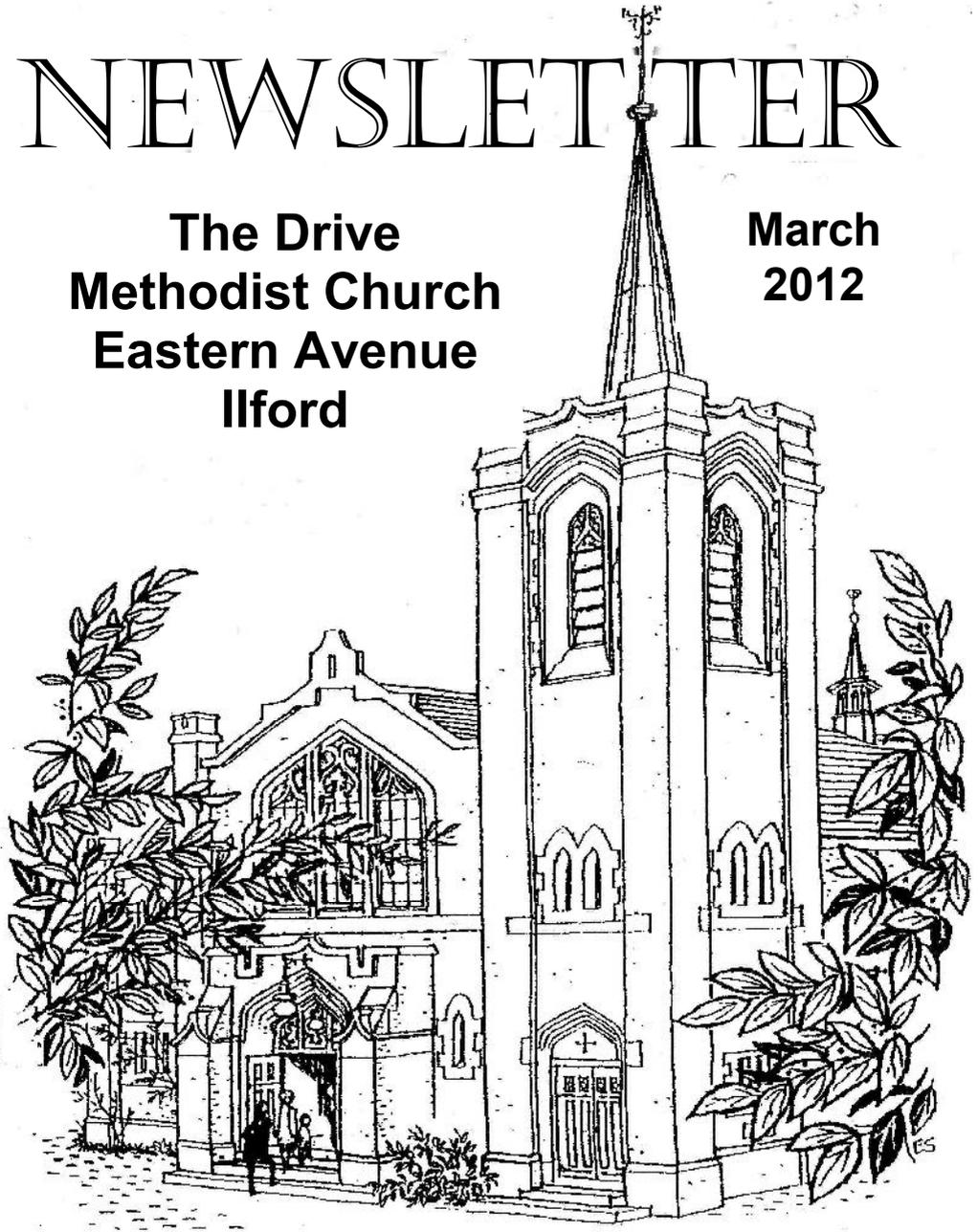


NEWSLETTER

**The Drive
Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue
Ilford**

**March
2012**



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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<http://www.the-drive-methodist-ilford.org-uk>

FROM OUR MINISTER **Revd. Bernardino Mandlate**

Friends

I am writing this letter as we begin Lent. This is a time when we take time to rest in God. We are so busy every day doing things that at the end of the day sometimes we find it difficult to say what we have been doing. Matthew 6 tells us not to be busy with stuff of this world, because we don't run the world, God runs the world.

There are three things that Jesus, in Matthew's gospel, tells us to be 'busy' with namely prayer, fasting, and charity or almsgiving. You may want to note that Jesus assumes that we are 'busy' doing these things. He says in the gospel when you pray; when you fast; when you do charity.

Lent is time to take stock, time to spend ourselves in prayer, working our relationship with God. Jesus even gives us a guide prayer to follow. Revd C. Hoffacker, an Episcopal priest and writer, says that prayer takes us away from a false sense of responsibility that can turn us into driven people. When we pray, we are free to rest, to rest in God.

When we fast, for those who fast, we are dealing with the way we relate with ourselves, as we are creatures of body as well as soul, flesh as well as spirit. Fasting from food, alcohol, TV or shopping, makes us less dependent on those things. Then we can allow some emptiness in ourselves and invite God to fill that emptiness.

We are stewards of God's generous gifts to us. All that we think we have, has been entrusted to our care by God. It's not ours to keep, but to share with those less fortunate than ourselves. It helps us relate to other people who need our help, themselves children of God. When we give, it becomes an expression of God's justice. When we give, we accept that fact that we are not owners but trustees of what we have in our possession, our time, our lives. God runs the world. We are his instruments in the process of doing what God does in the world.

These three practises, prayer, fasting and charity when properly practised, are meaningful, channels of God's grace rather than extra burdens in our lives.

Friends, allow me to ask you to take time this Lenten season to pray, to fast and to do some charity work, some almsgiving. When you have done so, take time to see how you feel. Remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 6, don't let the one hand know what the other hand is doing. Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights. I am surely not asking you to fast for forty days, I am not asking you to fast at all, but to get involved in the Lenten spirit and do whatever it is that you

Take time, engage with God, engage with the world in which we live.

God bless

Dino

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

David Wright

Jenny Runeckles

Lorna Wright

Robert Normanton

Tunrayo Fadina

Mani Gabbidon

FAMILY NEWS

Barbara Foster continues to be in Heron Ward, Wanstead Hospital. May Levett is recovering from her stroke, and is at home in Redbridge Lane.

Buns at the Bus Stop 2012

On **Saturday 24th and 31st March, from 11am to 1pm** we will be sharing refreshments and news of upcoming services with passers-by outside the church.

If you think that you could spend a few hours with friends, passing out buns and a church leaflet, please let me know. It is lovely being able to invite people to join us for Easter and even nicer when they do come.

Michelle

Easter Fun!

Please do join us on **Saturday 7th April, 10am to 12pm**, for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the Hall. Crafts and refreshments will be available from 10am, followed by a Circus Skills Workshop (for everyone, no matter your age!) and rounding off with the Easter Egg Hunt. There will be a £1.50 entrance fee for children but adults are free!

You can sponsor an egg if you would like to; all monies will go towards the cost of providing eggs and running the event. We would very much appreciate your help with this, especially if you can join us on the day to help with the refreshments.

Please contact **Michelle** or **Jo** for more information.

COMMEMORATION SERVICE JEANIE MACDONALD

It has been decided that a service of remembrance for Jeanie will be held at The Drive Church on Sunday 22nd April 2012. At 4.00pm.

This is in response to requests that we have not held a service in her honour, and time is passing. We will of course contact her relatives to advise them of our decision to hold a service at which they will have an opportunity to take part.

We regret that it has taken so long arranging this service, and hope our congregation will let any of her friends know, and that there will be good attendance on the day.

HER MAJESTY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE.

A Royal Celebration

The New Essex Choir with the Harlequin Orchestra will be giving a concert with a royal theme at Barnardo's Church on Saturday 31st March at 7.30 pm. Included will be the new anthem 'This is the day' by John Rutter written for the recent royal wedding, a coronation Anthem by Handel from 1727 and 'Dido and Aeneas' by Purcell, a tale of royal love and possibly the first English opera.

Barnardo's church, Barkingside

Saturday 31st March, 7.30 pm

Tickets £10 from Brian Taylor (or at the door)

Brian Taylor

A Tea Party and fun afternoon at The Drive 16th June 2012 at 4.00pm

Please put this event in your diaries.

This will be a very enjoyable event at which all our congregation and any local people who wish to join us for the afternoon will be most welcome. It is hoped that the weather will be kind to us as we hope the tea will be in the church grounds, and there will be games and competitions in the church hall and grounds.

Please join us to make this a very happy and successful time. Janet Wragg and her team who arranged our very successful Christmas tree festival are making the arrangements for us.

This made me laugh

If my body was a car, I would be trading it in for a newer body I've got bumps dents and scratches and my headlights are out of focus. My gearbox is seizing up & it takes me hours to reach maximum speed I overheat for no reason and every time I sneeze, cough or laugh either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!

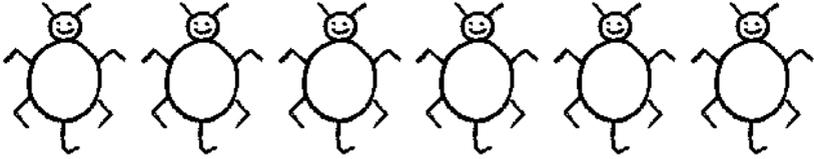
CHURCH GROUNDS

A row of hedging shrubs has been planted along part of the eastern boundary by the house in Eastern Avenue in memory of Maisie Mitchell. The shrubs used are *rosa rugosa rubra* interspersed with white *rosa pimpinellifolia*.

The storm on 3rd January blew down one of the flowering cherry trees at the front of the church.

Fortunately there were no injuries and only slight damage to the fence. Thanks to Peter Bendon for clearing the branches across the pavement. We are now waiting for the trunk and stump to be removed by the professionals.

Brian Taylor.



**Our annual JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA (and raffle)
will be held on:
SATURDAY 17th MARCH 2012
2.30 pm for 3 pm START
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL
Adult: £5; Children (under 16): £2**

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 are available from me now
so please tell all your family and friends.***

With thanks
Diane Foster



WEBSITE

Our web site is appreciated by all those who take the trouble to visit it. In fact there were some paragraphs in the Ilford Recorder on Thursday 16th February which can only have been taken from our web pages.

We thank the Recorder for visiting the site to extract information.

Please recommend your family and friends visit it, and use it yourselves, as there is much information contained in its pages.

Roy Brunnen.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

At our February meeting Mr. Leslie Sutton gave us a most interesting talk about his experiences during the Second World War in the armed forces, including the D-Day Landings and also witnessing the Nuremburg Trials in 1945.

Mr. Sutton's theme was Remembrance. He spoke with feeling and flashes of humour, reminding us of the importance that succeeding generations should know about the horrors of war and the need to prevent it ever happening again. He was for many years a member of 12th Ilford Scout Troop based in Roll Gardens, Gants Hill and spoke very highly of the work and influence of scouting.

We do not meet during March and April, so that we can attend the Lenten Studies with St. Andrew's and Cranbrook Baptist Churches.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday May 1st when our organist and choirmaster, Andrew Taylor will present a programme entitled "Musical Journeys". Do come along at 8.00pm for what is sure to be an entertaining evening.

Frank Sayers

KING JOSIAH

This is a "Rap" which was performed by the junior church at one of our services. Try it.

King Josiah instructed his men
To repair God's holy temple
The workmen found an ancient book
They asked Josiah to take a look,
King Josiah looked and saw
That they had found God's Holy law.
What a great thing to discover!
He read it aloud from cover to cover.

He made sure the people heard,
They hung onto its every word.
Not just the leaders, prophets and priests,
But all of them from the greatest to the least.
The people all felt really rotten,
Because God's law had been forgotten.
They all agreed that they would do,
Everything that God's Law told them to.

They went to the temple and brought out all
The objects used to worship Baal
And the evil goddess Asherah's,
And even some for worshipping stars!

They took them outside the city walls,
Where King Josiah burnt them all,
Then scattered the ashes all around
A place called Bethel: a burial ground.
He got rid of the Priests who had persisted,
(and also the women who had assisted)
In worshipping these Gods and Goddesses.
(The women had helped by weaving dresses.)

King Josiah then tore down
The altars just outside town
Where goat demons had once been praised;
But now they were completely razed.
King Josiah desecrated

The pagan alters where he hated
Molech was worshipped with evil vices,
Including human sacrifices.

Then he removed the detestable things
That had been used by previous kings.
Like horses and chariots to worship the sun,
And alters to Molech, the god of Ammon,
And Astarte, and Chemosh and other false gods;
And the alters on the palace roofs.
These detestable things, Josiah removed.

He destroyed the pillars and smashed the stones,
And covered the ruins with human bones,
So that the ground was desecrated,
And the alters could not be recreated.
But when he saw the tomb of the prophet
He told the people to keep off it.
The prophet was a man of Godly vision
Who had predicted Josiah's mission.

When Josiah returned to Jerusalem
He gathered the people and ordered them
To begin again the celebration
Of Passover throughout the nation.
It had been forgotten a long time before,
But they read about it in the book of the law.
In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign,
Passover was celebrated once again.

(Based on 2 Kings 23 verses 1 to 23)

MARCH DIARY

Thu	1 st	8.00pm	Church Council
Sat	3 rd	10.00am	Share-a-skill in the church parlour
Sun	4th	10.45am	Morning Service with Communion Led by Revd. Mandlate
Tue	6 th	8.00pm	Lent course at The Drive Methodist.
Sun	11th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mr Allan Ramsden followed by the Church annual meeting and lunch.
Tue	13 th	8.00pm	Lent course at The Drive Methodist
Wed	14 th	8.00pm	Circuit Meeting at Barking church
Fri	16 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning at Gardeners Cafe,
Sat	17 th	10.00am 2.30pm	Church work morning Church beetle drive
Sun	18th	10.45am	Mothering Sunday Morning Service Led by Revd. Mandlate
Tue	20 th	1.00pm 8.00pm	Church Lunch in the Church Parlour Lent course at The Drive Methodist
Sat	24 th	10.00am	Share-a-skill in the church parlour
Sun	25th	10.45am	Passion Sunday Morning service Led by Revd. Jan Tate.
Tue	27 th	8.00pm	Lent course at The Drive Methodist