

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

NEWSLETTER

November 2014



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

From Revd Bernardino Mandlate

Friends

We've just gone through One World Week. This is a week every October when we reflect on the global village, as our world has become to be known.

On this occasion, the world is fighting a pressing battle with a virus known as Ebola. It is a killer disease that is creating grief and sorrow in some countries of West Africa. It is very difficult to treat, difficult to stop and very contagious. Even health professionals find themselves on the receiving end of this virus, with all the precautions they take to protect themselves. In this era of global travel, we all need to be on the lookout. I pray to God for a cure to be found soon enough, and for a working vaccine to be found and made available as soon as possible, so that lives may be saved.

We also see the spread of wars and conflicts around the world. Greed plays a major part. Extremisms of all sorts also play a role. The proliferation of guns in our cities and towns are part of the problem. I pray to God that people may have a change of heart and use their energies towards building better communities everywhere. We have enough refugees in the world already. Let us all participate in actions that may lead to stable and self sufficient communities and societies.

Let us pray for wisdom, scientific and technological knowledge that will help produce food for everyone and not just a few. Let us pray for actions that will help improve our natural environment. Let us plant trees where possible to help deal with climate change. We can all make small contributions towards an improved environment for us and future generations. The Gospel of love that we proclaim also means caring for the environment, because in doing so, we care for God's people too.

I invite everyone who reads this little piece to think of what contribution we can make collectively but more especially as individuals, that make our planet and our world a better place to live in for every single human being and the rest of God's creation.

May the Lord bless you as you do so.

Dino

Happy Birthday

I am happy to wish those I know about a happy birthday. If you are willing to have your birthday celebrated in this newsletter please let me know when it is.

Roy Brunnen.

Rochelle says "Happy Birthday Mummy" for the 2nd November.

Thank you all

Dear Friends, Thank you all so much for your lovely get well cards, flowers, and prayers. I am getting a little stronger each day. Now waiting to get a date for my operation, then I will be out and about and living life again.

Jane Shields.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to all who supported us on Saturday 27th September. Coffee, Cakes, Bric-a-brac and new gifts were sold, and a total of £730.00 was raised. Jeff and I handed this money to the oncology department of the Macmillan Centre at University College Hospital London, and we will be contacted later when they decide how the funds raised will be used.

Many thanks once again.

Jeff & Janet Wragg.

MUSIC MATTERS

So the clocks have gone back and the evenings are dark again... before you know it the carols will be piped into every shopping centre in the land and this year's John Lewis advert will be on TV. Yes, it's Christmas! But not quite yet...

Before our Carol Service on Sunday 21st December, the Choir and the Chorale will be heard in services during November, in particular an "own arrangement" service on the 2nd, Remembrance Sunday on the 9th, the JMA Service on the 16th and Advent Sunday on the 30th. It is a busy time of year for our church musicians!

Anyone is welcome to join either of our singing groups – the Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in the Church Parlour, and the Chorale, a more informal group, practises occasionally after church on Sunday mornings. Details of Chorale practices are on a leaflet which is available at the church door.

AND ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SING...

VALENTINE SINGERS
are looking for members for a
COMMUNITY CHORUS for CHRISTMAS

The Valentine Singers' Christmas concert on Saturday 20th December will include contributions from our Community Chorus, which is open to anyone who wants to be involved. If you've ever watched *The Choir* on TV and thought, "I'd like to do something like that!", now is your chance!

The commitment is five Friday evening practices from 21st November, at a cost of only £5 for the first session, then £20 for the rest of the project. The sessions will be led by an experienced choral tutor and it all promises to be great fun – you will know some of the tunes already!

For more details, ask Andrew Taylor, visit the website www.valentinesingers.org or ring 01277 651970. Leaflets about this are available at the church door – tell your friends as well!

Andrew Taylor

Christmas shoe box appeal – Samaritans Purse

Thank you to everyone who has already donated money, bought various items and filled shoe boxes.

There is still time to take part. The Shoe boxes and instructions on how to fill them are on the table at the back of the church.

The last date to hand them in at church is Sunday 9th November. If you miss that date then you can take the shoe box to Shoe zone in Ilford High Road up until 18th November. They are a collection centre for the Samaritans purse this year.

To find out more information you can go to the Samaritans Purse website (just search Samaritans purse).

Thanks again

Jo Wright

Church Fellowship

On Tuesday November 11 we hope to hold a Bible Study and discussion evening about our Christian beliefs based on material published in one of the York Courses. This involves listening to 15 minute recorded tape and then there is a group of questions for discussion. Speakers on the tape include Archbishop Justin Welby, Sister Wendy Beckett, and David Suchet.

On Tuesday December 8th Jo Wright will present a Christmas programme.

All meetings begin at 8.00pm.

Do come along. Refreshments are served afterwards

Frank Sayers.

REMINDER!

SLIDES EVENING

IN SUPPORT OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY TO JOIN US ON

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER AT 7.30 PM

In the church parlour

Refreshments available including cold buffet

Entrance free – donations welcome.

Diane & Jeremy Foster

Traidcraft

It has been very interesting and quite a bit of fun, running our Traidcraft stall for the past few years, but I am now looking for someone to take it over. I am preparing to study next year and already have quite a few jobs to do in church, so although it's not time consuming, it is getting a bit much for me.

Traidcraft was started by Christians and encourages us all to buy from companies that will give the producers and growers a fair price; to stand up for fair trade. You can read the leaflets on the stall for more information about what your donations do in the producers communities, or check out the website.

When I took over, Philippa Normanton had previously run the stall for many years and although a lot of chocolate is sold, we do purchase items that are used at church each week, as well as eggs for our Easter egg hunt!

If you're interested or want to ask any questions, I'm happy to have a chat.

Michelle Garner.

Commemorative Planting.

At the Church Council we discussed the situation with regard to commemorative planting in the church grounds. The past development of our site which included the garden and paved area between the church and hall reduced the space available for planting of commemorative trees and bushes. More recently, the pre – school has developed an outdoor play area taking part of the green space along the side of the church.

Therefore it is with some regret, but at the same time due to our success with the running of the site, that it is felt we should not accept any further offers of commemorative plants or trees, due to not being able to accommodate these in a meaningful and respectful way.

Roy Brunnen.

Church Library

For some time the library at the back of the church has not been cared for, and therefore not been used to the extent we would wish. Following an appeal at the church council in October, Coreen Smith has offered to take the task on, and will be reviewing the current stock, and considering whether any changes need to be made. If however you have any suitable books you are prepared to donate, please talk to Coreen.

Roy Brunnen.

Betty's Soul Wounding

Every year I always buy advent calendars for various small friends from the Salvation Army Christmas catalogue and in this year's edition I just happened to notice an advertisement for a newly published booklet written by Major Catherine Wyles about helping older Christians to realise God's plan for their lives and at the very last minute I added it to my order.

Although not a "wrinkle" herself, Major Catherine understands so well the problems which those suffering from "toomanybirthdaysitis" often have to contend with and the heading of one of the chapters hit me right between the eyes "Soul wounding". It was a term I had never heard of before and I think it's absolutely brilliant for I am sure that there are very few of those of us who are past our four score years and ten who whether we realise it or not aren't victims of Soul wounding that may have lain buried deep for years but which surfaces as we grow older.

Of course we have always known that God forgives our sins, but if we're honest- we often find it very difficult to forgive others or come to that ourselves, for things that have happened in the past which have left unseen scars on our hearts, minds and soul.

Major Catherine says that we may not always realise the power that the past can hold over us and if we are to be at peace within ourselves soul wounding needs to be recognised so that the process of healing can begin for – once acknowledged – these wounds can be healed by the grace of God.

Unexpectedly that struck a chord deep within me and I can't help thinking that there could be quite a few other "oldies" like me who need to face up to their "Soul wounding" and as my mother would say "Get it sorted"

Betty Griffiths.

Redbridge cold weather centre.

The Salvation Army are again hosting a night shelter in their Clements Road premises. They would welcome offers of help to cover the evening and night shifts. If any of you would like to offer to help, or want more information please contact Candice.steen@salvationarmy.org.uk or telephone 020 8478 2961.

Roy Brunnen.

Redbridge Voluntary Care

A free and confidential service

If you yourself are in difficulty at any time, or if you know someone in difficulty in this area, and you have their permission, contact us by phoning 020 8514 0980. The duty care officer will endeavour to find a volunteer able to meet the need.

Christmas Concert

A babe is born – William Mathias

Christmas Day – Gustav Holst

For him all stars have shone – Bob Chilcott

The crown of roses – Tchaikovsky

O Holy Night – Adolphe Adam arr Rutter

This year the New Essex Choir invites you to their traditional Christmas Concert, an evening of carols and songs both old and more recent with some regular favourites when the audience can join in with the choir. There will be seasonal refreshments. Put aside the shopping and wrapping for an evening in which to enjoy the finer sounds of Christmas.

Saturday 13th December 2014. 7.30pm
The Drive Methodist Church

The Drive Methodist Church has level access and is at the junction of The Drive and Eastern Avenue (A12) Ilford near Redbridge Station. Bus routes 66, 145 and 366 pass by. There is a small car park and unrestricted parking in local roads. The postcode is IG1 3PP.

Tickets price £10 (£8 concessions) under 14 free available from www.newessexchoral.org.uk (WeGotTickets) or at the door.

VALENTINE SINGERS

present

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE

Beautiful, witty and colourful poetry
in varied and delightful musical settings
to suit all tastes for voices and piano.

**Sunday 16th November at 5pm (note the early start time!)
Gantshill Methodist Church**

£12 (£7 students/benefit holders)
(buy in advance - £2 supplement on the door!)

visit our website www.valentinesingers.org
or see Andrew Taylor

Dates for your diary

Saturday 13th December - Junior church Nativity rehearsal,
Christmas party and talent show **11.00am – 1.30pm.**

Sunday 14th December – Nativity and Toy service. Please be at
church by 10.45am.

**THY WORD
IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET,
AND A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH
Psalm 119 verse 105.**

This Month's Diary.

Sat 1 st	10.00am	Share a Skill in the church parlour.
Sun 2nd	11.15am	Morning Service led by Church Members
Mon 3 rd		Pre-School term starts.
Sat 8 th	10.00am	Share-a-skill in the church parlour
Sun 9th	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday Service with two minutes silence at 11.00am led by Frank Sayers and Revd Bernardino Mandlate.
Tue 11 th	10.00am	Morning Communion
	8.00pm	Church Fellowship meeting
Fri 14 th	10.00am	Coffee in the park. At Gardeners Cafe, Valentines Mansion.
Sat 15 th	10.00am	Share a Skill in the church parlour.
Sun 16th	11.15am	Morning Service with Junior Mission for all annual Service & Presentation led by Revd. Jan Tate.
Tue 18 th	2.30pm	Monthly Tea Party in the Church Parlour.
Sat 22 nd	10.00am	Share-a-skill in the church parlour
Sun 23rd	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Revd Jordan.
Sat 29 th	7.30pm	Church Annual Slide Evening.
Sun 30th	11.15am	Advent Sunday. Morning Service led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate.