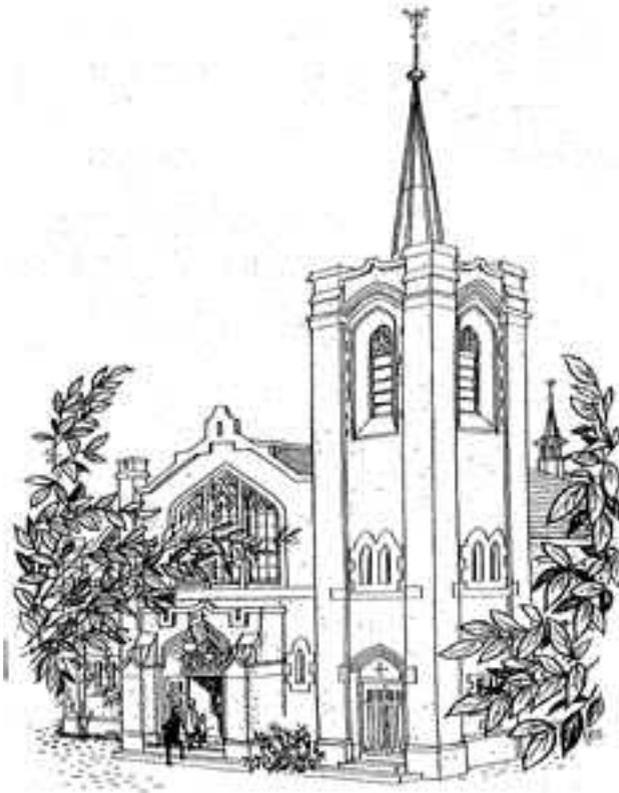


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

February 2015



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

A New Year message from Rev. Bernardino Mandlate.

Friends

I hope the New Year has been good for you thus far. Time flies and with that we get wiser and older, and more vulnerable to virus that fly by. I pray to God that he will continue to protect us from those viruse

The new year comes with its challenges. We make commitments to be better in the new year, we make commitments to be smarter, we make commitments to be in control of our environment and of that which matters for our lives.

But bad habits die hard. We continue to be the same ones, and do the same stuff we've always done. Routines don't change much unless our bodies decide to slow us down, in which case we have no choice but to slow down.

I want to encourage every one of you, myself included, to try and as active as we can in our daily lives, not to surrender to opportunist illnesses that can slow us down, especially this winter where there is a flu bug going round. May the caring God give you the energy to stay strong.

The gospel readings the last few weeks have been about Jesus' call to his first followers. The invitation to follow him is irresistible even for those first disciples who knew very little or nothing about Jesus. Yet, something compelled them to drop whatever they were doing and follow Him. We read the gospels today from a vantage point of knowing what happened afterwards. The disciples, as they responded and reacted to the call to follow, did not have the knowledge we have today. They responded and acted in trust of the caller. There was a mission to be done. At the time, Jesus mission statement, if we can call it that, was to make them 'fishers of man'.

The call continues today for us as Christians, to follow, to be active in our Christian life and be true witnesses of the Kingdom of God. We are all expected to respond to that call with actions, however

small they may be. Every little bit helps the spread of the Kingdom of God. Do your bit.

May the Lord God continue to bless you.

Dino

Family News

During the past Month or two a number of our congregation have suffered from the rather aggressive bug which appears to be doing the rounds. This has also included Bernardino, but he appeared to get over it rather quicker than some of us, and happily is now recovered.

Those who have not been well and are suffering from more serious things are:

Jeff Wragg has now finished his intensive treatment at University college Hospital, and is now being monitored. I understand he has to have a special diet. (Yuk)

Janet Wragg is suffering from a very painful back and not able to get around much, but hopefully that will improve over time.

Jane Shields had an operation during January, and following further tests and consultation at Queens Hospital is awaiting more tests and an operation at the London Hospital.

Peter Sharp has now had his operation at St Georges Hospital Tooting, and following his recovery in Hospital will be returning home soon. He hopes to be home either the last week of January or first week of February.

My plea therefore is that you all try to keep fit and well.

On another matter,

I have just received information the from September this year, as Stephen Pool moves on to pastures new, his position as circuit superintendant minister will be taken over by Revd. Ermal Kirby.

The circuit office has requested the following statement be conveyed to the church family.

Roy Brunnen.

Dear All,

Following the latest round of the stationing process, I have some good news that can be shared with our congregations. Revd. Ermal Kirby has been invited and agreed to be the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford circuit Superintendant. Pastoral responsibility for Barking and Ilford churches will be shared between Ermal and his wife, Jenni Sweet, who will be an active supernumerary. They will be taking up the appointment in January 2016 as Ermal's current post in South Africa does not end until December 2015. Revd. Nigel Cowgill, the new chair of the district will act as Superintendent until January.

There are various details still to be worked out but the circuit invitation committee is pleased with the outcome and considers this to be a very positive appointment.

Please continue to pray for the Ministers who will be joining our circuit and those who will be leaving.

God bless you all.

Steve.

Dorothy Carter

Many years ago a group of young ladies took over the cleaning of the church and enjoyed their weekly meetings armed with mops, duster and brooms. Gradually the numbers dwindled as friends moved away or took on other responsibilities until just Dorothy was left and now she has had to hang up her Marigolds so that all her time can be devoted to caring for her husband Norman, with the help of her son Stephen and carers.

Dorothy enjoyed the time she spent in the church and took great pride for her work over more than twenty years, which has been greatly appreciated.

The Nativity 2014

I would like to thank all the young people at The Drive for yet another wonderful Nativity. We are so lucky to have such a talented bunch!

Thank you to Andrew Taylor who very kindly came to the Nativity rehearsal, to help us with our singing, even though it was his first Saturday off in months!!

The young people's talents were also seen at the Junior Church Christmas party where we had singing and lots of joke telling!

All of this couldn't take place without the support of parents and carers and of course all the people in the Junior church team, so thank you to them as well.

Jo Wright

Christmas.

This year we enjoyed a very inspiring celebration of the coming of Jesus Christ.

Jo Wright and her Junior Church staff organised a memorable production of the Christmas story which was told by the Junior Church. The dress and performance was a credit to our young people.

We salute all those involved.

The Carol concert masterminded by Andrew Taylor was in my opinion the most successful for a number of years. In fact I did hear comment which claimed it was of Cathedral standard.

Theodora Garner set the service in motion by singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City unaccompanied at the back of the candle lit church. This was followed by the choir processing down

the church isle to take their place in the choir stalls. The choir was supported by our newly formed Chorale choir, who take part in a number of our services.

We had what I guess was around fifty people join us for the service which was a mixture of carols and readings which were read by members of our church.

This was followed by the traditional mince pies and tea or coffee in the church parlour.

Christmas morning our service was started at 10.45am as has been our meeting time on this day. We had a congregation of around fifty to sixty worshipers as we met to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We prayed, sang, opened our presents, and had time during the service to meet and welcome each other. I hope there was no person who left without meeting and talking with other worshipers.

We must now prepare for the next major event in the Christian calendar which is the period of Lent and Easter.

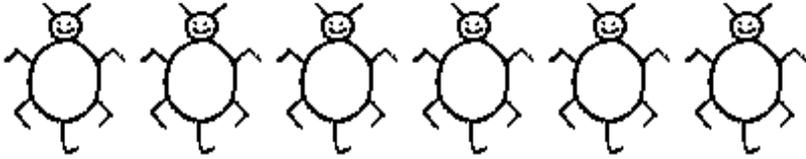
Roy Brunnen

Lent Arrangements

Ash Wednesday, 18th February, will be hosted by us at The Drive starting at 8pm.

Weekly Lent sessions, "Seeing Change" based on the old testament book of Nehemiah, will be held at St Andrews Church, on Tuesdays commencing on 24th February at 8pm.

Maundy Thursday Service will be hosted by The Cranbrook Baptist Church, also starting at 8pm.



Our annual **JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE** and **TEA (and raffle)**
will be held on:

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2015
2.30 pm for 3 pm START
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL
Adult: £5; Children (under 16): £2.50

All profits go to JMA (Junior Mission for All)
raising funds for projects both at home and abroad.
Come along and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship, food and fun!

***Tickets are available from me now
so please tell all your family and friends.***

With thanks
Diane Foster



Easter 2015

A date for your diary.

Our annual Junior Church Easter Egg Hunt and craft morning will
take place on Saturday 4th April.
Everyone is welcome.

Jo Wright

Church Work Mornings

The property committee have organised Saturday work mornings for the following dates.

21st February

16th May

10th October

These work mornings are an essential part of the maintenance of our church and enable us to keep the premises clean, tidy and in good order for every one. As usual we will start at 10am with coffee at 11.30 and finish around lunchtime.

Any assistance you can offer will be much appreciated.

Jeremy Foster.

LOOKING BACK...

A huge thank you is due to all the members of our choir for their commitment to music-making at The Drive. We meet together on nearly 30 Thursday evenings each year, which makes us the most frequent weekday meeting in our church. Despite our small numbers, there are very few Sundays when we do not have enough people to make a choir for the morning service.

Christmas is the culmination of all our efforts throughout the year. This year's Carol Service went very well and was very well received by the congregation. The singers in the Drive Chorale also greatly contributed to the success of the service. We hope that everyone who was there felt the true spirit of the Christmas story as it was told once again in words and music, as we did, and that it provided a welcome break from the hustle and bustle that precedes the big day!

LOOKING FORWARD...

Now the new year has come, the first thing we turn our attention to is the Small Choirs' Festival, which we have been attending for some years now. This year, it is once again being held at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8EP on Valentine's Day (!) Saturday 14th February. The service begins at 5pm and anyone is welcome to attend, to hear the massed choirs singing and to join in the congregational hymns. Anyone planning

to come to the service should be aware that Tottenham Court Road station is currently closed to Central Line trains, so the nearest Central Line station is Holborn.

Then soon, Lent and Easter will be upon us, and the whole cycle comes round again...

SINGING THE FAITH – THE THIRD YEAR TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS WE HAVE SUNG!

We first used the new Methodist hymnal *Singing the Faith* on Sunday 15th January 2012. Since then I have kept a note of the hymns and songs used (from now on, I'll just refer to them as "songs"), and for those of you interested in statistics, here is a summary of those we used in 2014.

Not included in these figures are the 13 songs chosen by preachers that are not in *StF*, and any songs the choir has sung alone.

Over the year we sang 184 different songs from *StF*, which is 12 more than were used in 2013. These were the most frequently used songs:

6 times	94	<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done!</i>
5 times	59	<i>Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus Shine)</i>
	332	<i>Lord, I lift your name on high</i>
4 times	35	<i>The trumpets sound, the angels sing (the feast is ready to begin)</i>
	55	<i>Immortal, invisible, God only wise</i>
	91	<i>The God of Abraham praise</i>
	202	<i>Hark! the herald-angels sing</i>
	212	<i>O come, all ye faithful</i>
	335	<i>Rejoice, the Lord is King!</i>
	556	<i>Just as I am, without one plea</i>
	611	<i>Brother, sister, let me serve you</i>

A further 12 songs were chosen 3 times, 37 twice and the remaining 124 just once.

Of the total 184 songs used, 25 were completely new to us.

94 *To God be the glory* has retained its top slot from last year. It is the only song to appear in the most frequently used list in all the three years we have been using *StF*. The other songs which appeared in the same list in 2013 are 35 *The trumpets sound*, 91 *The God of Abraham praise* and 611 *Brother, sister, let me serve you*.

Last year, I wondered if we would have sung half the book by the end of 2014. The answer is not yet! Taking the three years we have been using *StF* overall, we have now used 321 of the 790 songs available (not including the Canticles and Psalms section) which is two-fifths of the book covered.

Still by far the most used song in those three years is 94 *To God be the glory*, having now been used 18 times. The next two songs in the overall list – 20 *Be still, for the presence of the Lord* and 611 *Brother, sister, let me serve you* – have only been used 12 times in three years, so they have a lot of catching up to do!

Andrew Taylor

St. George's Church, Woodford Avenue, Gants Hill
presents a
Piano and Organ Recital
by Carl Bahoshy
in aid of Iraqi Christians in Need

Saturday 7th February 2015 at 7:30pm
Admission free

Refreshments will be served after the concert,
and any voluntary donations collected will be sent, via ICIN,
to local church leaders in Iraq, to help fund medical care,
education and the support of widows, orphans and others in need
as a result of the continuing humanitarian crisis in the area.

Scout Group News

After more than 15 years as our Beaver Scout Leader, Diane Foster has decided the time has come to hand over the reins. We are extremely grateful to Diane for her work and enthusiasm in running

the Beaver section for so long, providing an excellent programme for the boys every week.

We are delighted to welcome Bamini Mahilrajan to the Group as our new Beaver Leader. Bamini has a young son in the Beavers and has been helping Diane for some time so it's good to know that the immediate future of the Beaver Colony is secure.

Mike Seviour

Any old Material

Lavender bags as my new year's resolution is to be more organised. Could I please make the following request? Could you please let me have any unwanted bits of material or ribbon for me to use for my lavender bags this year. Any contributions (however small) means more profit going to Anne's charity "Raisin Hope".

Many thanks.

Ruth Joyce

Thank you for the music!

How surprised Felix Mendelssohn would be to find that his tune (adapted) is such an important part of a 21st century Christmas.

A request to sort through music came from another church in the circuit. The cupboard space was needed. Andrew Taylor cast his expert eye over the contents and the job was done in just over an hour.

Did you burst into song when you saw the above title? Amongst the 50 year old dust in that church music cupboard were some treasures, giving an indication of the talented singers and musicians of the past.

*All on an April evening.
The heavens are telling.
How lovely are thy dwellings
O for the wings of a dove*

Ah! Mendelssohn again. Now he was familiar with the Victorian equivalent of a dusty cupboard. He revived J. S. Bach's choral works which hadn't been performed for years.

How lucky we are to have Frank Sayers and Andrew at The Drive. We are lucky to have a minister who appreciates and encourages the musical tradition here.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said elsewhere.

On BBC radio 2, the "Choristers of the year final was moved from Sunday evening to 10pm on a Thursday evening. The names of the winners were not given on radio 2 were not given on radio 2 news bulletins. Imagine that on "Strictly Come Dancing"! or the FA cup!

"Sunday half hour" disappeared from radio 2 some time ago.

"Songs of Praise" is being re-vamped so regular viewers of the BBC1/BBC2 programme can guess what will happen.

"Good morning Sunday" seems to have lost its excellent presenter, Ollie Smith, and is a shadow of its former glory, though sometimes there are excellent guests.

A positive note. I shall not go into the church with the former music cupboard without imagining the choir stalls fully occupied and the organ used to accompany "Messiah" "The creation" or "Elijah" was performed at The Drive. OK it was a DIY performance – but what a joy it was to sing those beautiful reflective choruses. The following week "Elijah" was performed by Crouch End Chorus at the Barbican with Sir Willard White in the title role.

As I began.....Thank you for the music – for giving it to.....(us)

Susan Ruckes.

The well is deep

This was the theme of the week of prayer for Christian unity. Each service was led by a different church, but all took place at 12 noon at the hospital chapel. The Brazilians who planned the course, chose the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well.

Dino described the well as a meeting place – a place for exchanging news. Pasquale from SS Peter & Paul R C church talked about different buckets, representing different Christian traditions. The Salvation Army's Naomi Clifton spoke of the woman being given a specific task.

And the music! Rev. Francis Ackroyd of the Vine URC played the piano as well as leading the service. He used a Fred Kaan hymn and Fred Pratt Green's hymn: God in his love for us lent us this planet.

Philip Norman played the organ for SS Peter and Paul Church. We sang two well-known traditional hymns. Ann Ross sang as her solo, "The Holy City".

Jean Ayers played the piano for the Hospital Chapel services. The Salvation Army Songsters led by Denise Deering took a major part in their service.

Each service ended with a cup of tea and biscuit.

Susan Ruckes.

The Well in Cranbrook Road. (Wedgewoods)

For the past few years I have been regularly breaking one of the ten commandments.

My newsagent's turned into a general store and I have been buying milk there for the church refreshment before catching the bus.

Sadly Bhavin has to retire and the shop will close. He is one of the unsung heroes of the town and will be sadly missed (by me). His shop sold things his customers wanted to buy. He was always there early in the morning sorting the newspapers and checking everything was as it should be. That kind of dedication is difficult to find these days.

Susan Ruckes.

A Taste of Spring

Saturday 21st March 2015 7.30 pm

The New Essex Choir will be giving another concert in the church, this time including English folk songs, spirituals and Easter music.

To daffodils Roger Quilter
 Little David, play on your harp
 Agnus Dei Gounod
 and much more

Tickets £10 (£8) from 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.

March 2013.

February Diary

Sun	1st	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs S Grundy
Wed	4 th	8.00pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Thu	5 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Sun	8th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.
Tue	10 th	10.00am	Morning Communion
Wed	11 th	8.00pm	Church Life Committee meeting
Thu	12 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Fri	13 th	10.00am	Church Coffee in the park. Gardeners Cafe, Valentines Mansion. Pre School Term Ends.
Sat	14 th		Small Choirs Festival. Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church
Sun	15th	11.15am	Morning Service Led by Dr L Knight
Wed	18 th		Ash Wednesday Service at The Drive Methodist Church.
Sun	22nd	11.15am	Morning Service. 1st Sunday in Lent. Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.
Mon	23 rd		Pre School Term Starts.
Tue	24 th	8.00pm	Lent one "Seeing Change" St Andrews Church, The Drive.
Thu	26 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice