

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

NEWSLETTER

November 2016



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

A message from Rev. Bernardino Mandlate.

Friends

Greetings to you all in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am writing this time as the cold weather begins to be felt thinking of the homeless, people who usually spend their days in the open and sleeping rough. I would like that all of us spare a thought about their situation and offer to help, even if in small ways. I would not ask you to open your homes as that should be an individual or family decision to take. But there are some night shelters operating around us and they appreciate people volunteering to help in the chores involved, like cooking dinner, preparing beds and the like. It is also possible to help with funds, groceries if you know what they would like to have. May I encourage those of you who are able, to volunteer, to have that human touch in helping those less fortunate and rely on these night shelters to go through the winter. You will feel enriched yourself at the end of winter. After all, the gospel demands that we care for those in need around us.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is about being kind, feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and those in prison, giving shelter to the homeless, pursuing issues of justice and fairness in our society. This is doable if you can commit to being part of the solution and not necessarily waiting for someone else to do it on our behalf. My appeal to you who come to church regularly, is to increase your donations, especially with the benevolent fund which would enable us to be generous with those who are in the frontline. Last year we helped with at least £400 for the night shelter. This year would be better if we were able to better that amount. The night shelter runs from November/December to early March. it is a good three to four months of intense service to the Ilford community. It will do a lot of good to be part of the movement of goodwill people.

Let me thank you for past efforts, including the support we give to the Whitechapel Mission. But let us try and do more if we can, God being our helper.

Kind regards

Dino

Whitechapel Mission.

After our Harvest Festival Janet and I took the goodies up to the Mission where they were received with much thanks from Tony Miller who is concerned that following an appeal to churches for goods to be sent to Calais to feed those in the refugee camp has meant that the Mission has received considerably less donations than normal at this time of the year. You will be aware that I expressed my dismay the following Sunday and asked you to see if you could possibly find a few more tins or packets to help them.

You have given that additional support and I notified Tony that we would take these goods up to him during the week following the service on Sunday 23rd October. He expressed his sincere thanks for the additional support.

I was also pleased that a reminder that the mission needs support was mentioned in the Church's Weekly update, and it was brought to the attention of those attending the Mission and Social responsibility event held here on our premises.

Roy Brunnen.

Thank you

The following message has been received from Merton court where we sent some of the Harvest donations.

Dear Congregation,

My residents at Merton court would like to thank you all for the lovely fruit and veg that you gave them.

Thank you again.

Bible study group

For good and valid reasons we haven't had any regular meetings for Bible Study at The Drive for some considerable time, but when Jan & John Pearson, both former teachers and now local preachers on trial, joined our congregation it wasn't long before they did something about it and we are very grateful to them.

They have organized what they have called "Book club", which meets once a Month – initially at their house – to discuss a book from the Bible, which we have studied beforehand.

So far there have been three meetings and the books discussed have been James and Jonah. Discussions have been lively, we have learnt a lot and we have thoroughly enjoyed each others company and Jan and Johns warm and generous hospitality. We have gained a new friend in Penny, the dog too.

The next meeting will be at 10.30am on Friday 28th October to discuss the book of Jude and all are welcome.

Betty Griffiths.

Church roadside boards

At a recent meeting of the church life committee we discussed the boards advertising our church to passing vehicles and the public in general. I was tasked with the job of producing some options regarding their design and positioning

Any suggestions you may have, position, size, colour, etc, which will make our presence better known will be welcomed.

Roy Brunnen.

Premises Security

Our electronic entry system which was installed eleven years ago enables us to effectively control access to our premises. However, the number of people who use the buildings means that nearly 100 key fobs are in use.

The Property Committee recently considered ways in which we can further improve our security, as a result of which we have re-programmed all key fobs so that they will now open the doors ONLY between the hours of 7am and 11:30pm, seven days a week.

Further restrictions apply to certain key holders (mainly outside organisations), which prevent them from entering the hall while the Pre-School is in session.

If this restriction causes you any problems, please speak to Mike Seviour or Brian Taylor so that your key fob can be amended.

Mike Seviour

Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Church Parlour.

Many thanks to all who helped make the morning a success.
We raised £910 for the babies and children who attend the Macmillan Centre at the University College London Hospital.

Our thanks also to the residents of Merton Court who donated their coffee morning funds to our cause.

Janet & Jeff Wragg.

Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Redbridge Social Centre

We had a very successful social day raising an amazing £1,000. This was due to good support on the stalls and generous donations.

Once again Kay arrived with the Indian cookies and donation from the Pre-School staff and parents. Our Line Dancers who arrive in the afternoon asked where are the Indian savouries – Kay had arrived earlier than usual so most had already disappeared!!

Thank you all.

Audrey Taylor

JMA

I hope you will be able to join us for our JMA Awards Presentation Service which will be held on Sunday, 20th November. Once again we look forward to Sanya Strachan leading the service.

Nine young people will be receiving badges and certificates for the money they have collected this year and the full amount raised will be announced during the service.

Diane Foster

Action for children slides evening.

Our annual slides evening in aid of Action for Children is on Saturday 26th November starting at 7.30pm in the parlour.

This is always an enjoyable evening with a light buffet supper served during the interval. There is no need to buy a ticket in advance, but if you are intending to come it would be helpful to let Diane or I know for catering purposes.

Everyone is welcome.

Jeremy Foster.

Look out for details of upcoming practices for

The Drive Chorale

our occasional singing group open to all ages and abilities

We practice occasionally in the church after the Sunday morning service

We would like the Chorale to take part in the JMA service on 20th November at 11:15am and the Carol service on 18th December at 6:30pm

Speak to Andrew Taylor if you are interested

Engaging with Street Dwellers.

The Mission and Social Responsibility event took place at The Drive Church on Saturday 22nd October. All Churches in the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford circuit were represented.

Captain John Clifton of the Salvation Army spoke of how he came to Ilford five years ago with his new wife Naomi. The Citadel is situated between the Council Housing office and "Childsplay which sells designer clothing for children. What a contrast!

Soon after his arrival, Mustopha, a rough sleeper asked for his help after approaching the relevant authorities, all he could do was to hand Mustopha a sleeping bag.

The cold weather centre opens on 8th December and is run by 150 volunteers who arrive at 7pm to set up the room and prepare food. The centre opens at 8pm for meals. The volunteers leave at 10pm. Other volunteers and two employed staff stay overnight.

Volunteers come from different backgrounds and faiths or none. All are so busy working together that they get along. John said that in the Salvation Army Songbook a quarter of the songs include the word "Power". He talked about the power generated when people work together. He also spoke of PROJECT MALACHI named after a little boy called Malachi who sent £5 from the "tooth fairy to buy homes for homeless people. A modern day "loaves and fishes story?

John spoke of the shortage of affordable housing and the campaign group "Redbridge Citizens". He explained about Community land trust homes.

The second speaker, Charles spoke about a similar night shelter in Barking and Dagenham as the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford circuit covers two boroughs.

Peter Butt from Goodmayes spoke very movingly about Whitechapel Mission, of which he is a trustee. After the referendum law firms were so busy dealing with the legal implications that they could not supply volunteers, as they had in the past. International firms withdrew their support. Whitechapel is now having to use its reserves.

Circuit superintendent Ermal Kirby introduced the speakers and led the devotions. He suggested that we should discuss our plan of action over lunch.

As well as continuing our vital support of Whitechapel Mission there is something on the second Saturday of the Month. The Salvation Army holds a green fair. It is opposite the bus stop in Clements Road. Why not go for tea and coffee at the Green Fair instead of paying a fortune elsewhere.

Susan Ruckes.

South West Coast Path.

Many of you will know that over the last few years I have been walking the South West Coast Path. At 630.4 miles it is the longest National trail in the UK. The South West Coast Path Association publish a twice yearly magazine and it is customary for "completers" to send in a letter recording their experience which is published in the magazine. You may be interested to see the letter which I have asked them to publish

I would also mention that I will be sharing some photos of my walk at our annual Slides Evening on Saturday 26th November.

Sir,

For me, Wednesday 6th July 2016 was a particularly significant day. Not only was it my 60th birthday; it was also the day I walked into Minehead to complete the South West Coast Path.

I started at South Haven point in September 2012 and have enjoyed a week's walking each year, plus an extra week this year to ensure that I completed the walk on my birthday. I have walked each section in sequence starting each day from the previous day's finish. I have walked every yard including the isle of Portland and the long way round Plymouth. When possible, I have also walked out to the point of most headlands.

It has been a fantastic experience. For parts of the walk I have enjoyed the company of family or friends, but for much of the walk I have been happy with the fabulous views and my own thoughts for company. The highlights have been the fresh air, spectacular scenery and the abundance of flora and fauna. I was particularly fortunate to see an adder somewhere near Soar Mill Cove. I cannot really think of any low points, although I admit that the undercliff between Lyme Regis and Seaton seemed never ending and the walk from Brixham to Dartmouth in strong wind and heavy rain was a lonely slog.

I particularly wish to record my thanks to my wife Diane who, as well as walking some of the parts of the walk with me, has driven the car to drop me off at the start of each day's walk and has been there to pick me up in the afternoon. My next challenge is the Pennine Way, but it won't be the same.

Jeremy Foster.

Valentine Singers
FLIGHTS OF FANTASY

includes

John Rutter *The Reluctant Dragon*

and

Hubert Parry *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*

Sunday 6th November at 5:30pm

Seven Kings High School, 494 Ley Street, Ilford IG2 7BT

Tickets £12 (£7 students/benefit holders) if bought in advance

Accompanied under 16s free!

Ask Andrew Taylor

For more information and to book online, visit www.valentinesingers.org

Christmas Concert

The New Essex Choir will be giving a concert of Christmas music in the church. on Saturday 10th December 2016 at 7.30 pm.

The programme will include A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten as well as familiar carols and opportunities for audience participation.

There will be seasonal refreshments.

Tickets £10(concessions £8) in advance from Kathleen and Brian Taylor.

Tickets on the door £11/£9, under 14 free.

Brian Taylor.

Diary

Thu	3 rd	8.00pm	Church Council meeting
Sun	6th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Tabitha Jumbe.
Sun	13th	10.45am	Remembrance service With Holy Communion Led by Revd Mandlate.
Fri	18 th	10.30am	Coffee in the park. Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion, Emerson Rd.
Sun	20th	11.15am	JMA Service with Certificate presentations Led by Sanya Strachan.
Fri	25 th	10.30am	Bible Book Club meeting at 104 Wanstead Lane
Sat	26 th	8.00pm	Annual slides evening in Church Parlour.
Sun	27th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr. Frimpong Manso.

**Last date for items for the December Newsletter is
Sunday 20th November**

**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.

To those who have been called by God, who
live in the love of God the Father and the
protection of Jesus Christ:

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in full
measure.

Jude Verses 1&2.