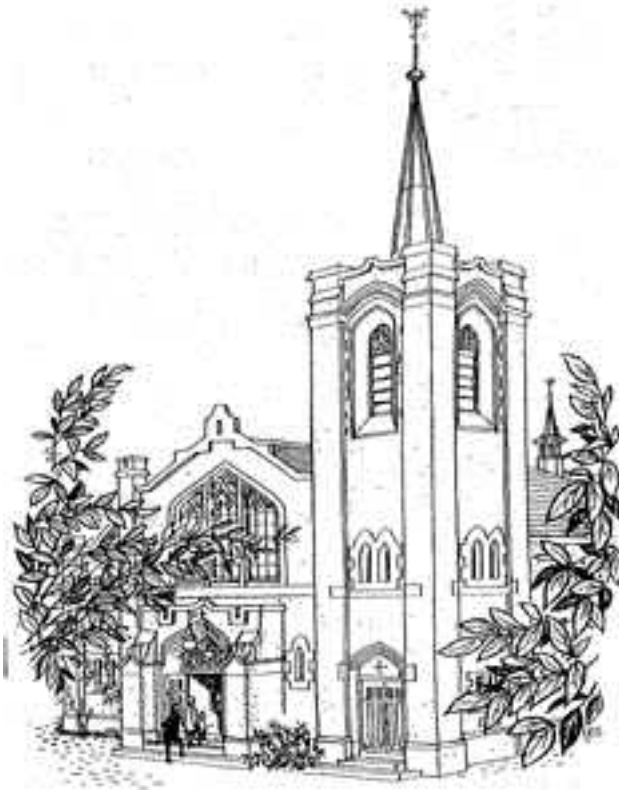


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

April 2013



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

From Bernardino Mandlate Our Minister.

Friends

As I write it is Palm Sunday. We have all received a Palm cross at church wherever you may have worshiped. You will have heard the familiar story of The triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem. So familiar that sometimes we don't listen to the different stories as narrated by the Gospels. We take them as one story. It is interesting that when you read the story in Luke's gospel, there are no palms mentioned, there are no branches of trees mentioned. Luke version of the story talks about people throwing their cloaks for the colt to trot on as Jesus rode into Jerusalem.

The other thing that modern scholarship talks about in the triumphant entry to Jerusalem, is that there was another parade, a military parade making its way to Jerusalem from the west side of the city, and that was Pilate with his army of soldiers who may have been coming in to control the crowds attending the Passover feast. And if this is true, it accounts for the tension and conflict that happened in subsequent days leading to the death of Jesus on the cross.

Jesus was coming as a king of peace and not a warrior. Luke's gospel is filled with references of Jesus as the king of peace, as someone bringing peace to the people. The shepherds when alerted about Jesus' birth they sing 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people...' Simeon says to God in Luke's gospel, '...permit your servant to depart in peace.'

Peace is what we need and peace is what Jesus brought. Politicians all over the world talk peace with their mouths while increasing their military budgets and spending to make war and keep us all in a state of conflict and fear. May this Easter season bring to us all a sense of inner peace with ourselves and feel at peace with each other. May we offer ourselves to God to be used as His instruments of peace in our surroundings, our communities and our nations. I would like you to remember that after the triumphant entry came the pain of the cross but beyond that, came resurrection, Jesus arose from the dead and he is alive today and forever with us. We await his second coming and we don't know when that will be. But in the meantime, we need to promote peace, love

I wish everyone at the Drive and beyond a peaceful Easter filled with joy and expectations. I pray that God will continue to bless us

with His presence and intervention in our lives. I pray for health and for God's daily provision of our needs.

May He who loves you and everyone you know be always with you and give you peace.

Happy Easter season. Dino

PS. For those of you who know the three boys we foster, the court has decided to keep them in permanent care and that means they will be with us for a long time. Your prayers for them and Elizabeth and I will be greatly appreciated as we embark on this journey.

Dino

Congratulations to Jo Wright

It was on the 8th April 2001 that Pat Grinham stepped down as leader of the Junior Church and Jo agreed to become the new leader.

During the past 12 years despite home and church commitments, Jo has successfully lead with bags of energy and enthusiasm, encouraging all the staff and helpers to make the Junior Church a safe and secure environment, where our young people can learn and grow.

On behalf of everyone at The Drive – WELL DONE.

John Higgins.

Church Fellowship news

"One more step along the world I go"

This was the first hymn we sang at the service on February 24th, when we looked at the journeys made by Abraham and Jesus, and then thought about our own spiritual journey through life.

I want to thank everyone who responded to my request to tell us how many miles from Redbridge they were born. Here are the results:

0 to 20 miles	31 people
21 to 100 miles	5 people
101 to 500 miles	2 people
501 to 1000 miles	0 people
1001 to 5000 miles	2 people
5001 to 7000 miles	7 people

As expected some of us have stayed close to the place where they were born, and others have travelled great distances. There are many people in the Bible who made long journeys that we may think about in a Sunday service another time, and see what we can learn from thinking about them.

Frank Sayers.

Beetle Drive

Many thanks to everyone who supported the 21st annual JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea on Saturday 9th March – to all those who came along and played and to those who kindly made donations. It was once again a great fun family afternoon with the beetles coming thick and fast! The adult winner was Matthew Foster and the under-16s winner was Georgina Downes. Well done to both of them.

Many thanks to Michelle for her help in preparing the tea and to Jeremy for keeping control of the game.

After expenses, the splendid total of £277 was raised for JMA funds. You can see a report with a few photos on The Drive website.

Diane Foster

Lent Prayer meeting at Kings Church

To my parents it was Cecil Hall opposite St Clements Church. To my neighbours and me in Park Avenue, in 1979, it was the “New” St Clements Church. Now it is Kings Church.

The Prayer meeting took place on Tuesday 19th February. The evening began with some worship songs led by some musicians. A street Pastor, representatives of the food bank, Friday cafe and the organiser of the Easter day parade all gave a short presentation of their work. The talks were mostly illustrated with slides. Afterwards prayers were said on each topic. At the end of the evening, we went downstairs for tea or coffee.

Susan Ruckes

French Cafe at The Drive

During two S.A.S. Saturday mornings, the church parlour has had a distinctly French flavour. On our arrival we have heard French music. (I almost expected to see Rene and Edith!) We have introduces ourselves and our neighbours in French. We have been

given pretend occupation and played "Happy families". There has been a "Pretend cafe" and a "real cafe". Ask Dino and Elizabeth's boys about the difference.

Many thanks to Hilary Evans from St Andrews Church for organising such an entertaining and useful course. We all now know the French word for "croissant" MM- they were delicious.

Susan Ruckes.

Sky Dive for CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young

Our granddaughter Bethany who is just 16 is undertaking a 10,000ft Sky Dive on 13th April to support the above charity in memory of her cousin James who died 4 years ago of undetected cardiac disease. While we are proud of our Beth's spirit and determination, we do feel some anxiety about her leaping from an aeroplane and really would prefer that her charity support was carried out with her feet firmly on the ground. Nevertheless we will support her and her efforts and ask that you think of her on this day and offer a prayer for her safekeeping.

Lorraine and Peter Bendon

SINGING THE FAITH – THE FIRST YEAR 202 DOWN, 588 TO GO!

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 our first year with *StF*, up to and including Sunday 13th January 2013.

Not included in these figures are the 9 songs chosen by preachers that are not in *StF*, and any songs the choir has sung alone.

Over the year we sang 202 different songs from *StF*, just over a quarter of the available 790 songs in the book (not including the Canticles and Psalms in the final section). These were the most frequently used songs:

6 times:	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>
5 times:	94	<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done!</i>
	550	<i>Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go</i>
4 times:	17	<i>With gladness we worship, rejoice as we sing</i>
	51	<i>Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father</i>
	323	<i>I will sing the wondrous story</i>
	470	<i>Lord, for the years your love has kept and</i>
<i>guided</i>		
	673	<i>Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?</i>

A further 16 songs were chosen 3 times, 37 twice and the remaining 141 just once.

It is interesting to note that the some old favourites didn't feature often – 503 *Love divine, all loves excelling* was sung twice and 495 *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*, often at the top of the list in years gone by, was only sung once. Others that were not used at all include 83 *Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*, 340 *Ye servants of God, your master proclaim* and 556 *Just as I am, without one plea*.

Of the total 202 songs used, 41 (just over one fifth) were new to us, having not been in *Hymns and Psalms* or the *Drive Songbook*.

Looking at those 202 songs a different way, here are the most frequently used song writers. No prizes for guessing who comes top of the list!

28 songs:	Charles Wesley
9 songs:	Fred Pratt Green
8 songs:	John Bell of the Iona Community – 7 times in collaboration with Graham Maule
7 songs:	Graham Kendrick
6 songs:	Brian Wren
4 songs:	Isaac Watts
3 songs:	Cecil Frances Alexander
2 songs:	Bernadette Farrell, Dave Billborough, Fanny Crosby, James Montgomery, John Newton, Keith Getty,

Sydney Carter, Timothy Dudley-Smith, William
Chatterton Dix

There is plenty more in the book to explore from the likes of Fred Kaan, Stuart Townend, Alan Gaunt, Andrew Pratt, Marjorie Dobson, Martin Leckebusch, Ruth C. Duck, Shirley Erena Murray and Geraldine Latty, to name but a few. Have a look, and let us know what you would choose!

So, not a bad start - 202 down, 588 to go!

Andrew Taylor

Coronation Tea. June 15th

There will be a tea party between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday 15th June 2013, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Queens Coronation in June 1953.

I will be running a small raffle during the tea party and would be very grateful for donations of prizes.

Many thanks, **Corinne Smith**

A Date for your diary

The Christian Aid concert on 18th May at 7.30pm in our church, will feature, as usual, the New Redbridge Wind Orchestra led by Mr Miles Harwood. Tickets will be £6.50 and, of course, refreshments will be available.

I shall hope to let you have some posters in due course...

Many thanks,

Submitted by **Brian Taylor**

"Raysin Hope" and the "Brain Tumour Charity"

Although the brain tumour support group was funded by "Raysin Hope" we came under the banner of the "Brain Tumour UK charity" but due to recent changes they have now merged with the "Brain Tumour Charity" and in future shall be known as such.

I have been given lots of information about the charity and the work they do and their plans for the future. "Raysin Hope" is pleased to know that we can work together and that the "Ray Dellow Tribute fund" will be carried on by this charity.

The support group meet on the first Wednesday of the month in Romford and we have been pleased to welcome two more volunteers who are getting to know everyone. We are glad to be told that people look forward to coming each month and are now planning a day out in the summer and it seems tha Leigh on Sea is favourite at the moment.

Information table at Queens Hospital.

On the 4th April the "Brain Tumour Charity" supported by "Raysin Hope" will be offering a point of contact at Queens Hospital for information on help and support for those with brain tumours.

Date for your diary

Saturday 29th June 3pm, Tea in the garden at 52, Highcliffe Gardens.

Anne Dellow.

Church Council

The Church Council met on Thursday 7th March, during which reports were given from various committees, and suggestions considered.

The Church Life Committee had expressed concern at Sunday morning closures to join with another church, particularly the effect on our Junior Church, which has been increasing in number. We wish to maintain weekly contact with the children and families. The stewards had met to consider what to do, and decided that instead of closing we should arrange our own service, adding to the designated dates assigned for local arrangement. The Council agreed unanimously, and the secretary was asked to write to Revd Stephen Poole informing him of our decision. It was also agreed that we should contact speakers in advance and then submit dates to the Circuit.

The Property Committee reported that we are on budget, but they have identified three items to be dealt with over the next 10-15 years which will incur major costs. These are: the hall floor, which is kept well-polished but will eventually need re-surfacing; the electric cabling is getting old; the boiler needs replacing.

The stewards had met to consider the Mission Statement, and our senior steward, Roy Brunnen circulated copies of the Mission Statement, which was written in three versions - a longer, detailed one, a shorter one and a single-sentence summary for using in the Newsletter and for church letterheads. The longer version was to be put on the website, the shorter in the Annual Report. The Council accepted the Mission Statement and agreed the use of each version.

Election of Officers.

The following were re-elected:

Treasurer	Peter Foster
Secretary	Kathleen Taylor
Church Life Chairman	Peter Foster
Church life Secretary	Hilary Stevens
Pastoral Secretary	Brian Grinham
Property Chairman	Jeremy Foster
Property Secretary	John Higgins
Jnr. Church Leader	Joanna Wright
JMA Secretary	Diane Foster
Snr. Communion Steward	Elizabeth Amah
Safeguarding Officer	Lorraine Bendon

Nominations to Circuit Meeting.

The following were appointed: Peter Foster (Treasurer), Roy Brunnen (Senior Steward), Susan Ruckes, Brian Taylor, Peter Sharp
Deputies: Diane Foster, Corinne Smith.

Annual Church Meeting

The Annual Church Meeting was held after the morning service on 11th March and followed by lunch in the Hall.

The following were elected as stewards: Roy Brunnen, Diane Foster, Joel Inbakumar, Brian Grinham, Michelle Garner.

The following were elected as representatives to the Church Council: Janet Brunnen, Anne Dellow, Susan Ruckes, Peter Sharp, Corinne Smith, Hilary Stevens, Brian Taylor, Anne Warden, Ian Warden, Janet Wragg.

The Annual Report was accepted.

Kathleen Taylor

Circuit Meeting

This meeting took place on Wednesday 13th March at Old Dagenham church.

Stephen Poole, who had just returned from his three month sabbatical, chaired the meeting.

We were informed that work on our Barking Church is still ongoing, and that following the withdrawal of our planning application, there is to be a reconsideration of the Ilford church, where it is hoped that internal work to increase the access and make it more "disabled" friendly will enable more letting income to be created, and the church will be able to continue. Following the public disquiet over plans to join Seven Kings church congregation with Goodmayes church, and the demolition of the Seven Kings building it has been decided to postpone the joining of the churches for twelve months to enable further consideration.

Gants Hill and Barkingside churches are considering which building to use when they join together in September next year.

There was a presentation and discussion on the expenditure projections for the coming year and beyond, but it had only been possible to predict expenditure and not income. This was passed with only one vote against its acceptance.

There was a report from Carol Dawson on the Religious Education Resources Project. This work which takes place in Schools and visits by year groups to churches is now getting very busy and successful. (A whole year group from Redbridge Primary School visited The Drive just before Christmas last) In reply to a question, Carol confirmed that she is very busy with the primary sector, and does not have time to visit secondary schools. We thanked her for the work she is undertaking.

Circuit positions for the various jobs necessary to make the circuit work were made, including a smaller group of circuit stewards, as it was felt that having one steward from each church made their meetings too unwieldy. (This means we no longer have a position on the circuit stewards group)

In reply to a question concerning the number of representatives each church is able to appoint to be a representative to the circuit

meeting, it was confirmed that each church can appoint 5 representatives, ie The treasurer, senior steward, and three others. (These appointments were made at the annual church meeting) We were also informed that the current circuit administrator, Diane Lilley will be leaving at the end of August. Therefore the post which is a part time one will be advertised.

Roy Brunnen

Daffodil Day 4th March 2013.

Daffodil day at Westminster Central Hall is an annual event which goes from strength to strength. It was a favourite of the late Dame Thora Hird.

Pam Rhodes, Cathy Sara and Joanne Lunn were all guests. The hymns, solos and interviews were uplifting and informative. The Director of music played a voluntary and requested "that there should be no applause (after the voluntary). We all knew who had not read the service sheet.....

Susan Ruckes

Share a Skill

Knitting and crochet as usual, but bring your sewing repairs and finish them in company.

We will also be learning to sew on buttons.

Mick will be available for individual laptop tuition.

We are also making gift labels from old birthday cards. Please donate unwanted cards for this.

Thank you, **Janet Wragg.**

Westminster Women's Outreach.

A conference entitled "Women's Voices" is to take place on Saturday 27th April at Westminster Central Hall. Please see the red and gold leaflets. Sadly Tamsin Greig is unable to appear, but another actress is to take her place.

Susan Ruckes.

Mavis Pindard

Some of our members will have know Mavis who was a member of Gants Hill church. Sadly she died a short while ago and her funeral detail is as follows:

2pm Tuesday April 2nd at The City of London Cemetery, followed by a service of thanksgiving at 3pm in Gants Hill Methodist 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.

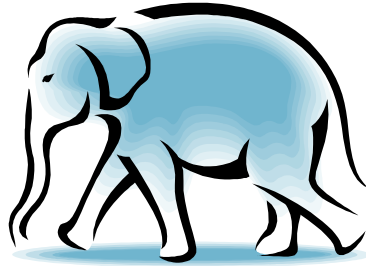
In seeking to be faithful The Drive Methodist Church is committed to:

Provide a weekly opportunity for all people to worship God in Christ, 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.

March 2013.



Quiz night Friday 26th April St Andrews Church The Drive

7.15pm for 7.30pm start

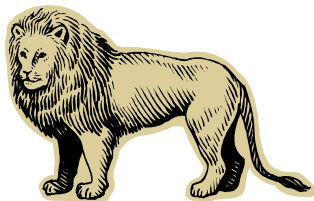
Tim Wright is having a quiz evening to raise funds for his world challenge trip to Africa.

During the project phase of the trip Wanstead High school pupils will be refurbishing a school in Northern Tanzania.

Tables of 8, tickets £10 per person. Individuals can join tables.

Jacket potato and chilli supper.

Please see Jo or Tim Wright for tickets





Diary for April

Tue	2 nd	1.00pm	Church lunch in the Cranbrook room
Sun	7	10.45am	Morning Service and Holy Communion
			Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue	9 th	8.00pm	Church Fellowship "Favourite Words and music"
Sun	14th	10.45am	Morning Service led by
			Mr John Nicholls
Tue	16 th	10.00am	Morning Holy Communion
Wed	17 th	8.00pm	Pastoral Committee
Thu	18 th	8.00pm	Choir
Fri	19 th	10.00am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Cafe Valentines Mansion.
Sat	20 th	10.00am	Share a skill in the Church Parlour
Sun	21st	10.45am	Morning Service led by
			Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue	23 rd	1.00pm	Church Lunch
Thu	25 th		Community Music Event
Sun	28th	10.45am	Morning Service led by
			Dr Joy Leitch



CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

SUMMER PROGRAMME

2013

APRIL 9 Favourite Words and Music

MAY 7 Handbells with Andrew Taylor

JUNE 4 Ruth Joyce talks about her working life

JULY 2 Jo Wright plays some of her favourite music

**We meet once a month on a
Tuesday in the Church Parlour at
8.00pm, followed by refreshments.**

COME AND JOIN US