Mission in Britain.

Thank you again for your support.

Diane Foster

## **Circuit Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> March**

Four representatives of The Drive were present at the Circuit meeting held at Seven Kings Methodist Church.

Items included in the agenda:

### **Stationing Report:**

After failing to find a match for a minister to replace the Revd Ermal Kirby following three rounds of stationing, a minister has now been identified. This will be the Revd Mmasape Zihle, wife of one of the Chairs of the London District. Mmasape will have pastoral charge over The Drive, Barkingside and Seven Kings. Dino will become Superintendent of the Circuit and will have pastoral charge over Ilford and Barking.

### **Circuit review 24<sup>th</sup> March:**

This meeting will be held at Grange Hill Methodist Church at 3.30pm. A brief summary of what focus of ministry is needed is requested from each church.

At this meeting the opportunity will also be taken to mark the transition of Grange Hill Methodist Church. A statement was read out in which it was stated that the Grange Hill Church Council had come to the decision to discontinue being a church in the Circuit and to stop all Sunday services with

effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May. However, the church will remain open for the purposes of the premises being used as a resource for mission.

The statement included a three-part resolution:

1. The Circuit Meeting will not oppose the decision for Grange Hill to cease worship;
2. The Circuit meeting will become the trustees of the property;
3. The Circuit meeting will appoint a group to explore the possibilities of a different Methodist presence on the premises and bring a report to the next meeting.

The resolution was accepted and the Circuit Leadership Team will appoint the group.

### **Property:**

- Lyndhurst Gardens manse:  
The Revd Mmasape Zihle will reside at the Barking manse which will therefore need some alterations to provide extra space for her family. It is proposed to convert the garage to a study and following the last quinquennial report other work also needs to be completed.
- Property Development Manager:  
The job description for this post is being devised by the group selected to oversee the appointment and will be advertised internally within the circuit.

### **Religious Education Resources Project:**

Carol Dawson, schools worker, presented her report. It is hoped the budget would be funded for a further two years with a grant from the District Advance Fund.

### **Reports from Circuit Stewards:**

- The Revd Kido Baek has passed his final probation and will be ordained at Conference this year.
- Jackie Saito, Circuit meeting administrator, had sent details of local church's events around the circuit.

### **News from Churches:**

- Goodmayes Methodist Church music school has funding in place for starting in September;
- The Drive Methodist Church hosted a successful Beetle Drive raising £376 for JMA funds.
- There will be a farewell service for Ermal and affirmation of Kido's ordination on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at Goodmayes Methodist Church starting with a barbecue at 3.30pm followed by the service.
- Barkingside Methodist Church will become a centre for depositing unwanted clothes throughout Lent for Action for Children. (If you wish clothes to be collected/dropped off, please let Jackie Saito, Circuit Administrator, know [bdicircuit@btconnect.com](mailto:bdicircuit@btconnect.com))

Diane Foster

### **Film show (PG) - "The Case for Christ" - 6<sup>th</sup> April**

This 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.

Brian Grinham

(see page 18 for further film shows at The Drive -Ed.)

## **Wake and Funeral - Elizabeth Toker – 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

There will be a wake service for my mum on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm – 8.30pm at Pilgrim's Way Methodist Church, East Ham, E6 1HW. The funeral service will take place, also at Pilgrim's Way, on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am leaving for the City of London Cemetery at 11.30am and returning to the church for a reception until 6pm.

Bella Pender

### **THE NEW ESSEX CHOIR Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2019 7.30pm at The Drive Methodist Church**

Mozart: Solemn Vespers; Vivaldi: Gloria  
Soloists: Jennifer Tatnall and Natalie Davies

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

Tickets and further information from Brian Taylor



## **The Annual Easter Egg Hunt -20<sup>th</sup> April**

We will be celebrating Easter with our annual egg hunt on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am -12.30pm in the church hall and TDY invite everyone to join them for 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 Egg**

Could you please sponsor an Egg for our young people? At the beginning of April there will be a basket in church for you to kindly donate money.

The money you donate will sponsor an egg for one of our young people to find. You can also write an Easter message that will be stuck on the eggs before being hidden.

Thank you in advance and Happy Easter.

Jo Wright

### **Easter Sunday Service - 21<sup>st</sup> April 11.00am**

Please note our Easter Day service will commence at 11.00 am. Dino will be on his way from Ilford Methodist Church so Andrew will lead the beginning of the service, hopefully outside, with the dressing of the cross. Please bring a few flowers if you are able.

## **Church Prayer Meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> April**

The Church Prayer Meeting will be on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April in the Minister's Vestry from 7.15pm – 7.45pm.

Prayer sheets for those who cannot attend will be at the back of the Church.

Please pray if you can.

## **Bible Reading Group - 26<sup>th</sup> April**

The Bible Reading Group will meet on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April from 10:30am to 11:30am followed by refreshments at Janet & John Pearson's home.

We will be discussing 1 Samuel chapters 8-15.

All welcome.

Jan and John Pearson



## **SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK**

**PALM SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> April 11.15am**  
**led by Dr Leela Knight**



**MAUNDY THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> April 8.00pm**  
**Ecumenical Service at St Andrew's Church**



**GOOD FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am**  
**led by Janet & John Pearson**



**EASTER SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> April 11.00am**  
**Dressing the Cross followed by**  
**Service with Holy Communion led by**  
**The Revd Bernardino Mandlate**



## **Reflection for Easter**

He was born in Bethlehem, the child of a virgin. He grew up in Nazareth, working in a carpenter's shop until he was 30. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college, never visited another country, nor travelled more than 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself. He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. Whilst he was dying his executioners gambled for his clothing – the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

He rose again on Easter Sunday and later ascended into heaven.

Twenty centuries have come and gone and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of humankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings and queens that ever reigned – put together – have not affected the life of humankind on earth as much as the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

***Anon, submitted by Betty Griffiths***



## **St. George's Day**

This year St George's Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> April - comes just two days after Easter Sunday and there are many churches (and, come to that, pubs!) named after the Patron Saint of England, who also happens to be the Patron Saint of Georgia, Malta, soldiers, cavalry, archery, horses, chivalry and Scouts.

It's surely suggestive of the particularly English instinct for protection that England should have chosen for her patron the one who slew the dragon to protect someone in real trouble, but there are those who delight in saying that England somehow picked him up during the Crusades, that he wasn't English and that he never actually set foot in England.

They may be right.

There are so many myths and legends about St. George, but the version of his life which is probably more grounded in reality is that he was a Roman soldier at a time before Christianity was adopted by the Roman Empire, that he was seen as a traitor for refusing to acknowledge the Roman Emperor as a God and was tortured for his Christianity. The "beautiful maiden" he rescued from the dragon was, in fact, his faith, which he refused to deny and for which he eventually died.

The message of Easter is that goodness is indestructible and whatever may be true, or untrue, about him, St. George personifies the constant fight of good against evil.

There are still 'dragons' to fight and there are many good and faithful Christians – not only in England but all over our poor unhappy battered old world who are trying in however a muddled and haphazard a way, to kill the 'dragons' that darken the lives of so many in these difficult and dangerous times.

Dragons are mythical creatures and if we choose to honour St. George on his special day by wearing a red rose would it, perhaps, honour him more if, instead of looking for dragons, we choose to stand for something worthwhile and defend it steadfastly.

Betty Griffiths



## **Advanced notices**

**The Drive Scout & Guide Group**



# **Plant Sale**



**Refreshments and Cake Stall**

**Saturday 11th May 2019**

**10:00 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Drive Methodist Church Hall**

*Please come early for the best selection*

## **Dementia UK Afternoon Tea – 18<sup>th</sup> May**

TDY have chosen Dementia UK as their charity for this year. The charity helps fund Admiral nurses, who are special dementia care nurses, who also support families caring for loved ones who have dementia.

During the Mother's Day service there will be an opportunity for you to donate money for the charity.

Anne Dellow and I will be hosting an afternoon tea on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the parlour. Everyone is welcome and transport can be arranged if you would like to come. All money raised will go to Dementia UK.

We will also be holding a number of charity events to raise more money over the next few months. More details will follow soon.

Jo Wright

## **Film shows at The Drive**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019. Film entitled "Wesley – a heart transformed can change the World"

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Probably a film entitled "God's not dead"

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019. To be arranged

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019. To be arranged

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



## Diary

### April

Tues	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00pm	Lent Study Course at Cranbrook Baptist Church
Sat	6 <sup>th</sup>	2.30pm	Film show at The Drive see page 11
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Passion Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> in Lent Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate</b>
Thur	11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Church Council
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Fri	12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Wake service Elizabeth Toker
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Funeral service Elizabeth Toker see page 11
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Table Top sale at Beacontree Heath Methodist Church
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	New Essex Choir Concert See page 11
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.15am</b>	<b>Palm Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> in Lent Morning Service led by Dr Leela Knight see page 14</b>
Thurs	18 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service with Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church see page 14
Fri	19 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Good Friday Service led by Jan & John Pearson see page 14
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	TDY Easter Egg Hunt see page 12
<b>Sun</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<b>Easter Sunday Dressing the Cross followed by Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate see pages 12 and 14</b>

## Diary contd.

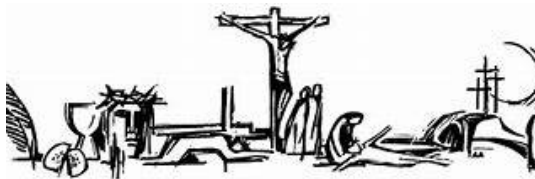
### April

Thurs	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's vestry see page 13
Fri	26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Bible Reading Group 104 Wanstead Lane, see page 13
Sun	28 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	<b>Morning Service led by Mrs Jan Pearson</b>

### May

Sun	5 <sup>th</sup>	11.15am	<b>Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate</b>
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***(Last date for items for the May Newsletter:  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April)***



When everything was dark  
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,  
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,  
too wide,  
too deep  
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love  
dance and spread  
and burst forth  
with resurrection light.

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  
President, The Methodist Conference  
Co-Chair, The London District*