

NEWSLETTER
for Christmas
2014

The Drive Methodist Church,
Eastern Avenue
Ilford

Minister: Rev Bernardino Mandlate

www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk

A Message from Reverend Bernardino Mandlate.

Friends

As Christmas fast approaches, I am reminded of a gospel passage in Mathew 25 that speaks of doing good to the 'least of these'. It is winter, the need glares/stares at us. Sometimes we pretend successfully we see nothing and yet, in our towns, neighbourhoods, people sleep rough, go without, have no warm clothes to keep off the cold weather.

As we go through our daily businesses whatever they may be, the gospel invites us to open our eyes and see what is around us and do something where we can however small.

I know sometimes we think the need is overwhelming. It may be overwhelming yes, but we can't just fold our arms and do nothing, or expect others to do something about it. Consider yourself as that some other who will do something. Support the food bank where there is one catchment point available, volunteer for an evening or night at the night shelter, give a hand, engage and see those who need your assistance. But, whatever you do, don't just do nothing. Remember the words of the gospel, and the question asked by those who were on the left or right hand side of the throne: 'when did we see you ... And did nothing Lord?'

There is what theologians call, the sin of omission. This is when you have not done a good that you could have. Sometimes we think there is nothing we can do. Believe me, there is always something we can do.

Another thing, among us there are those who are lonely, and they will feel even more lonely this Christmas season. Why not pick up a phone and give them a call so they know someone cares about them. We are not expecting miracles but the simple things that anyone can do. Please don't find excuses not to do anything. Get involved, do something for the sake of Christ. It will be appreciated.

Jesus Christ comes into the world to bring love and life for all among other things. Share these with others. Think also of the needs of the church. The church needs each and everyone of you. Offer your services, make a contribution to the life of the church, be visible to all and to God.

Remain blessed.

Happy Christmas and happy New Year.

Bernardino

JMA Presentation Service

I was very pleased to report at our presentation service on 16 November that the Drive had raised £620 for JMA. Half of this came from our beetle drive in March and the rest was collected by our JMA members.

Money raised for JMA goes towards the World Mission Fund and Mission in Britain Fund from which grants are made to support projects at home and overseas. The theme for our service was 'Windows on the world' and I was able to read stories taken from the current edition of *Rainbow*, the magazine provided for all young people, about some of these projects.

I am very grateful to Roy, Michelle, Thea, Rochelle, Feyi, and Yetunde for agreeing to contribute to the service, particularly at such short notice. Thanks also to Andrew and the Chorale.

Receiving badges and certificates were:

Iris Bennett-Wright; Feyi, Toju and Tunrayo Fadina; Yetunde and Folake Fadojutimi; Paige Fordree; Thea Garner and Rochelle Inbakumar.

Well done to all our collectors and thank you to all their supporters.

Diane Foster

Vigil for Magdalena

At 5.30pm on Halloween, 23 year old Magda was found dying of stab wounds in Valentines Road.

Exactly two weeks later, a candlelit vigil was held at the place where she died. As Magda had been a regular attender at St. Cedd's RC Church (formerly Goodmayes Methodist), her parish priest led the prayers and readings in Polish.

Magda was found opposite the site of the former St Clements Church. Father Stephen Pugh, parish priest of St Clements (and now also St Margaret's) led the English part of the vigil.

Local residents, Ruth and Peter Musgrove, organised the event, which was attended by about a hundred people. It was a very moving occasion.

Susan Ruckes.

Junior church dates for Christmas



Saturday 13th December will be the Junior Church Nativity rehearsal, Christmas party and talent show 11.00am – 1.30pm in the Parlour. Please note the early start time.

Saturday 14th December is the Nativity and toy service. Please try and be at church by 10.45am.

All gifts of new toys will be gratefully received (please leave them unwrapped). There will also be a monetary collection and it will all go to the family centre where Lorraine Bendon works.

Jo Wright

Christmas Cards

I have put a selection of this year's Traidcraft cards on a table at the back of the church, and the poster on the notice board next to the table will show you how much they are and how many you will get in a pack.

Any Traidcraft orders we make are sent out very quickly, so if you do order now, you can still get them in time for Christmas. These are charity cards and benefit Christian Aid in addition to other charities, so please check them out and see if you like the look of any of them! You can probably talk me into selling the display cards individually.

Michelle Garner.

Scout News

Congratulations to our Cub Pack on winning the District Cub Quiz in November. Their team, consisting of the entire Pack, apparently won by a convincing margin.

They also gained some success in the District swimming gala. Despite having only three members in their squad, they came away with no fewer than six medals!

Mike Seviour

Just to say thank you

Dear Friends,

I would like to say thank you to all the people who sent me birthday cards and good wishes on my 60th birthday last September. I spent the weekend in York with my brother Richard and my husband Ian. The weather was kind to us and we managed to get out and about the highlight of the few days was afternoon tea at Betty's.

We both send you very good wishes for peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2015.

As always if you are ever in the Ipswich area and would like to pop in there will be a cup of tea and friendly smile.

Wishing you well

Anne Warden.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes 2014

We managed to provide 75 shoebox gifts from The Drive to children who are in such need of love and care to contrast with the desperate poverty and violence they are living in. The boxes were delivered to Hainault Evangelical Church where a lovely group of volunteers welcomed our donations into a space that was filled with shoes boxes; each of which is checked before being packed into crates and delivered to another depot in Chelmsford before being sent overseas.

I was informed that our boxes would be used for children in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Belarus. Thank you to Jo for masterminding this year's donations and for showing us the video of those dear children receiving gifts. Well Done The Drive, next year let's make it a nice round 100.

Lorraine

Redbridge Cold Weather Centre

Redbridge Cold Weather Centre, hosted by the Salvation Army, is a night shelter supported by local churches to provide shelter for men and women who would otherwise sleep rough. From early December 2014 to March 2015 the shelter will be open 7 nights a week. Guests receive a warm welcome, a hot meal and a warm and safe night's sleep. Redbridge Cold Weather Centre offers members of the local community the chance to build a bridge with those they once assumed were unapproachable. Frequently individuals feel uncomfortable as they want to help but don't believe that giving money will be beneficial. Volunteering at the night shelter offers such an opportunity.

Do you want to obtain help for someone who is sleeping rough?

- If the person needs urgent medical attention please call 999.
- Contact Streetlink: Telephone 0300 500 0914, who will take note of all the information that you provide and arrange for the rough sleeper to get access to local services and support.
- Contact No Second Night Out on 0870 383 3333 or report it online at HelpARoughSleeper.org. Email the details to the housing service team Housing.options@redbridge.gov.uk, who will refer the details to local outreach service. They will then visit the rough sleeper where they are sleeping and put together a plan with the individual in order to get them into accommodation.

Remembrance Sunday 2014.

On remembrance Sunday this year hymns were sung recalling the sacrifices made by those serving the Army and Royal Navy.

One year, a former minister at The Drive commented that there is a need for someone to write verses commemorating the sacrifices made by members of the Royal Air Force. (also to be sung to the tune "Melita" STF 517) particularly as 2015 is the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain fought in the skies over Southern Britain.

Frank Sayers.

Frank was due to lead the first part of this year's service, but due to Catherine being taken ill he had to forgo that part of our service. He

had prepared the service and we thank Brian Taylor for taking on leading Remembrance part of the service at short notice.

Roy Brunnen.

CHURCH FLOWERS

I am certain all the flowers arrangers join me in wishing Catherine a speedy recovery in the hope she will once again lead our small team in providing the flowers in our church that so many of you enjoy. We really are a small team as without Catherine; Anne, Janet and myself are it. So we were delighted when Ruth Joyce recently agreed to join us and begin by helping with the flowers for Christmas. Thank you Ruth.

Should you wish to make a donation to the Christmas Flowers or a dedication throughout the year, please speak to Janet, Anne or myself while Catherine is recovering. The Flower Rota and Dedication list for 2015 will be available shortly. A big thank you to all who contribute throughout the year to the flowers in our church.

Lorraine Bendon

Canterbury

We recently spent a weekend in Canterbury with friends which included a tour of the cathedral, evenings at the splendid new Marlowe Theatre, good food and, of course, a little shopping. On the Sunday morning we were able to attend morning worship at St Peter's Methodist church just off the High Street. We were most warmly welcomed first by Helen Brown (Mawson) then by mother Kaye and Peter. After the service, during which JMA awards were made, most of the congregation moved to the hall for coffee and a Worship Consultation when everyone was invited to, and many did, have their say about topics including Evening Services, use of projector in church and conduct of Holy Communion. It was interesting to hear of the problems faced by another church and how they were seeking to solve them.

Kathleen and Brian

Christmas Concert

A babe is born ~ William Mathias

Christmas Day ~ Gustav Holst

For him all stars have shone ~ Bob Chilcott

The crown of roses ~ Tchaikovsky

O Holy Night ~ Adolphe Adam arr Rutter

This year the New Essex Choir invites you to their traditional Christmas Concert, an evening of carols and songs both old and more recent with some regular favourites when the audience can join in with the choir. There will be seasonal refreshments. Put aside the shopping and wrapping for an evening in which to enjoy the finer sounds of Christmas.

Saturday 13th December 2014

Tickets £10 (£8) from Brian Taylor

God's Tail Lights

One of my former Sunday school teachers, who was a founder member of The Drive Church, wrote a book shortly before she died. It was all about her spiritual journey and in it she said :-

"I am one of those fortunate people who have been blessed with what is described as a "mystical experience". It happened in my seventeenth year when I was suddenly unexpectedly drawn up out of myself, as it were, into a glorious awareness of God and the reality of the spiritual world when God himself became so real and so much part of me"

I happen to know that she was sitting in one of the front pews in our church when this blessing fell upon her and there are many – not always saints who have had similar experiences. Dr Leslie Weatherhead, the great Methodist preacher, did and Dr Raynor Johnson in his books has told of many others.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth" and there are countless wonderful Christians who have never been so blessed.

Writing in "Daylight", the daily Bible readings, comments and prayers which quite a few Driveites use every day, one of them says that she has sometimes envied those who have felt God's presence, but it's never worked like that for her. However when she sees deep

goodness in extraordinary acts of grace, finds strength beyond he own to endure life's sorrows or encounters unexpected gifts of friendship or something sublime through art or music it is these that are the sound of God to her and whenever this happens it seems that she looks up and "sees God's tail lights glowing on the horizon".

I hope that they glow for all of us too.

Betty Griffiths.

KID STUFF

The wise guys tell me
That Christmas is Kid Stuff...
Maybe they've got something there –
Two thousand years ago three wise guys
chased a star across a continent
to bring
frankincense and myrrh
to a Kid
born in a manger with an idea in his head.
And as the bombs
CRASH
all over the world today
The real wise guys know
that we've all got to go
chasing stars again, in the hope
that we can get back
some of that Kid Stuff born two thousand years ago.



Frank Horne

Diary for December

Thu 4 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 7th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion Led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Tue 9 th	10.00am 8.00pm	Monthly morning Communion Church Fellowship. Christmas Presentation by Jo Wright.
Thu 11 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 12 th		Pre School term ends
Sat 13 th	11.00am	Junior Church rehearsal and party. New Essex Choir concert in the Church
Sun 14th	11.15am	Nativity and Annual Toy Service Led by Mr Ian Sheach
Thu 18 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 19 th	10.00am	Church coffee morning in the park. Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion Emerson Road, off Cranbrook Road.
Sun 21st	11.15am 6.30am	Morning Service Led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate Candlelit Carol Service
Thu 25th	10.45am	Christmas Morning Service. Led by Roy Brunnen.
Sun 28th	11.15am	Morning Service Led by Revd. Jan Tate

Diary for January 2015.

Sun 4th	11.15am	Morning Service Covenant Service with Holy Communion Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Mon 5 th		Pre School term starts.
Fri 9 th	10.00am	Church coffee in the park. Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion Emerson Road, off Cranbrook Road.
Sun 11th	11.15am	Morning Service Led by Mr Allan Ramsden
Tue 13 th	10.00am	Monthly morning Communion In the Prayer Chapel.
Thu 15 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 18th	11.15am	Morning Service Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Thu 22 nd	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 25th	11.15am	Morning Service Led by members of the church.
Fri 29 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice.