



NEWSLETTER

for **CHRISTMAS 2016**

**The Drive Methodist Church,
Eastern Avenue, Ilford**

Minister: Rev Bernardino Mandlate
19 Bethell Avenue, Ilford, IG1 4UX

A Christmas and New Year Message From Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.

Friends

As November ends, we are into Advent, looking forward to welcoming the Christ the King. We sing hymns like 'Sing we the King who is coming to reign...' or 'O Come, O come Emmanuel...' we embrace the idea of a king come from God.

The modern image we have of king, conflicts immensely with the real Jesus the King. When we think king today, we have images of royalty, golden robes, golden or crystal crowns, the entourage around the king, the security around and eventually how detached that figure of king is from the people he is supposed to be lording it over.

Jesus was mistaken as one of those kings even by those around him who expected him to overthrow the rulers in Jerusalem, they viewed him as a political figure come from God to rule over Israel and do away with oppression and exploitation they were victims of. But Jesus came a humble individual, a poor man with no possessions. There was nothing regal about him. According to Rev TG Warren, his rag-tag group of followers were from the lowest classes of society. He attracted Samaritans, lepers, demoniac, tax collectors, fishermen, women of ill repute, the poor, and those marginalised by the ruling class of religious leaders.

This is the Jesus we still proclaim today. As his followers, we need to remember always that Jesus' journey to kingship was not an easy endeavour. Jesus had to learn humility through obedience to God. And it is obedience to God that will enable us to celebrate with the world the coming of the Messiah, and proclaim his gospel, the good news to the poor and marginalised of the world. Humility will bring harmony to the world, humility will bring peace and equity to the world. We need to learn to live as Jesus' subjects (he is King) who identify with him and thus able to pursue his message of solidarity with the marginalised of the world.

As we go through the daily routines of preparing for Christmas and New Year, we need to bear in mind that Christ the King is a servant of all and that, likewise, we ought to be real servants of each other and the community around us and the world.

Have a blessed Christmas season.

Have a happy New Year

God bless

Dino

JMA Presentation Service

I was delighted to report at our JMA Presentation Service on 20 November, that The Drive had raised £685 for JMA funds. Of this amount, £345 came from proceeds of our Beetle Drive in March and the rest was from our JMA collectors and donations. Receiving badges and certificates were:

Thea Garner, Rochelle Inbakumar, Feyi, Toju and Tunrayo Fadina, Paige Fordree, Iris Bennett-Wright, Yetunde and Folake Fadojutimi.

Sanya Strachan once again led our service. We were encouraged to think creatively about ways our church can continue to bring God's mission to our members and the wider community. The Chorale led the congregation in singing 'My God is a good God' with everyone joining in the actions. At the end of the prayers of intercession, the young people were invited to blow bubbles. The bubbles represented our prayers and God heard them when they popped.

Thank you all for your continued support of JMA.

Diane Foster

Christmas shoe boxes

Thank you to everyone who either donated money or packed a shoe box. We were able to send 65 shoe boxes to the charity Samaritan's purse.

The Drive pre-school added a large number of boxes to the total, so a big thank you to them too.

Jo Wright

Dorothy Carter

Dorothy died unexpectedly on 11th November following a very short time in hospital. Her funeral was held on 24 November and was conducted by Rev Marie Segal. Dorothy had cleaned our church for many years, a task which she enjoyed doing and in which she took great pride. This started when a group of young mothers volunteered to do the work together. Gradually members of the group moved away leaving Dorothy alone. When her husband Norman, who died earlier this year, became ill she had to retire to spend all her time as his carer.

Dorothy loved to walk and keep fit, and to talk to friends and strangers where ever she went. Her cheerful words and bright smile will be missed, most of all by her son Stephen to whom we extend our sympathy

Brian Taylor

Revd. Ken Start.

Back in 1973 we received a 37 year old minister as our minister. He was Revd. Ken Start which some of us can remember as our minister of the day. He, like most ministers had those who liked him and those who were not so happy.

He had a somewhat diverse career including being chief executive officer of Springboard Housing Association.

He passed from this life to the next on July 5th 2016, and a memorial & thanksgiving service was held at Wesley's chapel on August 5th 2016.

Betty Griffiths / Roy Brunnen.

Ken Depledge

Ken died suddenly on Friday 14th October. He was a Sunday School teacher for a short time at the Eastern Avenue church which is now The Drive church. He was mostly at the High Road church and then at Ilford Methodist church before marrying and moving away in the 1960s.

Ken was a great organiser. Six former members of the Ilford Methodist youth club, including Ken, decided to hold a reunion. Thanks to Ken and his team, there were seven reunions in Ilford,

Epping, Hertfordshire and Braintree. Five present members of the Ilford Methodist Church joined the "veterans" at Braintree for the last two reunions. Dino and Elizabeth came to one of these. It was a useful link between the past and present.

Ken also edited the veterans' newsletter for many years. The funeral was held at Loughborough Crematorium on Friday 28th October. Donations were requested to "County Air Ambulance Trust".

Susan Ruckes.

Flower Ladies.

Every week we enjoy seeing flowers carefully and lovingly displayed at the front of the church. These flowers are on many occasions donated by our congregation members in memory of particular events in their lives. We very much appreciate these memories which some of these events we can recall.

When no dedications have been received, the church funds the flowers so that our displays are maintained. If you feel you would like to donate towards the flowers, with or without a dedication please contact Janet Brunnen.

The ladies are:- ***Janet Brunnen – Lorraine Bendon – Anne Dellow – Ruth Joyce.***

Or of course if any of our men feel they would like to join the ladies please talk to Lorraine.

Roy Brunnen.

Scout Group News

We are delighted that preparations to re-open our Beaver Colony are now well advanced and we are planning to start meeting after Christmas. We are pleased to welcome Rizwana Khan as Beaver Scout Leader and Henry Watson as Assistant Leader.

The colony will meet in the Church Hall on Tuesday evenings from 5:45 – 6:45pm from 10th January. For the first time in our history, we will also be welcoming girls as well as boys into the Group. If you know of children aged 6 or 7 who would be interested in joining, please speak to either Mike Seviour or John Taylor as soon as possible.

Mike Seviour

Bible Book Club

The Bible reading meeting held on October 28th. We had been reading the book of Jude. Our feedback is that we concentrated on verse 4. The Godless people slipping into the church through the back door to plant disunity etc.

The message from the group is to pray. The question is what should we do about all the issues discussed. The message was to pray and pray. Pray without Ceasing. Another question asked, is the church doing enough. We all felt yes/no or maybe we should come together to pray, or suggested we have a A4 sheet of paper with all the prayer requests.

Our meeting on the 25th November following the reading of the book of Mark. December we shall be reading Psalm 19, and discussing it on December 30th, then for January we will read the book of Esther and discuss it at our meeting on 27th January 2017.

Our meetings are held at the home of Janet and John Pearson, from 10.30 to 11.30.

Antonia.

Whitechapel Mission.

Thank you to all those who donated to our extra collection of food for the mission. They were very pleased and grateful for your additional items.

I was pleased to see a report on the plight of the mission in the London district weekly update by Rachel Lampard the Vice-President of the Methodist conference who visited Whitechapel a short time ago.

Their work is extensive. They have a day centre, skills training, and careers advice. Opening hours is from 6am for tea or coffee through breakfast from 8am for 50p from those who can afford it, or free if they cannot. There are also showers and clean clothes on offer. After breakfast they can join the "life centre" for further support such as finding birth certificates, benefit claims, alcohol rehabilitation etc. The whole of this is wholly voluntary funded as it has been for the 140 years it has been there. The centre is open every day of the year. It is mostly staffed by volunteers from supporting churches across the country.

I have already booked Tony Miller the Director of the Mission to come and lead our Harvest Festival service in 2017.

They are, I understand, running out of Baked Beans and disposable razors currently, but a full list of wants can be found under donations in kind on their web site www.whitechapel.org.uk

Do not forget that we can get donations up to whitechapel throughout the year. Just leave them in the box at the back of the church.

Roy Brunnen.



Junior church dates for your diary November/December 2016

Sunday 27th November – Nativity rehearsal during Junior Church

Sunday 4th December – Nativity rehearsal during Junior Church

Saturday 10th December 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Nativity rehearsal and talent show! We will meet at 2.00pm and run through the Nativity then we will have pizza and share our talents. We will encourage our young people to show case their talents for everyone to enjoy.

Sunday 11th December - Nativity and toy service

The Junior Church are taking the whole service, so please be at church by 10.50am. If possible please bring a new toy/ book, unwrapped, that will be given to the children's centre where Lorraine Bendon works. They will then be distributed to vulnerable children and their families. Thank you.

Sunday 18th – December 11.15am – Family service

Sunday 18th December 6.30pm – Carols by candle light (Chorale singing)

Sunday 1st January 2017 – Junior Church will not be meeting, but everyone is welcome to the morning service.

Have a very Happy Christmas

Jo Wright

MUSIC MATTERS

The Choir is already busy rehearsing for our Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 6:30 pm. The Carol Service is always a highlight of our musical year and made more so if there is a large congregation, so I do urge you to come along if you can and bring your family and friends. If the music and carols are not enough to tempt you, there are also mince pies...

Following its latest appearance at the JMA service, the Chorale will also be taking part in the Carol Service, and we will have practices after the Sunday services on 27th November, 4th December and 11th December, as well as in the afternoon of the 18th before the Carol Service itself. Anyone is welcome to come and sing with the Chorale – no, really, anyone! Try it out.

Andrew Taylor

Join us for our annual service of
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Readings telling the familiar Christmas story
Carols for choir and congregation

Sunday 18th December at 6:30pm
in the church

followed by Christmas refreshments in the Parlour

VALENTINE SINGERS

CHRISTMAS STORIES
A family Christmas concert

Saturday 17th December at 7:30pm
St Andrew's Church, The Drive, Ilford
£10 (£5 students/benefit holders)
(buy in advance - £2 supplement on the door!)

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

Bake Sale

On the 29th January 2017, I will be holding a bake sale in the parlour after the service. Please come and enjoy a scrummy slice of cake or buy something to take home whilst helping me fund raise for my trip to Ghana.

Thank you, **Thea**

The evolution of my trip to Ghana

Hello, Thea here.

I would like to tell you about how my trip to Ghana came to be. Let's start at the very beginning.

I'm a Girl Guide and in June, I filled out a form about having the chance to go on an international trip with girl guiding. Not every girl gets to go even though they've filled out the form. You have to be chosen. Later that Month, I went on a camping trip to Gilwell 24, a two night camp, which involved everyone there trying to stay up for the whole night. It was a fun trip and everything seemed normal, little did I know that I was being watched. My every move monitored by the Girl Guide leader Sharon Applin.

Half way through the second day, I was called by Sharon to come and have a chat and she told me that I was her chosen candidate for the international trip!!! I was so surprised, I couldn't believe it because, of all the girls at Gilwell that she could have chosen she chose me. When Gilwell was over and I told my mum, she was very happy. I had to wait the whole summer to then find out any information. I really wanted to know where I was going on the trip but Sharon told me that I would only be told at the London and south east region international weekend I had to attend. It was such a long wait, it felt like years and each day, my mind buzzed with the thought of the places I could be going.

At the weekend in October, all the girls there had to do a lot of activities ranging from getting to know each other through games to deciphering patterns whilst blindfolded. It was a lot of fun and throughout the weekend the leaders monitored all of us so as to see what trip they'd put us in. at the end of the weekend, we got split up into our groups and put in different rooms. We were the last group to find out and when they said "Ghana" there was a lot of screaming and cheering and even a few tears of happiness. For

about ten minutes afterwards we got to talk about what we were going to do in Ghana but the leaders didn't know much because it is the first time a Ghana trip was being done. One thing we did find out however, is that we each have to raise funds for the cost of the trip which is a total of £3,200! We were all really shocked especially as our parents can't pay any of the money. After all the questions, we went into the main hall and reported back to the other groups that were going to Thailand, New Mexico and Haiti. Everyone was very excited and now looking forward even more to going to their country.

Throughout the time until my trip, I will be attending weekends to find out more about what we were doing also team building. My first one is in December so in the next newsletter, I can tell you what I find out and that way keep you posted.

Thea

WESOEYCH SWIAT BOZEGO NARODZENA (Merry Christmas in Polish)

I believe it was St. Augustin who said that we only ever really needed to say ONE prayer. That prayer was simply "Thank you" & in a recent sermon our own John Pearson took as his theme "Thankfulness for blessings received" & a very fine sermon it was too. I think it made many of us realise that we don't say thank you to God nearly as often as we should for so much that we are inclined to take for granted.

At the joyous season of Advent we do, indeed have a great many blessings to be thankful for, but for those of us who are no longer as young as we once were, and who have lost much – loved relatives and friends one after the other as year has melted into year, memories of Christmas past can both bless and burn and there can be Christmas tears as well as Christmas smiles

When you've always been fiercely independent, but have to face up to being well past your sell by date it's very hard to come to terms with having to rely on others for help of any kind – and sometimes that help just isn't available anyway.

That's why when it is it's a blessing of blessings and for quite a while now, for several of us at the church, who work full-time or

have limited mobility, that blessing has been a cheerful chatty industrious Polish lass called Justyna, whose a sort of combination of home-help cum Nanny and who makes life a lot easier for us than it would otherwise be.

She's a Roman Catholic, but she likes Methodists and we like her, so I don't think that my fellow recipients of her kind and caring ministrations will object if, on behalf of us all I send warmest good wishes to her and her family for the happiest of happy Christmases and to say a heartfelt thank you.

Betty Griffiths

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.

No one can see his own errors;
deliver me, Lord, from hidden faults!
Keep me safe, also, from wilful sins;
Don't let them rule over me.
Psalm 19 V12/13.

Table Top Sale



Need to make some space, or raise some funds?

Come along and sell something or pick up a bargain!

Join us at The Drive Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 25th March from 10:00am to 1pm

Rent a table for £10 and raise money for a charity or yourself.

Refreshments available, including bacon and sausage rolls.

For more information or to rent a table, please contact

Michelle

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.

December Diary

Thu	1 st	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	4th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Thu	8 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sat	10 th	7.30pm	Christmas concert in the church by the New Essex Choir
Sun	11th	11.15am	Toy & Nativity Service led by Mrs Jo Wright and the Junior Church
Thu	15 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Fri	16 th	10.30am	Coffee morning at the Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion, Emerson Road, Gants Hill.
Sun	18th	11.15am	Morning Service. Led by Mrs Janet Pearson
		6.30pm	Candle lit Carol Service Led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate
Sun	25th	10.30am	Christmas Morning Service Led by Mr David Pender.

January Diary

Sun	1st	11.15am	New Year's Morning Service Led by Mr John Pearson
Sun	8th	11.15am	Covenant Sunday Morning Service with Holy Communion led by Revd. Bernardino Mandlate.
Thu	12 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice

Sun	15th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr John Nicholls
Fri	19 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Fri	20 th	10.30am	Coffee morning at the Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion, Emerson Road, Gants Hill.
Sun	22nd	11.15am	Morning Service Local arrangement
Fri	26 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice
Sun	29th	11.15am	Morning Service. Led by Revd Bernardino Mandlate.