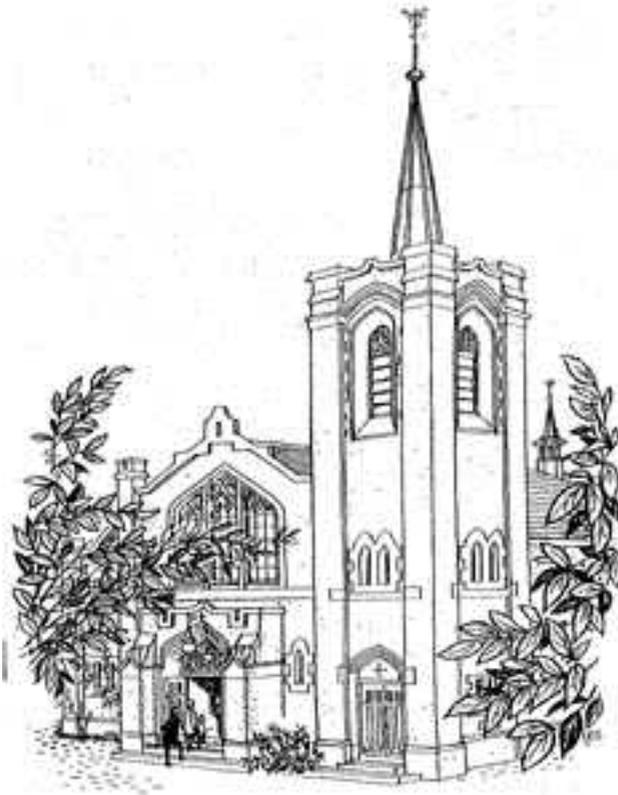


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

November 2013



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

FROM OUR MINISTER
Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.

Friends

As I write, we are busy celebrating One World Week. This celebration is an annual opportunity to reflect on our world and what is happening to it. We all have a hand and influence as to what our world looks like. Years ago, it used to take months to travel around the world. Now, the world has become a global village, small in such a way that what one says in an instant is heard all over the world and the desired or undesired effects are felt immediately.

The world continues to be divided in haves and have not's, healthy and not so healthy people, rich and poor, well fed and hungry, and the categories go on. As communities and societies of the world, we have failed and continue to fail to bring a level playing field. We still struggle to feed the hungry; actually we have left them to their own devices as long as we ourselves are ok.

The theme for this year, of One World Week, is 'More than enough'. I believe that the world has more than enough of almost everything for everyone to leave even if slightly comfortable. It's a question of how do we share, or are prepared to share with others what we have. The amount of waste that we throw away on a daily basis is an insult to those who are going without in this country and around the world. Just think of what you as a family unit throw away sometimes or often because you suspect it to be out of date or simply because you've deemed your food not to be fresh enough for you to consume. Just think of those who wouldn't care about freshness of the food as long as they have something to eat. Think of the many elderly people who will struggle this winter because they can't afford the prices of heating going up. Allow me to appeal to you, help in whichever way you can. As Tesco says, every little bit helps.

Think of the conflicts of our times, bloodshed in many countries and very often for no credible reason. Look at the greedy politicians who never get things done because they are shareholders of so many enterprises or are so corrupt that they cannot see the needs of their peoples as their responsibility. We have a duty to interfere in politics the only way we can, influencing the vote and making sure our politicians take their responsibilities very seriously.

The Drive family continues to grow slowly, and we continue to worship God as we should. We have a few of our members who are not feeling well and gradually finding it difficult to be in church worshipping every week. We

continue to pray to God that He will continue to grant them the quality of life they need to keep going.

Winter is knocking and I pray that you will keep safe and warm and continue to praise God even for the harsh winters that sometimes come our way.

May the good Lord continue to bless each and everyone.

Dino



CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Church Lunch Club will be having their Christmas festivities on Tuesday December 17TH at one o'clock in the Hall. Names and money will be collected nearer the end of November.

Catherine Sayers.

CHANGE OF SERVICE TIME

Due to the reduction in the number of Ordained Ministers in the circuit, and local preacher numbers available to lead services, it has become necessary for churches to consider changing their service times to enable Ministers and in some cases local preachers to take two services on Sunday mornings.

Most churches in the circuit have now changed to accommodate this need, and it has therefore become necessary for us to work with Ilford church to enable Bernardino to take both services. He also has a responsibility for Seven Kings church which is currently considering their future, with an option to merge with Goodmayes church.

This matter was considered at the church council which met on October 10th, and by a majority vote decided to move our service start time to 11.15am as from December 1st. Ilford church has agreed to move their start time from 10.30am to 9.30am in order to make it possible for Bernardino to take both services when he is not preaching at Seven Kings church.

We hope you will find this acceptable, and will be able to accommodate the change. It may well not affect our Sunday unacceptably.

Roy Brunnen.

YOUR KINDNESS HAS MEANT SO MUCH

Is the printed message on a card we have received from Peter Sharp. He also wrote the following in the card.

"To all. Please note I'm not very good at these sort of letters, to all the good people at The Drive. Thank you all for remembering me in the dock. I had visits from Frank, Dave, Janet & Roy – oh yes and the big man.

I understand Frank's other half has been in Hospital God Bless Catherine hope she gets well soon. I'd like to say a big thank you to Corrine doing my dobie. I understand she changed my sheets and stood them up in the corner while she had a breather.

I must not forget Susan, she has been an Angel you don't see Angels with glass and buck teeth.

Well rounding off I must say thank you all.
God bless you all.

Peter.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Our 2013/ 2014 Programme got off to a splendid start with a very amusing and informative talk by Chris and Jenny about the "Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, which a group of us at The Drive are again taking part in.

On Tuesday November 5th we have a "Musical Anagram which is a light hearted quiz about some well known pieces of music. The quiz is not compulsory! Do come along at 8.00pm. to enjoy the music Refreshments are served.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION.

Sunday 20th October was the day we were privileged to have Tony Miller, the chief executive officer of the mission come and take our service, and tell us about the history and work of the mission, which of course is in Whitechapel, almost next to the Royal London Hospital.

His talk is always both interesting and inspiring. We had quite a lot of food from our Harvest Festival, and some also some clothing which is always welcome, as the poor people who are helped by the mission often need a change of clothing, as most of them either lodge in overnight accommodation or sleep rough on the pavements.

We also had a chance to donate money to their fund, and we collected £190.

Thank you to those who donated to the mission, we are always collecting non perishable foods and clothing for their use. Winter is upon us, so if you have any unwanted warm clothing it would be very welcome.

Roy Brunnen.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING 'WOW'

A huge thank you to all who supported my Coffee Morning by coming and making it a convivial and successful day and to those who boosted the takings with donations. Once again Kay Whidden and her team from the Pre-school came up trumps. Kay arrived in her lunch break with Asian goodies cooked by the staff – very welcome for lunch snacks and also appreciated by the Line Dancers in their tea break. The final total topped £735. WOW!

Audrey Taylor

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES.

Samaritans Purse

Thank you to Brian Grinham who bought the shoe boxes for us, and also a big thank you to everyone who has taken one to fill. The boxes need to be ready for collection by Sunday 3rd November. Please put them at the back of the church by this date.

Many thanks

Jo Wright

MUSIC MATTERS

After a successful first appearance at our Harvest Festival service last month, our new informal singing group will meet again to prepare something for the JMA service on 17th November. There will be practices after the morning services on 27th October, 3rd November and 10th November. Anyone from age 7ish upwards is welcome!

Also, do let me know if you are interested in being part of a hand bell ringing group for Christmas. Again, all ages welcome.

Choir practices to prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons are every Thursday at 7:30pm from 14th November to 19th December. If you've ever wanted to sing in the choir, now is a really good time to join! Anyone is welcome, no audition.

Andrew Taylor

AN APPEAL

It is the time of year when Samaritans Purse's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox campaign is gearing up to process the many thousands of boxes that are donated for children abroad who due to their circumstances might otherwise not receive a gift.

However we need help, do you know anyone who might assist us by driving a hired van, or assisting the driver, to collect the boxes from local churches, schools, businesses and other community groups? The need is from the beginning of November until the middle of December. The person needs to be able to commit a whole day or days as we collect right across London. Due to the age restrictions the hired vans any potential driver needs to be aged 25 and under 76 have a full driving licence with less than 6 penalty points. Additionally help is needed to check the boxes and pack them in cartons ready for exporting could you or anyone you know help? Any help, from an hour to a few days will assist in getting the boxes to the children. Currently the 'Woodford' team is still searching for a 'warehouse' to use as the one that has been used for the last two years is not available.

Please ask at your church if anyone might help and forward their details or get them to contact me. *(email address and phone number are in the printed version of the newsletter)*
Thank for your past support of the campaign.

Gordon McCann
Temp Logistics Support Officer

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO CONFLICT.
An Advent Study

To take place at The Drive Methodist Church from 8-9.30pm
We will be using the Christian Aid advent Study 2013 -

<u>Date</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Bible passage</u>	<u>Country</u>
Tuesday 26th Nov	Bernadino	Matthew 24:36-44 Romans 13:11-14 Isaiah 2:1-5	Angola
Tuesday 3rd Dec	Jonathan	Isaiah 11:1-10	Colombia
Tuesday 10 th	Marie	Isaiah 35:1-10	Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory
Tuesday 17th	Jonathan	Isaiah 7:10-16	Iraq

I HAVE BEEN CAUGHT OUT BY A SCAM
PLEASE DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU.

On Friday 13th September, at about 6.50 p.m., I received a phone call, the number for which had been withheld, purporting to come from a Detective Harley in Hammersmith, saying that they had arrested a person, claiming to be my grandson, using my cloned card, and that I had given him permission to purchase a mobile phone up to the value of £500.

He advised me to cancel my cards with the Bank, but when I had dialled the number on the reverse of my bank card, thinking that I was talking to the Bank, I was still actually talking to someone who I now believe to be an associate of the caller, who assured me that my cards had been stopped.

I will not go into all the details now, but if anyone wants to know how it finished up please see me.

Fortunately I was talking to Mary just after the incident and she said it sounded like a scam and we got the Police involved that evening and phoned the banks involved and cancelled the cards properly, but unfortunately not before attempts had been made to raid my accounts.

The Police said that this fraud was a growing problem, so please **do take care and don't get caught.**

I have since received a visit from my local Community Police Officer who left a booklet, published by the Metropolitan Police, called "The Little book of BIG Scams". It is full of advice and details about some of the scams, but you can stay on top of the scams by visiting the following website. www.met.police.uk/fraudalert.

Brian Grinham

Treasurer

At the Church Council on 10th October it was with much regret that we recorded the retirement from the office of Treasurer by Peter Foster after 30 plus years.

The service he has given to our church is second to none, and together with the services of Barbara his wife, there was a time when Janet and I would remark that thought of The Drive church, without "The Foster's" was unthinkable. But unfortunately time catches up with all of us sooner or later, and those we have relied on and appreciated over the years have to cut down dramatically on their commitments.

We cannot thank either of you enough for the loyal and dedicated service you have given, and wish things had not developed the way they have, but

you will always be welcome in church and our love and prayers will always be there.

Peter's position has been taken over by John Higgins, another dedicated and valued member who has given years of service to our church, not least in his work at the Open Door centre which had to close due to lack of funding support. Welcome John, we will support you as you settle in to this task.

Roy Brunnen.

MONTHLY TUESDAY COMMUNION.

We hold a Tuesday morning communion at 10.00am once a Month. At present the attendance is a little limited, but those of us who do attend find it an important part of our life, but would appreciate being joined by other people. It is not a commitment to attend on every occasion, but if you are able to come, and feel it would help you in your spiritual life please try to join us. The dates for the rest of this year are as follows.

Tuesday 12th November at 10.00am

Tuesday 10th December at 10.00am

Please join us if you can.

Roy Brunnen.

COFFEE MORNING.

Once a month some of us meet at the gardener's cafe at Valentines Mansion, in Valentines Park. The entrance is in Emerson Road just off the Cranbrook Road, Gants Hill.

Why not join us if you are able, and enjoy meeting in a social atmosphere. We meet at 10.00am or soon after as there is no formality about the event, but it does give us a chance to get to know each other over a cup of tea or coffee.

Roy Brunnen.

MUSIC FROM ITALY

on a Sunday afternoon with the Valentine Singers

The Valentine Singers present an afternoon concert of Italian music, including pieces by Puccini and Rossini, as well as other Italian delights for voice and piano.

Sunday 17th November at 4:30pm in the Barnardo's Church, Barkingside.

Tickets £10 (£5 for students/benefit holders) if bought in advance – available from Andrew Taylor book online at www.valentinesingers.org

Andrew Taylor.

FROM ELI TO ELI—JAH

Peter Mitchell was correct when he told me that EL1 and EL2 stand for East London one and East London two. They are buses.

ELIJAH (1)

The harvest now is over, the summer days are gone....is the first chorus of Mendelssohn's oratorio "Elijah".

The harvest festival was over for us at The Drive, but not for St Andrews where, on the evening of 5th October they were enjoying the harvest barn dance. It had been announced by Revd. Ann Easter on her radio 2 "Pause for Thought" the day before. We missed you all!

About 40 took part in "Elijah" at The Drive. Some had never sung before. There were twenty in the audience, the evening raised £700 for an orphanage in the Philippines.

The organist, David Shepherd, was the orchestra. It was a formidable task accompanying fiery chariots and fiery horses, tempest, earthquake and fire.

As the Bible says, the Lord was not in the tempest, nor the earthquake, nor the fire. After the fire there came a still small voice. Whatever happened to the "still small voice"?

ELIJAH (2)

At least three of us who had sung "Elijah" at The Drive had the good fortune to hear Crouch End Festival chorus perform the work at The Barbican on Sunday 13th October. Sir Willard White was in the title role. He was "Elijah".

It is difficult to pick out a favourite part. "Elijah" sends a young lad up on the ridge to look for clouds. Twice he goes up and sees nothing. The third time he sees a little cloud – "like a mans hand". Remember the name JAMES DILLON. He was "the youth" and sang superbly.

The Angels chorus "He watching over Israel" is one of the most beautiful in the whole work.

My favourite dramatic chorus is "Thanks be to God!" in which the long-awaited rain arrives. The water rushed along at great speed at the Barbican.....

Susan Ruckes

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On Thursday 3rd October, Redbridge Faith Forum held a dinner to mark its 10th anniversary. About seventy attended the event, which was held at Sahan restaurant, near Ilford central library. Many different faiths were represented. Speeches were given by Deputy Mayor Councillor Tania Solomon, and by Mike Gapes MP. Mike represents the Ilford South constituency.

Susan Ruckes.



NOVEMBER DIARY

Sun 3rd	10.45am	Morning Service led by Mr R Debrah
Sun 10th	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday and Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue 12 th	10.00am	Morning Holy Communion.
Thu 14 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 15 th	10.00am	Coffee morning. At the gardeners cafe Valentines Mansion, Valentines Park.
Sun 17th	10.45am	Morning Service including Junior Mission for All (JMA) presentations Led by Revd. Jan Tate.
Tue 19 th	1.00pm	Church Lunch
Thu 21 st	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 24th	10.45am	Morning Service led by Dr. Joy Leitch.
Tue 26 th	8.00pm	Advent Study week 1.
Thu 28 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice.

**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.