

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

NEWSLETTER

April 2014



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

FROM REVD. BERNARDINO MANDLATE.

Friends

It is amazing how time runs fast. It's either because we are grown ups and think of when time was slower, the pace of life was slower and these days everything is fast. By return of mail today has a completely different meaning from the old days when mail was snail mail as we call it now. We are forever adjusting to the pace of life, struggling to catch up with others. And time flies.

The church is in the same boat too, trying to make sense of modernity and the speed of life. Sunday school is no longer what used to be when we were growing up. Children these days know more than we knew at their age. I admire the endeavour and commitment our Sunday school teachers have, keeping up with the children all the time. I pray that their commitment will carry them on as far as God will help them to keep up with the pace of the children and their hunger for knowledge.

We have been called to continue with the teachings of Jesus. Very often the church spends too much time with the teachings of the church rather than the teachings of Jesus. In some cases, the teachings of the church are an attempt to interpret in practise, the teachings of Jesus. But in many cases the teaching of the church takes precedence to the teachings of Jesus.

How do we go back to basics, back to the teachings of Jesus?! It has proved difficult for many churches to go back to basics, especially with the changing dynamics of the world and that of the church itself. It has been difficult for our churches to concentrate on the teachings of Jesus, because we are so busy with the busyness of the church. John Wesley, in his wisdom, instituted the class meetings which helped many to know the teachings of Jesus, because they had space and time to learn, teach and discuss their understanding of what Jesus taught and what He expects from each of us.

We are followers of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We need/must take time to read the Gospels and try to understand what is it that Jesus taught and how does He expects us to pass on the teachings, and how can we be truthful to Jesus despite our misgivings. We are called to follow Christ and to teach about Jesus.

Take time this Lent to ponder and reflect on your understanding of the gospels and your expectations on your personal relationship with God through what the humanity of Jesus May mean to you.

God's blessing to each and everyone of you.

Dino

EASTER EGG HUNT

Come and join the junior church at the annual Easter egg hunt. Saturday 19th April 2014 from 10.30am to 12.30am. Hot cross buns and refreshments will be available, and all are welcome.

Jo Wright.

THE SCOUT GROUP PLANT SALE

Saturday 10th May 2014 – 10am to 1pm

Please put the date in your diary – we need your support.

Appeal to gardeners – if you are dividing your plants we would welcome any spare plants.

You don't need any plants – well please join us anyway for a social cup of tea or coffee and support the Cake Stall. Maggie will be waiting to serve you.

AN INVITATION

I want to thank you for all the cards and good wishes I received on 2nd March when I joined the octogenarian club. (I think the celebration was just as much for the extra 25p – less tax - per week that I get added to my State Pension!)

I am proposing to hold a gathering on Saturday 24th May in the Church Parlour to which all members of the congregation, together with some friends and neighbours, are invited. In order to help with the catering, would you please let me know by the 4th May if you will be coming. The event is due to start at 3.00 p.m. for about 2 hours.

Please do not go getting me any presents. It is your presence I require, not your presents.

Brian Grinham

WORK MORNINGS

This year's work mornings are planned for the following dates.

Saturday 29th March 2014

Saturday 10th May 2014

Saturday 20th September 2014

As always, there are plenty of cleaning, gardening and minor repair jobs that will need to be done, so all help will be greatly appreciated. We meet at 10.00am and try to finish for 12.30pm. tea and coffee served at 11.00am.

Jeremy.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Because of the Lenten services we share with St. Andrew's Cranbrook Baptist and Ilford Methodist Churches, there were no meetings of The Church Fellowship in March and April.

Our Church Fellowship meetings begin again on Tuesday May 6th when our organist, Andrew Taylor will guide us through another evening of Hand Bell Ringing. As previously this will be a very enjoyable evening. Do come along at 8 pm. and relax. Refreshments are served after the meeting.

Frank Sayers

BEETLES

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea on Saturday 15th 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!

Following on from her win last year as an under-16 player, Georgina Downes took the prize this year in the adult category. The under-16 winner this year was Shaquon 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, a splendid record amount of £322 was raised for JMA funds.

Diane Foster

The **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** this year was an interesting and informative meeting about Egypt. It was held at our church and was well attended.

The Mayor and her Mayoress, MP Mr. Mike Gapes, as well as various members of the local clergy were with us. The collection taken for the work of WWDP organisation amounted to £500 plus.

The talk was given by a young New Zealander who lives and works in Cairo.

Thanks are due to our Chair/Leader Mrs. Janet Crossland, and all who took part, including an Ancient Egyptian woman who appeared in Egyptian dress(!)

We must thank Brian Taylor who made sure all our requirements were met and also thanks to Jo, Nick and Elsie who kept the refreshments coming afterwards. A great afternoon!

Catherine Sayers

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 2

This annual event was held on 7th March 2014 here at The Drive Methodist Church. About 150 people were in attendance, including The Mayor and Mayoress of Redbridge, MP Mike Gapes (Ilford South), several Redbridge Councillors, Saira and Jacquie from Redbridge Faith Forum, and members from local churches which included a number from our Church.

The organist was Eric Doig, who had already played at another service in the morning. In spite of a few unfamiliar hymns, the singing was magnificent.

Following the service Catherine, Jo and Nick served endless cups of tea. The queue of people would have frightened some people, but not these experienced caterers! They did a gallant job.

In the evening I went to the same service at St Paul's Church, Barley Lane. This was well attended and I recognised someone else who had been at The Drive in the afternoon.

The preacher took as her subject, "The woman at the well" John 4 verses 4 - 26, 28 - 30, and 39. Far from criticising the woman, it seems that Jesus was encouraging her because she had probably had a difficult life. She may have been the first missionary.

Susan Ruckes.

GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

Barbara Foster's cousin Sister Felicity Young has new neighbours. The congregation at the Synagogue in Coventry Road was unable to continue in such a large building and moved last autumn to Beehive Lane. That was bad news as there is now no Synagogue near Ilford town centre.

The good news is that the Seventh day Adventists have moved from their church in Ilford Lane to Coventry Road. The grand opening service took place on Saturday 22nd March.

Mike Gapes MP expressed concern about the building they had left in Ilford Lane. Luckily another group of Seventh day Adventists now worship there.

The deputy Mayor, Tania Solomon, used to worship at Coventry Road Synagogue. Mrs Solomon said that having been there many times, it was the first time she had sat next to her husband. Worship now continues in the building on Saturday mornings, which is more good news.

Susan Ruckes.

A BIG THANK YOU

I really do think that you all deserve a big thank you for making our church such a friendly place, willing to welcome all newcomers into our "family". I try to speak to as many people as I can on a Sunday morning, especially anyone who I believe is a visitor or new member of our congregation. I do remember the days when a visitor to any church would not be spoken to or welcomed. You have all enabled us to change that, and no one now gets ignored in any way, and most of you willingly approach new people and over a cup of tea after the service chat away and welcome them into our church. Ten minutes after a service the church used to be empty, but now there are still conversations going on, sometimes an hour later.

God welcomes all into his house, and I believe he is in our church each Sunday to be with us all.

Roy Brunnen.

REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM

Caring for all our neighbours was the subject of the 8th annual women's conference and public forum. This took place at the Vine Church on Wednesday 12th March.

Although arranged by women, the meeting was open to everyone, including men. There were two excellent speakers with practical experience and ability to communicate.

Alli Anthony talked about Alzheimer's. She gave details of the four main types of dementia. Alli emphasised the importance of early diagnosis, giving us advice on symptoms to look out for. Monica Abdala talked of her work as a street pastor. Monica and her colleagues spoke about the prostitutes they meet in the Ilford area.

The evening left me with admiration for all these women who are determined to make a difference in Ilford and beyond.

After the forum there was a chance to catch up with news of friends and acquaintances. The vegetarian refreshments were varied and excellent.

Susan Ruckles.

SECOND CLASS ANGELS

When I was about eight years old I ran a couple of errands for an elderly housebound neighbour and she told my mother that I was a little angel. That had mum falling about laughing, but – noticing that her sensitive little flower's lips were trembling a bit (non too gently) and said "well maybe a Second Class one then!".

Nowadays we hear an awful lot about the rotten things people do to each other and first class Angels seem to be rather thin on the ground, but when I look back over the years (and there are quite a few years to look back over now!) I'm astonished at the number of times I've had occasion to be grateful to SECOND CLASS Angels and they've turned up in all sorts of disguises – the air raid wardens who dug me out of the ruins of my blitzed home during the war, friends, teachers, doctors, nurses, neighbours, work colleagues, clergymen, lay preachers fellow church members, funeral directors, postmen, waitresses, shop assistants, bus drivers, and quite a few other (often unlikely) things and on one occasion, they masqueraded as a concerned passer by who scraped me up off the pavement after I'd had an argument with a dodgy paving stone. There's been a pint

sized one too with four paws and a waggy tail who saw off a burglar and who, I believe may have taken a sizeable chunk out of him.

So I say a great big thank you to God for sending me so many second class Angels who have helped, guided, encouraged, comforted and done all sorts of nice kind things throughout the whole of my life and if it's all right with the Archangel Gabriel and all those other first classes who warbled away merrily to the startled shepherds as they watched over their flocks by night, I think I'll just keep on trying to do my poor best to be one of the second class variety myself, even though the wobbly wings are decidedly motheaten and an entire vat of brasso would'nt raise even the dimmest shine on the somewhat battered old halo.

Betty Griffiths.

NEW ESSEX CHOIR

On Saturday 12th April the choir will be joined by the Thorn Quartet to give a concert in the church.

The programme will include Vivaldi – Gloria, Haydn – Little Organ Mass and Parry – Blest pair of Sirens.

Tickets price £10 (£10) from Brian Taylor or on the door.

Brian Taylor

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.



APRIL DIARY.

Tue 1 st	8.00pm	Lent Study
Fri 4 th		Pre School term ends
Sat 5 th	10.00am	Share a skill in the Church Parlour
Sun 6th	11.15am	Morning Service for Passion Sunday Followed by Annual Church Meeting And lunch.
Tue 8 th	8.00pm	Lent Study
Fri 11 th	10.00am	Church coffee morning at Gardeners cafe, Valentines Mansion
Sat 12 th		Concert by the New Essex Choir In the Church
Sun 13th	11.15am	Morning Service for Palm Sunday
Tue 15 th	2.30pm	Church tea party in the Church Parlour
Thu 17th	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Passover supper In the Church hall.
Fri 18th	10.00am	Good Friday Meditation
	4.00pm	Rehearsal for Come and Sing Messiah
	7.30pm	Come and Sing Messiah performance
Sat 19 th	10.00am	Easter egg hunt and entertainment for children.
Sun 20th	11.00am	Dressing the cross (please bring flowers)
	11.15am	Easter Day Service
22 nd Tue		Pre School term starts
Sun 27th	11.15am	Morning Service
Tue 29 th	8.00pm	Pastoral committee meeting

THE DRIVE SCOUT & GUIDE GROUP

Plant Sale



The Drive Methodist Church

Saturday 10th May 2014

10am to 1pm

Refreshments and Cake Stall

Come early for the best selection