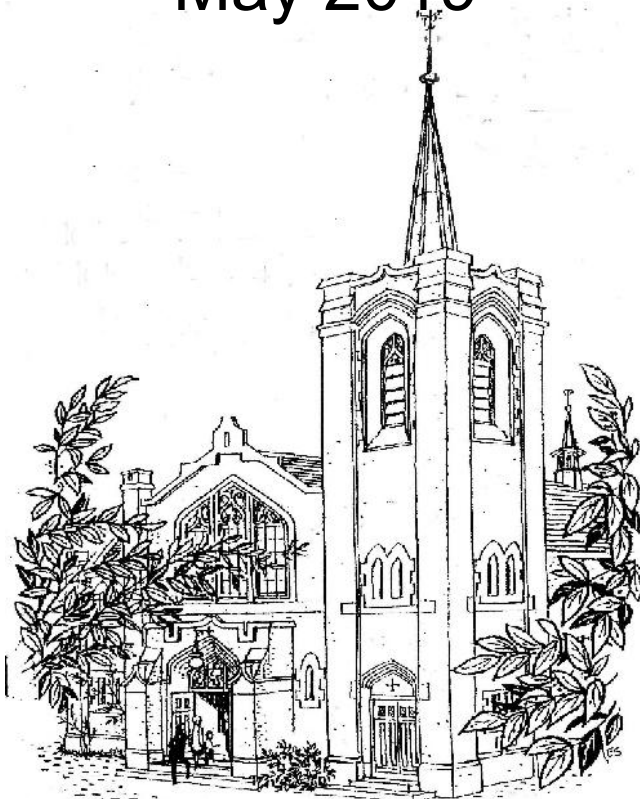


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

May 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:

Friends

Christ is risen. Alleluia, He is risen indeed. As I write this brief letter, it is Easter Sunday. The whole world is celebrating. But, even on Easter Sunday, while we celebrate, pain is still being caused on us. In Sri Lanka, over 200 people have been killed in explosions in churches and hotels and about 450 people injured. Christ is risen indeed but he is still being crucified. These people were targeted for being Christians and in worship. New scars are being added to the already scarred body of Jesus.

Let us celebrate Easter with thoughtfulness. We rejoice with the risen Lord. We ponder at what he would have us do in this world that is so messed up by humanity. Our collective actions, and, maybe, our political principles if any, are part of what is making the world created by God to be in the state it is now. Some reflection on our part and a willingness to participate in God's project for the world may help in mending what it is and making it what it should be. Let us look at the outstretched and wounded hands of the risen Lord and willingly grab them in order to find direction. A focus on Jesus' ministry may give us, as his followers, focus on our own ministry.

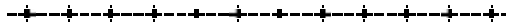
Allow me to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed towards the appeal on behalf of the thousands affected by cyclone Idai in Mozambique. Your donations are highly appreciated and along with many contributions made by people like you around the world, will go a long way towards meeting basic needs of the people affected. They have been channeled through Christian Aid and I am sure the funds will reach the needy people in some form. Continue to be kind to many other needy people affected by natural

disasters or otherwise. May the good Lord refill your generosity and refill your sources so that you may continue to help out.

Just a quick note now to say that the experimental worship with everyone involved seems to be working well and I would like to encourage all of us to carry on and improve on what we are trying to do. Worship services are becoming more participative which is good and I hope we all feel the same way.

Christ is risen. Let us with him arise.

Blessings
Dino



We ask for God's blessing on all those we have concerns for at this time and remember them in our prayers. Please also pray for those of our young people who are in the middle of exams at the moment.

Rose Potticary

I am very sad to report that Rose Potticary died in early April. I'm sure many of you will remember Rose who was a regular attender at The Drive until her latter years.

Rose had celebrated Mother's Day with her daughter, Nancy and family and appeared well so her death came as a shock. Please remember the family in your prayers.

Diane Foster

Circuit Review Gathering – 24th March

Below is a summary of a report from the Revd Ermal Kirby:

The Circuit Gathering was held at Grange Hill Methodist Church on Sunday 24th March 2019. Each church was given the opportunity to describe the aspects of their ministry that they believed it was essential for them to continue in the next three years, and the ministry-support that would be needed for the fulfilling of that ministry.

Not all churches gave focused responses but certain emphases (and omissions) became clear, either in the meeting or in the local conversations that preceded it:

1. No church expressed the view that the time had come for them to close for public worship;
2. No church said that it was prepared to change the time of its service;
3. No church came up with a satisfactory plan for allocating the pastoral responsibility for nine churches between three ministers;
4. Several churches pointed to the need for development in worship;
5. Churches saw their buildings as a resource for the community;
6. Several churches recognised that it was important to reach vulnerable and needy people in the community;
7. Evangelism was noticeably absent from the programme of all churches.

Over the course of the next two months sub-groups of members from around the Circuit will meet to come up with clearer proposals to address these topics and concerns.

(If you would like to see the full report please speak to one of the stewards – Ed).

Changes at Grange Hill

Regular Sunday services will no longer be conducted at Grange Hill Methodist Church. The building is to be kept for community use.

At the Circuit event on Sunday 24th March, the Revd Jenni Kirby led a moving ceremony to thank Grange Hill members for their loyalty during difficult times. It was also to look to the future, however uncertain that may be.

Fauré at The Drive – 19th April

Our annual fund raising event for the Bahay Ng Pag Asa “House of Hope” orphanage in the Philippines took place on Good Friday, 19th April. There were fewer singers than last year, but I understand there was a good balance in the choir. We had an appreciative audience.

Thanks to our music director, Andrew Taylor and our “orchestra”, Tim Smith, the pianist, it was a wonderful experience to take part. Many singers knew well the Fauré ‘Requiem’. We also sang Fauré’s “Cantique de Jean Racine” and Roberton’s “All in an April Evening” . The latter was unfamiliar to many in the choir (I sang it at Parkhill Junior School). The amount raised so far was £800.

Susan Ruckes



Easter Egg Hunt – 20th April

Thank you to everyone who sponsored an egg and either supported or helped at the Easter craft morning. It was very much appreciated.

TDY are supporting the charity Dementia UK and so far, including the Mothering Sunday donations, they have raised just over £250.00 for the charity.

More charity events will be held soon. (See page 9 for details of our Afternoon Tea).

Dementia UK fund Admiral nurses and your kind donations will help this to continue. Below is an extract from their website.

“Admiral Nurses provide the specialist dementia support that families need. When things get challenging or difficult, our nurses work alongside the entire family, giving them one-to-one support, expert guidance and practical solutions.

The unique dementia expertise and experience an Admiral Nurse brings is a lifeline – it helps families to live more positively with dementia in the present, and to face the challenges of tomorrow with more confidence and less fear”.

If you would like to find out more about how Dementia UK supports people and their families living with Dementia, then please go to <http://www.dementiauk.org>.

Once again thank you for your generous donations and support.

Jo Wright and the TDY team

Property Matters

I am sure that, by the time you read this, you will be aware that we have a major problem with the heating system for our premises. The boiler has suffered a serious failure and any repair would take time, be costly and ultimately may not even be possible.

The current boiler was installed in 1979 and has given excellent and reliable service over 40 years. However, the Property Committee has been warning the Church Council that the boiler is reaching the end of its life and that it will need to be replaced. The Finance Committee has therefore accumulated £20,000 as a reserve fund to offset part of the cost. Given the age of the boiler, the uncertainty regarding its repair and with the approaching warmer weather, the Church Council has approved the replacement of the current boiler.

We have nominated Argonaut Heating, who currently service the heating system to carry out the installation and they are now on site carrying out the work. The cost is in the region of £40,000. Although this expenditure is unwelcome, it is not unexpected and whilst it will make a big dent in our reserves it is a cost which the Church can and indeed has to meet.

The new system will consist of two boilers working in tandem which will provide a back up if one unit fails. The new units will be modern energy efficient condensing boilers and we are expecting to see a reduction of around 15% in our gas bills.

We can look forward to a warm winter!

Jeremy Foster

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

Book Launch – 16th May

As part of the Susanna 350 celebrations, there will be a book launch for the anniversary publication, 'From a Mother's Pen: Selections from the spiritual writing of Susanna Wesley'.



This will take place on Thursday 16th May, 6pm at Wesley's Chapel, London. Included in the event will be extracts from the book and a Q&A session with an expert panel.

Refreshments will be served. It is a free event but for catering purposes please register to attend

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/from-a-mothers-pen-book-launch-tickets-56406939675

Dementia UK Afternoon Tea – 18th May

Anne Dellow and Jo Wright will be hosting an afternoon tea on Saturday 18th 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, TDY's chosen charity this year.

There will be a number of charity events held to raise more money over the next few months. More details to follow.



Church Prayer Meeting – 30th May

The Church Prayer Meeting will be on Thursday 30th May 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.

Bible Reading Group – 31st May

The Bible Reading Group will meet on Friday 31st May from 10:30am to 11:30am at Janet & John Pearson's home.

We will be discussing 1 Samuel chapters 16 to 23. 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

Treasurer's report

The amount raised so far for the appeal for East Africa is £399.26 and the Communion collection on Easter Day raised £86.98 for Raysin Hope.

John Higgins

Swimathon

On Friday 29 March I completed my 1.7km swim at the Stradbroke Swimming Baths in Suffolk as part of a successful team effort to swim 5km.

I raised £835 (plus Gift Aid) for Cancer Research from family, friends and members of the congregation. Overall, the team raised well over £2000 which was a great result.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who sponsored me – thank you.

Jeremy Foster

King George Hospital League of Friends Shop

As I am sure many of you know, I volunteer at the League of Friends shop at King George Hospital one morning a week. However we need more volunteers.

You get to play shop assistant for 4 hours, either morning or afternoon (whichever you would prefer), you meet some very interesting people & it certainly makes you grateful for your own good health.

If you think you might be interested in knowing more, please speak to me after Church.

Ruth Joyce

Methodist Heritage News

The spring edition of *Methodist Heritage News* is out now featuring Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles, the rededication of the Raithby by Spilsby Chapel and much more. There are some copies at the back of the church but I can get more if required. You can also download a digital copy from the www.methodistheritage.org.uk/news

Methodist Heritage News is a bi-annual newsletter published in spring and autumn. Each edition gives a flavour of the wide variety of ways in which Methodism's heritage is being conserved and used for mission.

Please let me know if you like to be added to the mailing list to receive a printed copy of future issues.

Diane Foster



Action for Children turns 150

As Action for Children turns 150 this year, they have launched a nationwide search for the descendants of the first children in care. They have hundreds of photos in their archives of children from Victorian Britain in 1869 through to 1919 – could one of them be your relative? To find out more go to: www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Notre Dame de Paris

This is where choral singing is said to have begun, when the cathedral was much younger.

A few months after the terrible shootings in Paris, the Parliament Choir gave a concert in Notre Dame. Among other works, we sang a piece by our chorus master and composer in residence, Nicholas O'Neill. It was a tribute to those early musicians. Modern works are not usually performed there, but the authorities made an exception in this case.

I am glad that plans are underway to rebuild this beautiful monument.

Susan Ruckes

Advanced notices

Film shows at The Drive

Saturday 1st June 2019, 2.30pm. Film entitled "Wesley – a heart transformed can change the World"

Saturday 27th July 2019, 2.30pm. Probably a film entitled "God's not dead"

Saturday 21st September 2019. To be arranged

Saturday 16th November 2019. To be arranged

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

There is no charge for attending but donations would be welcome to cover overheads.



Diary

May

Sun	5th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Sat	11 th	10.00am	The Drive Scout & Guide Group Plant Sale in the Church Hall See page 8
Sun	12th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Ms Katherine Baxter followed by Annual Church Meeting
Wed	15 th	8.00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Thu	16 th	6.00pm	Book Launch, Wesley's Chapel See page 8
Fri	17 th	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sat	18 th	2.30pm	Dementia UK Afternoon Tea in the Church Parlour See page 9
Sun	19th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Robert Debrah
Sun	26th	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Thurs	30 th	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's vestry, see page 9
Fri	31 st	10.30am	Bible Reading Group 104 Wanstead Lane, see page 9

June

Sat	1 st	2.30pm	Film show at The Drive see page 12
Sun	2nd	11.15am	Morning Service led by tbc

***(Last date for items for the June Newsletter:
Sunday 26th May).***

All people are made in God's image and, as we celebrate the ascension of our Lord, we pray that the day will come when no one will be persecuted for their faith:

Loving God, from earliest times you have heard the cry of your children for justice and for peace.

In these days of tension, of difficult remembrances, of competing voices and desperate cries, help us to hear the whisper of your Spirit, calling us to love, to service, to prayer and to compassion.

Open our ears to the voices of those with whom we disagree and our eyes to see how things look to them.

Give us confidence to stretch out our hands across difference and division.

Help us all, Gracious God, to be channels of your grace and your peace, wherever we may be.

Amen

*The Revd Loraine N Mellor and Jill Baker
President/Vice-President, The Methodist Conference 2017/18*