

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

NEWSLETTER

September 2016



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

Our Minister Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.

At the time I needed to pass this edition to John and Audrey for printing Bernardino was away on a holiday, and I was unable to contact him, so it is not possible to include a message from him this Month.

How did I get Here.

I sometimes ask myself how did I get to be so involved in our church life. I am not sure how I would survive without it, and I do not intend to find out. Even at the times I am not as well as I would like, my thoughts are "how can I keep going", but a regular word with our Lord who gives skill and dedication to Janet and the medical staff who look after me has never failed. We should not always expect the Lord to answer our prayers directly to us, but does hear and answers in many ways we do not always recognize immediately.

Roy Brunnen

Jeremy Foster's Eulogy to Peter Foster
27 April 1925 to 11 July 2016

As a boy, Dad lived in Hainault with his parents and younger brother David. At that time, Hainault had a rural aspect and the family were virtually self-sufficient. They kept rabbits and chickens in their garden and grew all the vegetables they needed on two allotments. Dad told me once that some of his happiest boyhood memories were of the hours he spent helping his father tend the allotments.

Family activities consisted of trips to the music hall, football matches (West Ham of course) and fishing trips. These activities stayed with Dad all his life. He was a keen gardener growing show standard chrysanthemums and propagating geranium cuttings to sell at the Scouts Plant Sale. In his younger days he played football and for many years held a season ticket at West Ham. He had a lifelong interest in the theatre and as a stalwart of the Drama Group he appeared in numerous amateur dramatic productions. And he enjoyed a lifetime of fishing endeavour, devoting the last 30 years to the pursuit of salmon on the Scottish salmon rivers.

Dad was educated at Brentwood School, but left aged 17 and started to study for his Accountancy exams. In 1943 he was called up and joined the Royal Corp of Signals fighting in Normandy, landing shortly after D Day and in Holland during the Battle of Arnhem. He was demobilised in 1947, probably one of the few privates to have a made to measure de mob suit on account of his exceptionally long arms.

Dad met Mum in 1948 at a dance in a Hall in Kensington Gardens. They were married in 1951 and enjoyed over 60 happy years together. Dad qualified in 1952 and became Financial Director of Mount Charlotte Investments, a hotel and with Tolemans and was instrumental in guiding the company through a series of acquisitions to create what, at the time, was the largest car delivery operation in the UK.

Since moving to Bethell Ave in 1956 Dad has been a loyal servant at both the Cranbrook Park Methodist Church and later here at The Drive. As Treasurer, he managed the finances for three major property developments costing well over £1m in today's money. He was a member of the Drama Group, he was Senior Steward, he chaired the Church Life and Finance Committees, he was a member of the Property Committee regularly supporting the Saturday Work Mornings until he was well into his eighties and for many years he was a leading member of the Church tennis club.

In retirement, Dad spent as much time as he could with Mum at their cottage on the Norfolk Broads. They were never happier than when they could welcome family and friends to the house. Dad delighted in watching and supporting the progress of each of his thirteen grandchildren of whom he was immensely proud. He never missed a school concert, graduation, pass out or other milestone in their lives.

Jeremy

Thank you

Jeremy, Nicholas, Isobel, Rosalind and their families wish to thank everyone at The Drive Church for their kind support and good wishes following their father's recent passing. A total of £1093 was donated in memory of Dad and this money has been shared

between Royal National Institute for Blind People and Cancer Research UK.

Jeremy Foster

May Levett

Many readers will remember May who was a long standing member of the church who spent the last years in a care home. We are sorry to have to report that May died on 21st June. Her funeral took place at the City of London Cemetary on 12th July and was led by Dino.

Happy Birthday

I have become aware that Theadora Garner will reach the grand age of 15 in September, and we wish her a happy day.

During the month it is also the birthday of Elizabeth Amah and myself.

I would also be pleased to include other birthdays each month, but can only do so if I have the details. So if you would like to let me have your dates I can publish them.

Roy Brunnen.

Many of you may remember my good friend Yvonne, who used to come to this church. Her husband, Mark, has been very ill and he is currently in intensive care at Papworth, a specialist heart and lung hospital, in Cambridge.

Please remember Mark, Yvonne and their son Shaun in your prayers. Yvonne has been grateful of everyone's good wishes and support and we hope and pray Mark makes a speedy recovery.

Jo Wright

Action for children

Thank you to everyone who supported the Action for Children afternoon tea. A grand total of £175.30 has been sent to the charity.

A special thank you goes to Lorraine who cooked all the delicious scones!

During the afternoon the flower arranging team presented Mum (Catherine Sayers) with a lovely Hydrangea and box of chocolates. This was in recognition of her many years of service beautifying our church with her flower arrangements.
Jo Wright

If it's September it must mean COFFEE MORNINGS!!

Please join me at the
Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 30th September
10am to 2pm

In the Conservatory
Redbridge Social Centre

for coffee, cakes and chat
including tombola & bric-a-brac

Audrey Taylor

Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Please come and support Janet & Jeff Wragg on Saturday 1st October from 10am to 12 midday in the church parlour.

We are raising funds for the babies and young children at University College Hospital Macmillan Centre.

Your help, support and cakes are much appreciated. We also need donated gifts to sell.

We hope to see you there.
Janet & Jeff.

Our Songs of Praise

On Sunday 21st August we had a morning of hymn singing. Led by Andrew our excellent organist and choir master. We had asked the congregation to submit their favourite hymns over the previous two weeks, and received more than enough to fill the service. Andrew also included some short hymns to be sung as part of prayers and readings. Some of the favourite hymns were introduced by the person submitting them, and others Andrew introduced. There was also a slot where members could request a hymn during the service. Two of our junior members, Rohit and Renyl, led prayers, and Michelle and Theadora led the prayers of intercession.

We found this service very uplifting and enjoyable. We must have another in the future.
Roy Brunnen.

Visiting friends over the summer

One of the advantages of having friends scattered all over the country is that you can have quite a decent summer holiday by borrowing a couple of spare rooms...

I've just spent a couple of weeks in Scotland, first visiting my friend Lisa who is a teacher in Montrose, then singing with the Valentine Singers at the Edinburgh Festival.

On the way home, I stayed couple of nights with our former minister Stephen and his wife Philippa, in Settle in the Yorkshire Dales. Their son Robert was also there, because on the first evening we were all going to Farmer John's annual barbecue. This was a fantastic community event with over 150 people attending. I took a photo of the table groaning with the desserts people had brought – no pressure for our harvest lunch, Thea...

Apart from the wonderful hospitality and a beautiful walk round the Ingleton Waterfall Trail, it was also really interesting to have a look around the newly completed St John's Methodist Church building. When I last visited three years ago, Stephen showed me around the existing Victorian church building, an imposing structure on the street scene complete with tower and spire. Knowing he likes a project, I said to him, "So what are you going to do to this one, then?" "Oh, knock it down," was the casual reply. Sensing my initial shock at this news, he explained that the church members had been considering this for many years, and having Stephen in post was just the driving force they needed to get the project off the ground.

Last year, the new building was complete. It is an extension to the church hall across the road, and the whole building has been modernised at the same time to create an integrated worship space and community hall. The day they moved from the old to the new church, a special hymn was sung, written by one of the congregation, which they started singing in the old church and finished in the new, having walked across the road.

Whilst it is always sad to see a much-loved building and local landmark go, the new building that they have created across the road on one site works really well. It is a very modern, light, bright space with new furniture to match and just one or two reminders of the old building such as the war memorial and handles on the doors to the church. Together with the upgraded hall and meeting rooms that are used by many and various community groups and a linking lobby space where weekday coffee mornings and lunches are held, the whole complex works as one unit.

The old church has already gone, with four houses being constructed on the site using some recycled building materials from the church building. A church member who lives opposite has the

finniel from the top of the old spire concreted into her front garden – and has changed the deeds to her house to make sure it stays there!

Have a look at the website www.settle-methodists.org.uk to see pictures of the old and new churches.

I also had a chat to Stephen and Philippa about Peertalk, the organisation they have been setting up to provide support groups for people with depression and their families. They have run some successful awareness days, and the first support groups are being set up. Finding and training volunteers, as well as raising the profile of Peertalk, all take time, but they are confident that their first year targets will be met and that it will grow steadily from now on.

Look at their very attractive website www.peertalk.org.uk for more information.

And finally, many thanks to Frank Sayers and Brian Taylor who kept the music going in my absence!

Andrew Taylor

Please help to keep our church clean and smart.

Work morning

There will be a Church work morning on Saturday 17th September from 10am.

Jobs include light cleaning, gardening and generally tidying up.

Your help will be greatly welcomed.

Jeremy Foster

The Drive Methodist Book Club

Was it a Good Read?

This is open to everyone.

All you need to join is a Bible in your favourite version or an audio version of the Bible.

No expertise is required.

Every month we encourage you to read or listen to one of the books in the Bible. Read or listen to it just like you would any other book in your own time.

The Book for September has been chosen by the junior Church and is Jonah. This would be read so that it could be discussed during the last week of September.

The Book for October has been chosen by some of the congregation and is Jude. This would be read during October and could be discussed during the last week of October.

Towards the end of each month we hope that some of you will meet with other members of the Church to discuss the book:

Was it a good read?

What did you find encouraging? Jan and John will be hosting a book club once a month during the day at their house which is near to the Church. A time is still to be arranged.

If you can host a book club or can form a group which can take turns to host the event, or meet out to discuss over coffee somewhere, please let us know so that we can encourage one another.

Remember a book club can be any number of people from 2 to about 8. If you are visiting someone who cannot always attend church, maybe one of the times you visit could be a book club meeting.

This is not the same as a bible study. It involves reading or listening to a whole book in your own time to get to know what that book is about and to think about what you thought of it. The coming together is a chance to exchange ideas and to get to know one another better. We all need to be prepared to say what we think about the book in the same way as we would if we attended any other non-religious book club.

If you have any problems finding an audio version, want to find out more or have any useful suggestions please speak to one of us.

Happy reading

Moji Banjo, Jan Pearson

The Reverend Canon John Barwick Barnes

Father Barnes died peacefully in his sleep on Sunday 7th August 2016.

Many years ago, I was at a coffee morning at Barbara Hills house and heard some clergy talking about "Spiritual Life", the regular feature written by Revd. George Thompson Brake for the Ilford Recorder. He quoted from the newsletter of St Mary's church, High Road, Ilford. It was from an article written by the then vicar, Father Barnes. It seems that St Mary's newsletter was "snapped up" very quickly and they had to do a rerun.

Soon afterwards, George Thompson Brake was preaching at The Drive. I asked him to autograph my Ilford Recorder and told him why. It is still here somewhere.

I don't think I met Father Barnes until he had retired from St Mary's and became Chaplain of the Ilford Hospital Chapel.

The Thursday lunchtime service became a regular feature. When St Clements Church was sold, many members of the congregation attended the chapel every week instead of finding a regular Sunday service. As a child attending Ilford High Road Methodist Church, I remember a local preacher called Mr Thornley, whose day job was Headmaster of Cranbrook College. Father Barnes had been a pupil there and was very impressed by Mr Thornley. Sadly, this school closed down recently.

Father Barnes suggested having something at the chapel involving the Methodists. With the help of Martin Fairhurst, Frank Sayers and Doreen Weller, Charles and Sara Wesley (alias John Tayler and Catherine Sayers) made a return visit to Ilford. Frank's "TV interview was unforgettable.

Many people came to the dress rehearsal at The Drive. Andrew Taylor and Duncan Paterson organised the music. "Charles Wesley was able to listen to an Anthem written by his talented grandson. This could not have happened in real life – any more than Charles could celebrate his 300th birthday!

Father Barnes had a clear, distinct voice and never needed a microphone. He had the ability to command your attention, whether

it was at the start of a sermon or a vote of thanks to visiting musicians. He always knew the right thing to say.

I shall miss seeing Father Barnes outside Bodger's waiting for the 145 bus home or on the bus going to the Women's World Day Of Prayer Service.

Three line whip? I used to say, knowing that a phone call had been made the previous evening.

I shall miss his memory of past events and people. He saw Ilford Lane Methodist after it had been damaged by a wartime bomb. He was in the Hospital Chapel when the elderly Revd. Sparrow Simpson finally allowed the choir to sing Stainer's "Crucifixion". He remembered Revd. Leonard Barmby, who was the minister when High Road and Ilford Lane became the present Ilford Methodist Church.

But we don't have to rely on memory for this. Father Barnes spoke at the 2011 Golden Jubilee Service. Thanks to Daniel Best, it is all on DVD!

Susan Ruckles.

Ilford Lane Church Outing.

I would just like to say a few words about the day out with the Ilford Lane Methodist church. Susan and I had a lovely day out at Clacton.

The trip was well organised and Lorna came around with bottles of water and packets of crisps.

We had a quiz and Susan had to have 15 right out of 20 and collected a prize.

They came around with cake and chocs.

We arrived at Clacton on a beautiful day.

Very nice.

Peter Sharp.

Church 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.

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.

September Diary

Sun	4 th	11.15am	Morning Service Led by members Of the congregation.
Fri	8 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	11 th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion. Led by. Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Wed	14 th	8.00pm	Church Life committee
Thu	15 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Fri	16 th	10.30am	Coffee morning at The Gardener's Café Valentines Mansion Emerson Road.
Sat	17 th	10.00am	Church work morning
Sun	18 th	11.15am	Morning Service Led by Dr. Leela Knight
Thu	22 nd	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	25 th	11.15am	Harvest Festival Led by Revd. Jennifer Potter Followed by Harvest Lunch
Thu	29 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sat	1 st Oct	10.00am	Macmillan coffee morning in the Church Parlour