

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

NEWSLETTER

October 2013



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

HELPING ORPHAN CHILDREN TO DREAM THROUGH EDUCATION

My name is Azarias Muchanga, from the Methodist Church in Mozambique. Over the last twelve months I have been working on my Master Degree studies at The Queens Foundation in Birmingham.

I grew up in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique but my passion and call is in the rural areas, where people face more challenges than urban areas. In the rural areas, despite the lack of infrastructures and most of the basic conditions for life; where people sometimes walk miles to fetch water, children walk long distances to get to the nearest primary school; people are nevertheless generous and share what they have in hospitality.

Always when I visit rural areas I find myself growing spiritually, because of the deep spirituality and commitment that people have in these areas. Most of the people worship in precarious conditions and some still worship under the shade of a tree because they don't have any buildings, but their faith is strong. People in these rural areas don't go to church to exhibit the latest fashion, but to truly worship the living God.

During a mission project in a place called Salamanga, which is about 100 kilometres from Maputo, I, together with some missionaries from South Africa, were showing the 'Jesus' film and it is here that I met orphan and vulnerable children who were actually the head of families, or living with their grandparents because their own parents had died with HIV/AIDS. These children, each day, have to look for something to eat, and the hardship of life in this area makes some, if not most of them, drop out from school.

My heart was overwhelmed with this particular situation and on returning home I started talking to friends, neighbours and colleagues asking for a donation of an amount of money equivalent to buying one pint of beer. With this money, I could buy school material and uniforms for some of the children living in such critical conditions. It was difficult in the first instance for them to accept the idea, but I did not give up, and I went into the Church to speak with the congregation about the situation and people were sensitized to the situation and embarked in helping with the project.

People responded positively and we bought school material and in coordination with the head masters of the rural schools, we were

able to distribute the gifts to those children identified as living in critical conditions. Through their generosity, we were able to get the children back to school and to ensure that they would have material to see them through the academic year.

I lost my parents when I was young, but there are people who believed in me and gave me a chance by helping me to realise my dream by paying my school fees. Now I am doing my MA course in the UK because the Methodist Church is sponsoring me. I still though feel the need to help those orphan and vulnerable children who dream of having a better future, through education, which I strongly believe to be the key to success. There are many challenges, especially financially, but the will to help those children is high and I pray that one day the project could be locally sustainable so that it helps more children.

Submitted by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.

PLEASE REMEMBER THOSE OF OUR "FAMILY" WHO ARE UNWELL.

Barbara Foster is still being cared for in a nursing home in Abbey Road, Newbury Park.

Peter Foster who is experiencing some medical difficulties which make it difficult for him to attend Sunday services very often.

Please include these in your prayers.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

The 2013/14 Church Fellowship programme begins on **Tuesday October 1st** with a talk by a visiting speaker, **Denise Whybrow** who will tell us about the charity

Samaritan's Purse The Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

Do come along to our first meeting of the season at 8.00pm.

Refreshments are served.

Frank Sayers.

MUSIC MATTERS

Our new informal singing group has got off to a super start with a performance of the Louis Armstrong classic *What a Wonderful World* at our Harvest Festival service. This is a group for anyone aged seven(ish) and upwards (no upper age limit!) and we have already

had a request to sing again at the JMA service in November. Soon after that comes Christmas! So plenty of opportunities to show off your vocal talents. Anyone is welcome to take part – the practices are after church on Sunday mornings, all finished by 12:30. Watch out for details of our next practices, come along and give it a go!

We are still custodians of the Circuit's set of Hand Bell Plates, so with an eye on Christmas, I'm planning to get them out and have a group of people ringing for the festive season. Let me know if you're interested.

Our regular Thursday night choir practices are moving from 8:00pm to 7:30pm for a trial period. Again, anyone is welcome to come along and take part in the choir – you don't have to read music, and there is no audition! Our next practice is on Thursday 17th October.
Andrew Taylor

FLORAL FANFARE

Thursday 5th September saw the opening of the anniversary flower festival marking 100 years since the opening of Westminster Central Hall, opposite Westminster Abbey.

Janet and I arrived soon after the 10.30am opening and the building was already alive with people. After a cup of tea at their roadside cafe, we went into the exhibition. This was mounted in the foyer, on the staircase, and in the main Church. The exhibition items were provided by a number of organisations with Methodist connections. There is no doubt that the exhibits were of an excellent standard, and with a few exceptions reflected the spirit of the theme of the title given.

After looking round several times we moved downstairs to the restaurant for lunch before starting our homeward journey.

Later in the day Susan also visited the festival and enjoyed it at least as much as we did.

Roy Brunnen.

Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at the Drive

On Saturday 5th October, our church is hosting a "come and sing" scratch performance of selected choruses and solos from the great oratorio *Elijah* by Mendelssohn.

This wonderful work tells the story of the prophet Elijah in dramatic form, and is not performed that regularly these days. This is a chance for any singers to come along and join in, or for anyone to come and be part of the audience.

The performance will raise funds for the Bahay Ng Pag Asa (the House of Hope) orphanage and outreach centre in the Philippines, run by my friends Nickie and John Kenning. The House of Hope does amazing work with orphaned and abused children in the Philippines, and is well worth supporting.

On 5th October, there is an afternoon rehearsal from 4:30 to 6:30 (registration from 4:00) and the performance is at 7:30. Singers pay £10 to take part. The performance is free to audience members, but there will of course be a retiring collection! Please support this event if you can.

Andrew Taylor

JMA PRESENTATION SERVICE

This years presentation service will take place on Sunday 17th November and will be led by Revd. Jan Tate.

Please try to attend this service and support our young people who have been collecting over the past year.

Diane Foster.

NEIGHBOURS

Redbridge Faith Forum organised a women's workshop at Ilford Islamic Centre on 11th September 2013. – an appropriate date, perhaps. More than fifty women from different faith groups attended the lively meeting. At least two attending were neighbours who happen to be from different faith groups. According to the discussion, the majority seemed to get on with their neighbours, but there was not time for everyone to report back to the meeting.

Susan Ruckes

**CIRCUIT MEETING
ON
WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2013.**

This quarters meeting took place at the Goodmayes Church, and was attended by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate, Roy Brunnen, Diane Foster, and Janet Brunnen.

We had opening Devotions led by Revd. Jan Tate.

Revd. Stephen Pool opened the meeting and introduced the new circuit administrator, Jackie Saito to the meeting.

During the main part of the service there was discussion on a number of matters relating to our circuit.

Unfortunately, due to pressures in their life, two of the "on trial" local preachers have had to drop out of taking services. These are – Mr Russell Pearce and Mr Frank Anipa. We are sorry to hear this, but wish them both well for their future.

There will however be a leadership training course, mainly to support Ministers, but others are invited if they believe it would enhance their work in their churches. This will take place here at The Drive church on Saturday November 9th.

It is also planned that if there are enough of us volunteering, another worship leaders course will be run, hopefully on a Saturday morning, once a month. Anyone interested please let either a church steward, or Revd. Jan Tate know.

I also believe it was mentioned that there will be a safeguarding course for those who either missed last year's, or are newly appointed.

An outreach worker has been appointed with her main task to work with Barkingside, Gants Hill, and Grange Hill churches as part of the communication process as these churches approach their coming together. This lady is Gillian Ross, and the appointment is for three years.

The circuit seems to do a number of things in duplicate, as the appointment of a centre supervisor for the Barking church has also resulted in a Gillian being appointed from October.

With regard to the coming together of Gants Hill and Barkingside churches, the meeting agreed to obtain a valuation of both sites as part of the consideration of their future.

The sale of one of the manse houses has been completed, which has improved the circuit funds.

The circuit treasurer presented his report, and outlined the new rules for claiming gift aid, which have changed somewhat, and could be to our advantage.

We were also reminded that property schedules are now filled in online, and the intention is that they will not have to be fully completed year on year, only changes will need to be made annually. There is currently some confusion as to how this will be managed, so we now await clarification.

It has also been suggested that we are not good at advertising our churches and their activities, and we should attempt to improve this.

Another suggestion was that there are no organised activities for people who do not go away on holiday during the summer, and a period of organised activities could be organised. This period was referred to as a "Staycation"

Also suggested was the question of coffee mornings during the week, with the hope that help to organise these might be able to be drawn from parents and relatives of the young people attending the pre school.

Dates for future meetings are:-

12th December 2013 at Seven Kings church

18th March 2014 at Gants Hill church

11th June 2014 here at The Drive church

18th Sept 2014 at Grange Hill church (To be confirmed)

The meeting closed with the saying of The Grace.

Roy Brunnen.

RIVERGATE CHURCH

I have found it at last! Peter Sharp and I have made several attempts to find this elusive building over the past year or so. Thanks to ELI – or rather ELI's driver – and the London open house weekend, I was able to tour the church, school and nursery. Please don't ask me for directions. My advice is to travel with ELI or the 387 bus.

It was lovely to meet Janine Scothern (Church of England) and Judy Schultz (The Salvation Army) and hear about what goes on at the

centre. I look forward to returning during the week and visiting the cafe.

We've been to Wesley's chapel, (p4 September newsletter) how about a minibus visit to Rivergate church?

Susan Ruckes

Who or what is ELI?- Roy.

**Step forward in hope and in faith
Put Jesus first,
And all else will fall into place.**



DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Tue 1 st	8.00pm	Church Fellowship. Dennis Whybrow – Christmas Shoebox Appeal.
Sun 6th	10.45am	Morning Service with Holy communion Led by. Revd Bernardino Mandlate.
Mon 7 th	8.00pm	Church finance committee meeting
Thu 10 th	8.00pm	Church Council meeting
Sun 13th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mr O Kufeji
Tue 15 th	10.00am	Monthly Morning Holy Communion
Thu 17 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Fri 18 th	10.00am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Cafe, Valentines Mansion.
Sun 20th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mr Tony Miller. Whitechapel Mission.
Tue 22 nd	1.00pm	Church Lunch.
Thu 24 th	8.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 27th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.

**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.