



NEWSLETTER

for CHRISTMAS 2013

The Drive Methodist Church, Eastern Avenue Ilford
Minister: Rev Bernardino Mandlate

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

FROM REVD. BERNARDINO MANDLATE

Friends

As I write, we have been through a difficult week as Methodist Church. This because one of our ministers, someone I know and have had fellowship with in Mozambique and in this country, has been on the news, TV and tabloids for not so good reasons. Drugs, Co-op bank and other mess told by the media. We hope to know more as days and weeks progress. This puts the church in crisis, and the former Archbishop of Canterbury said that the church has just another generation to be extinct.

It is the beginning of Advent, when we look forward to good news. In Jeremiah 23.5-6 the prophet says that The Lord promises that a better time is coming for the people in exile. I would like to think that better times are coming for the church of Christ too. We are awaiting church revival soon. The church will be rejuvenated and new life brought into it.

What we do, in the mean time, while Christ doesn't usher in the new times, matters a great deal. The world is in a mess. There are conflicts everywhere, disaster in places, think of the mayhem in after typhoon in the Philippines. The large number of deceased people, the destruction and uncertainty and anxiety that the situation has brought to people just before Advent. We could ask, what Christmas awaits the people of the Philippines?!

We need to share love that only God can grant to us and to all those who trust him. We need to sympathise with those who are desperately in need of help.

A so called deal on nuclear talks with Iran has been temporarily secured. They tell us it will make the world safer. The trouble is, the world is not a safe place. Conflicts continue, fighting continues among nations and within nations. Injustices continue, slavery continues. Small weapons continue to be available for anyone who can desire to use them. We don't really live in a safe world as we would like to. Troubles may sound to be far from us, but we do get affected by it. We do suffer some level of crime even in our own homes. We live in fear and anxiety.

Advent and Christmas should a time when we try to be joyful because this season reminds us of good tidings. Christ was born, He

was the good news, he was ushering in a new era of justice and peace. That is what we need. Justice and peace. Peace of mind, peace and freedom just to be ourselves, peace and space to love and care for each other. We need peace to sing "joy to the world."

As you prepare yourselves to celebrate Christmas, I pray that you will spare a thought to the many out there and around here who will be struggling to understand the occasion in their circumstances. Take it easy, enjoy yourselves, have fun and have a wonderful prosperous New Year as it begins in a few weeks.

May God be kind to all of us and may He continue to show us His love.

God bless

Dino

CHANGE OF TIME FOR SERVICES.

Our Sunday morning services will be 11.15am each week, as from December 1st 2013. We look forward to seeing you all, but please do note the change of time.

Roy Brunnen.

Birthdays

Toju Fadina

Fumi Fadina

Page Fordree

We wish these young people a very happy birthday, and an enjoyable, happy future.

LAVENDER BAG SALE

A big thank you to those who supplied lavender and bags to enable me to make up the bags and sell them. Thanks also to those of you who bought them. £180 was raised which has been divided between the Whitechapel mission (£90) and Raysin Hope (£90). The cheques have been sent.

Ruth Joyce.

DECEMBER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Because of the joint Advent studies with other churches being held on Tuesdays in December, our December Church Fellowship meeting will move to **Monday December 9th. at 8.00pm**

Our programme is a celebration of Christmas with readings and music chosen and presented by Kathleen and Brian Taylor. Do come and join us.

Frank Sayers

MARY'S BOY CHILD...

Following another successful contribution to worship at our JMA service, we want our new singing group to take part in our Nativity Service on 15th December at 11:15am and the Carol Service on 22nd December at 6:30pm. Anyone (I really mean that!) is welcome to come and join in! We will be having (short!) practices straight after the morning services on 1st, 8th and 15th December. If you've been sitting in the congregation enjoying our singing so far, wondering if you could join in, the answer is, "Yes!"

Andrew Taylor

CAN YOU HELP

Mince pies are needed after the Carol Service on Sunday evening December 22. Please put your name on the list to be found soon on the Notice board indicating how many you can provide.

Catherine Sayers

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Here are some dates for you to put in your diary.

- Sunday the 1st and 8th of December will be Nativity rehearsals during Junior church.
- Saturday 14th December is the Nativity rehearsal and JC Christmas party and talent show 2.30 -5.00pm
- Sunday 15th December is the actual Toy and Nativity service. All young people need to be at church by 10.15am please.

CHANGE OF TIME

This year the stories around the tree, on Christmas Eve, will take place at 12 noon in the church.

Jo Wright

JOY TO THE WORLD...

The Christmas season is fast approaching, and amongst all the other celebrations, I urge you to give your support to our annual Carol Service. It is always a special service with music and readings that tell the familiar story, and plenty of opportunities for all to join together in some favourite carols, all bathed in candlelight. This year, the Carol Service will feature our new singing group (still nameless – see overleaf to see how we can remedy that!) alongside the regular choir. Put the date in your diaries – Sunday 22nd December at 6:30pm.

NAME THAT GROUP...

And speaking of the new nameless singing group, we are holding a competition to give it a name. Look out for suggestion slips being handed out, write down your idea and hand it to me or any of the church stewards. Anyone can put forward a suggestion, even if you're not in the group – yet!

Andrew Taylor

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts.

Forgiving and forgiven or Jesus' sake.

Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE SHOE BOX APPEAL.

Thank you to everyone who gave money, gifts and shoeboxes. Over 60 boxes, from the church and pre-school, were taken to the drop off centre.

Jo Wright

JMA PRESENTATION SERVICE 17TH NOVEMBER

I am very grateful to the Revd Jan Tate for leading our JMA Presentation Service this year. Jan told the story of Noah's Ark with the congregation providing the sound effects. All went well until she said kangaroo! Matthew then read the passage from Genesis where God makes a covenant with Noah and his sons and we learn that the rainbow is a sign of God's promise of a better future.

Jan went on to talk about rainbows. The Methodist Church uses the colours of the rainbow in the JMA logo and the JMA magazine is called 'Rainbow' - a sign of God's saving love for the whole of the world.

Jan used the JMA Commissioning Service produced by the Methodist Church to commission me as JMA secretary and the young people as JMA collectors to affirm our roles.

She then presented badges and certificates to Charlotte Alder, Thea Garner, Rochelle Inbakumar, Feyi Fadina, Toju Fadina, Tunrayo Fadina and our two newest members, Paige Fordree and Iris Bennett Wright .

I was pleased to be able to share the news that The Drive had raised £676 this year for JMA. Of this amount, £270 was raised at our Beetle Drive in March, £30 was given from the proceeds of the Share-a-Skill stall, £24 was donated and the rest, over £350, was collected by our JMA members.

Thank you to everyone who has supported JMA in whatever form this year.

ADVANCE NOTICE!!

**15 MARCH 2014 – OUR 22ND ANNUAL FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE
AND TEA**

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!!

Diane Foster

THANK YOU...

In amongst all the talk of our exciting new singing group, I would like to record my personal thanks to the members of our regular choir who willingly give up many Thursday evenings to practise music for our services throughout the year. Most of them also help out in the new group. Even though numbers are small, we should appreciate just how special it is to have a regular choir like ours, and we would like to see it continue and grow again. Looking forward to the New Year, we are planning to take part once again in the annual Small Choirs' Festival on Saturday 8th February.

Andrew Taylor

CAKE MAKING

Would you like to learn or improve your cake making skills? Donna and Janet Wragg are seeking to arrange a session of cake making in the near future, but would like to know how many of you would be interested in attending.

You can either add your name to the list at the back of the church, or speak to Donna or Janet. Once they know the number of people interested they will arrange a date and time.

Roy Brunnen.

THE CHURCH LUNCH

The Church Lunch has been in existence for well over 30 years, with quite a few helpers/cooks, Barbara Foster, Sheila Woodbridge, Joan Miller and I stayed the course for a long while until at last I was the only cook left.

I could not have carried on for so long had I not had the support of Jane, Betty, Doreen and Eddie. Our numbers have gradually dwindled, but the guests continue to roll up once a month for a hot lunch with a choice of puddings to follow, rounding off the meal with cheese and biscuits, fruit, and a cup of tea.

Now the time has come for a change of direction - and in future we shall be having a tea-party in the afternoon, which will entail a lot less work but still provide an opportunity for us to get together starting on Tuesday February 18th at 2.30pm. Subsequent dates will be advertised in the Newsletter.

Catherine Sayers.

THE CHURCH LUNCH CLUB 2

Over 30 years ago a group of ladies from our church decided to start a monthly lunch club for the retired members of our congregation.

Barbara Foster, Catherine Sayers and Sheila Woodbridge were the driving force behind this new adventure and together they baked, boiled and toiled to produce mouth-watering lunches.

Through the years the team has changed and minister's wives and various members of the church congregation joined in the fun of preparing the lunches, but Barbara and Catherine were always at the helm.

It was with sadness that a few years ago Barbara Foster had to step down from the catering team, a member from the start, she was to be sorely missed.

Catherine decided that the lunches should continue and so she set to the task of solely planning the lunches.

With the help of Jayne Shields, Betty Griffiths and Doreen Larney the team continued to produce amazing meals.

A few weeks ago Catherine decided that the Christmas lunch would be the last lunch club meal to be served.

After preparing over 300 lunch club meals, I'm not surprised that Mum has decided to take it easy, but don't think that she has completely hung her apron up. The lunch club have decided to become an afternoon tea club and will now meet once a month, in the parlour for fellowship, tea and cake.

Thank you to Catherine and all the lunch club ladies for the blessing of good food, fun and fellowship over the years.

I know a lot of you will miss Mum's amazing steamed treacle sponge and her delicious apricot mousse!

I'm lucky, Mum is coming to me on Boxing day, and yes I will be asking her to bring an apricot mousse!

Jo Wright

FAMILY CAROL CONCERT
with the VALENTINE SINGERS

Seasonal words, music and refreshments for all the family
Saturday 14th December at 5pm
Barnardo's Church, Barkingside
Tickets £10 in advance (£5 students/benefit holders)
Tickets available from Andrew Taylor
or ring 020 8550 4654
or visit www.valentinesingers.org

Andrew Taylor.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS OF THE MERCIFUL

It grieves a dear old friend of mine that his much loved grand daughter was not brought up to go either to Sunday School or to church and doesn't really have a lot of time for "Godbotherers", but she's a lovely girl and very kind and caring. She has umpteen friends and an active social life and unlike so many of her contemporaries, a secure and well paid job. For some considerable time now she's spent her precious Sundays as a volunteer at the Battersea Dogs and Cats home mucking out kennels and doing menial jobs. If you ask her why she says she has so much to be grateful for that it's only right that she should try to give something back and there's so much cruelty to animals these days that she wants to help those who can't help themselves.

The Advent book i am using this year is "Real God in the Real world" by Trystan Olwin Hughes and the title of the thoughts and readings for 20th December is "Animals", in which he says that it's a sad fact that Christians throughout history have often lacked care and compassion towards the creatures with which we share the land and seas and that we must take seriously our role as God's partners as we impart His love for the whole of creation and he quotes someone who revered all life who wrote "Until we extend our circle of compassion to include every living creature we cannot enjoy world peace"- the peace on earth of which angels sang.

As we rejoice once again that the word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us let us not forget that Donkeys bear the mark of the

cross on their backs and that Jesus was born in a manger surrounded by animals who God loves just as much as he loves us and find time as we sing carols and read once again that wonderful story of old to say this little prayer by that great and good man Albert Schweitzer.

"Hear our humble prayer, O God, for our friends the animals, especially for animals that are overworked, underfed and cruelly treated, for all wistful creatures in captivity that beat their wings against bars, for any that are hunted or lost or deserted or frightened or hungry; for all that must be put to death. We entreat for them all thy mercy and pity and for those who deal with them we ask a heart of compassion and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us ourselves to be true friends to Animals and so share the blessings of the merciful. Amen.

Betty Griffiths.

BERYL EVANS

I am sure there are a number of us remember Beryl who was a regular worshiper here at The Drive until age and infirmity took over and she had to move away to Gidea Park to be with her daughter Rosemary, until her death. She passed away in hospital during the night of October 27th having been admitted following a fall. She suffered from osteoporosis, and the fall resulted in the fracture of 10 ribs. She was 92. At her funeral the following eulogy was given by Jonathan her son.

Roy Brunnen.

"Mum lived a full and active life. She was born in Ealing in 1921. She had a happy childhood and was surrounded by family especially her cousin Frank who lived next door and looking after her younger brother John who is six years younger.

After leaving school (St Agnes College) at fourteen she started work as a hairdresser, her profession for life. She met her lifelong friend Fan Francis when she started work.

In 1942 aged 21 she was called up and served on an anti aircraft battery. In 1943 she met my father at Wick aerodrome and,

although they were apart for 18 months while father was in India, they married in 1946.

They moved to Ilford in 1949 and made lifelong friends with the Loaders. In 1956 they moved to Windermere Gardens, they met the Gotts family who had recently moved to England from Belgium. My sister Rosemary arrived a year after we moved into Windermere.

With both the Loaders and Gotts family and the Sims, Dad's oldest friend they shared many happy holidays, especially the 6 week European tour with the Gotts in dad's beloved caravan.

After dad died she remained at Windermere until she was over 80 and after 47 years moved into a retirement flat for 7 years and then has spent the last 2 years living with Rosemary, Dave and Tom where she was well looked after.

We remember that throughout her life she was always helping others.

In the 1930s when money was tight and after she had started work, one of the first things she bought was a new pair of trousers for her brother after he had burnt them whilst ironing.

In Windermere, she was nominated for neighbour of the year by Mrs Thompson who lived opposite for picking her husband up every Friday from Barts hospital and returning him every Monday. She also did all Mrs Thompson's shopping.

My sister also nominated her for Mum of the year after all her help when Katie arrived.

Charlene Gotts told her that when she first arrived in England from Belgium knowing no one in a strange foreign land she was lonely and homesick. When she met my mother she was never lonely or homesick again.

She also helped out at the church Christmas dinner and helping out at various functions and on numerous occasions until the age of 81 was one of the church taxi drivers.

She adored her four grand children Katie, Emma, Tom and Ellie and was fortunate to see her four great grandchildren Jake, Belle, Mya and Cody (her little fella as she called him)

She recently told me she was very lucky to have lived the life she had and to have been looked after in later life especially the last two years. She told me we should not be sad when she went as she would be reunited with dad whose first words would probably be "What kept you?"

So today should be a celebration. I wondered what she would have said at this moment and I think to borrow the words of Stan Laurel would be appropriate if anyone is sad at my funeral, I will never talk to them again.

Jonathan Evans.

CIRCUIT EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2013.

Saturday 23rd November was a busy day in the Barking, Dagenham & Ilford circuit. Goodmayes Methodist Church held a coffee morning from 11.30am to 2pm. At lunch time I enjoyed some delicious samosas made by an ex colleague from Monega School in Newham. Amina lives near the Goodmayes church. To complete my lunch I ate a tasty ham salad roll and three cups of tea. Having bought a good supply of marmalade from Peter Butt, and Christmas cards from Eileen Brooks, I headed home on the 364 bus.

Seven Kings Methodist church was holding a Christmas Fayre from 2pm. I bought some more Christmas cards, sampled one of each of the home made cakes, then made my way to Barking via seven Kings and Ilford stations.

The 169 bus from Ilford stops a few yards from Barking Methodist church, which was holding an "open day" to celebrate the completion of the building work. The church was open from 11am to 6pm. The whole place was decorated with Methodist colours – blue, gold and white. The floral displays, ribbons and balloons looked beautiful. I helped myself to a cup of tea and biscuit. Joanna then gave me a personal conducted tour of the premises. I noted that the brand new prayer chapel on the third floor looks directly over the street (London Road) and the bus station. One cannot forget the world outside. I also met Revd. Michael Moon and his family. Unfortunately the grand opening service took place on Sunday 24th coinciding with most regular BDI morning services. Most of us were unable to attend. I look forward to the next circuit service at Barking.....

Susan Ruckes

MULTI-FAITH WALK OF PEACE.

The Walk began at 1pm at the Buddhist Temple in Balfour Road. Luckily there was a buffet for those coming straight from a church service, for instance. We left more or less on time and walked to the Islamic Mosque in Albert Road. We were given a most interesting tour seeing much more than on previous visits.

The next venue, St Albans church, was almost next door (The RFF map was misleading and put the church near Sunnyside Road.) Father Stuart gave a talk about Christian tradition. A presentation was also given by the Jewish community as the Coventry Road Synagogue has now closed.

We raced to the VHP Hindu Temple as the rain started to fall. There was a cloudburst so we stayed longer than intended. Tea and biscuits were on hand.

When the rain had eased, we treaded carefully around puddles towards the Guru Nanak Satsang Sabba Gurdwara in the High Road. At each place of worship we were invited to join in a prayer for peace from our order of service. Those of us who reached the Gurdwara had the chance to enjoy an excellent vegetarian meal.

Having visited many different places of worship on various occasions, I can assure you that they all make an excellent cup of tea.....

Susan Ruckes.

Christmas Services

Sun 22nd	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
	6.30pm	Carol Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue 24th	12 Noon	Songs and stories around the Christmas Tree.
Wed 25th	10.45am	Christmas Morning Service Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate

PSALM 123
A PRAYER FOR MERCY

Lord, I look up to you,
Up to Heaven, where you rule,
As a servant depends on his master,
As a maid depends on her mistress,
So we will keep looking to you, O Lord our God
Until you have mercy on us.
Be merciful to us, Lord, be merciful:
We have been treated with so much contempt.
We have been mocked too long by the rich
and scorned by proud oppressors

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.

DECEMBER DIARY

Sun	1st	11.15am	Morning Advent Service With Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue	3 rd	8.00pm	Advent Study at The Drive A Christian response to conflict - Colombia. Isaiah 11 v1-10 Led by Revd. Jonathan Law
Thu	5 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun	8th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Mon	9 th	8.00pm	Church fellowship (see separate notice)
Tue	10 th	10.00am	Holy Communion
		8.00pm	Advent Study at The Drive A Christian response to conflict Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territory. Isaiah 35 v 1-10 Led by Revd. Marie Whitcome
Thu	12 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri	13 th	10.00am	Morning coffee in the gardeners cafe Valentines Mansion. Pre-School term ends
Sun	15th	11.15am	Morning Service – Action for Children and Nativity/ Toy service led by The Junior Church.
Tue	17 th	1.00pm	Christmas Lunch in the hall.
		8.00pm	Advent Study at The Drive A Christian response to conflict Iraq. Isaiah 7 v 10-16. Led by Revd. Jonathan Law
Thu	19 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun	22nd	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
		6.30pm	Carol Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate

Tue 24th	12 Noon	Songs and stories around the Christmas Tree.
Wed 25th	10.45am	Christmas Morning Service Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate

PEASE NOTE THE TIMES OF THESE LAST TWO SERVICES

Sun 29th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Jan Tate.
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JANUARY DIARY

Sun 5th	11.15am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Tue 7 th		Pre School Term starts.
Thu 9 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 12th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Wed 15 th	8.00pm	Property Committee Meeting
Thu 16 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri 17 th	10.00am	Coffee in the gardeners cafe Valentines Mansion
Sun 19th	11.15am	Morning Service for Christian Unity Led by members of the congregation.
Thu 23 rd	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun 26th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Thu 30 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice