

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

NEWSLETTER

October 2017



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

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, here at The Drive Methodist Church.

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.

Our Minister writes:

Dear Friends

I hope you all had a good summer?! And some nice holidays or short breaks and feeling fresh in this cool weather. It is the changing of seasons we got accustomed to, and in a way, this is how nature works. Often we grumble about the weather because it is not behaving the way we would have it do. We compare with other countries who have better weather, warm and predictable weather. Let's learn to be grateful to God for our blessings.

But, as we grumble about our weather, let us spare a thought for a moment for the many victims of natural disasters in the Caribbeans, the US (hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria), Mexico earthquakes, what's happening in Bangladesh and Myanmar (refugees crisis) and many other places around the world. The victims are God's children too, caught in the mess that human beings have brought about, by not taking care of the environment. The climate change is real. It is not a political issue as some would have us believe. Scientists have invested in research and conclusions are clear. We all need to do our part to save God's world, to save God's creation.

We can, as individuals or families, do something in whatever small ways we are able to help preserve the environment and God's creation by: Buying only what we need and not necessarily be tempted by BOGOF, wasting less food, sharing more with others, recycling more of our waste and other smaller ways you may think help.

We need to be grateful to God for our share of creation, our share of God's blessings, be content/satisfied with what we

have and wish others have the same blessings without competing. God loves us and we should share/show God's love with/to others.

Redbridge is a multifaith borough, and as such we need to learn to accept each other's faith and share in God's love even with those of no faith at all because God loves them too. We need to keep interacting with each other so that we are not divided by those who may wish to create discord among us. As we witness some terror attacks around us, let us not allow that to divide us between 'us and them'. Evil operates among people who allow themselves to be used as such. Let us stand strong and be grateful for each other for the sake of the kingdom of God.

Praying for more blessings from God to all of us.

Kind regards
Dino

We ask for God's blessing on all those we have concerns for at this time and remember them in our prayers.

We were happy to hear that Sandra Runeckles is now out of hospital and is back at home resting. The family would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes over the past few weeks.

We were also pleased to hear from Leotta Alleyne that she is feeling a lot better and hopes to be in church again very soon.



Birthday Greetings

We wish very happy October birthdays to:

Josiah who will be 4;

Yetunde Fadojutimi who will be 14;

Lamarion Gordon who will be 11.

Welcome Service to Revd Kido Baek at Gantshill Methodist Church

Conflicting information about times meant that some of us arrived after the start of the service. Many arrived early, in time for a delicious tea.

It was a lovely service enjoyed by a large congregation downstairs and a number of us in the gallery. The singing was led by a choir from Wesley's Chapel. I was very sorry to miss their anthem. The Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths preached the sermon.

We are very privileged to have Kido as a minister in the Circuit. I hope it is not long before he preaches at The Drive.

Susan Ruckes

Multi-Faith Walk of Peace

This took place on Sunday 10th September, earlier than usual, in the hope of having better weather and a lighter evening. Never mind!

The walk began at the Holocaust Memorial Garden in Valentines Park as there is no longer a synagogue in central

Ilford. It was quite a trek to the Buddhist Cultural Centre near Ilford Station. We continued to the Hindu Temple in Cleveland Road and then to the Islamic Centre in Albert Road. From there we walked via the High Road to St Peter's and St Paul's Church. Our final destination was the Sikh Gurdwara.

The warmth of the welcome at all the venues made up for the wind and the drizzle of the last part of the walk. The hospitality at the Gurdwara and other places en route, I'm sure, encourages more to join us each year!

Susan Ruckes

Ghana 2017

I recently embarked on a journey to Ghana and I can honestly say that it was one of the best experiences of my life. I was part of the 2017 LaSER international trips and I would recommend the opportunity to all guides and rangers!!!

It was such a privilege to be able to meet so many nice people and work there knowing that what I did would benefit the town for years to come. It was also good as it pushed me mentally and physically as it was a different lifestyle to what I'm used to. My new found knowledge will serve me for years to come.

We spent the first weekend going to Cape Coast Castle and to Kakum National Park where we did a canopy walk on rope bridges. It was an hour's hike to the bridges but it was fun and we were able to see some animals on the way up. The view from the bridges was amazing!!! At the castle, we had a great tour guide called Sebastian and he told us everything we needed to know about what happened to the

slaves at Cape Coast. The stories were a little shocking but I was able to get some good photos as we were by the coast and the sea was raging!

The second weekend we went to a monkey sanctuary and to Wli waterfalls. It was a long hike up to the waterfalls and we had to cross 9 bridges over water to get to it. We sang along the way and spotted wildlife. The waterfalls were great and it was truly magical having not seen one before. We had a lot of group selfies! The monkey sanctuary was an amazing experience as well. I was able to have three monkeys sit on my arm as they ate the bananas I held out. Some of them were very cheeky as they just jumped up and ripped the banana out of my hand but I did see a baby monkey hanging off its mother so that was cute.

During the week, we spent our time at the school teaching lessons and doing construction work which involved us making concrete by hand, laying it and then screeding. The construction work was great and we were able to convince the men at African Adventures and at the school, that women are strong which is always good. Teaching the lessons was fun and gave me new skills in leadership and confidence which will be useful to me in the future.

We were able to start a Girl Guiding unit up at the school which was great and the girls had so much fun. We also got to meet the actual Girl Guides of Ghana and we spent some time with them. It was very special.

There were 8 other girls on the trip with me and I can honestly say that we're all very, very good friends. I wouldn't have wanted to go with anyone else and we will definitely all stay in contact. They all made the trip sooo much fun in their own ways and the leaders were great too. I couldn't have asked for better leaders. We all had such good times like the karaoke we had on the long drives and the laughs we had about silly things!!!

I had a great time on this trip and I really wish it could've been longer so that I could spend more time with the amazing people I met doing all the amazing things we did all over again!!!

Theodora Garner

(Come along to the Slides Evening in November to see Thea's photos – Ed.)

Narrow Gauge Wales

When Louise was a teenager she once commented that "on holiday in Italy all we do is look at churches and in Cornwall all we do is look at gardens!" If Louise had been with us on our recent visit to Wales she might have added "and in Wales all we do is look at narrow gauge railways". There are at least thirteen narrow gauge railways in Wales and during our week long holiday we managed to travel on seven of them.

On our first day we travelled on the Fairbourne railway. The line is 15 inch gauge and little more than a mile long terminating at the end of a sand spit on the south side of the Barmouth estuary. However, by using the ferry across the river to Barmouth and the Cambrian Coast rail service we completed a circular route back to Fairbourne. On the Monday we visited Llandudno and took a ride on the Great Orme Tramway. Opened in 1902 this is the UK's only surviving cable hauled street tramway.

On Tuesday we managed to complete a route that has been on my "bucket list" for some time. We took the Ffestiniog Railway from Portmadog to Blaenau Ffestiniog. The line was built to carry slate from the mines down to Porthmadog and opened in 1836. It closed in 1946, but reopened in 1955 as a preservation line. From Blaenau we caught the Network

Rail service to Bangor and then a bus to Caernarfon. From there we boarded the Welsh Highland Railway, another old slate line, back to Porthmadog.

Wednesday did not go to plan. I had decided to walk up Snowdon to meet Diane, who was to come up on the Snowdon Mountain Railway. Unfortunately all the train tickets were sold out. However, by some quirk there was one seat

left on the 13.30 return train, so I can also claim a ride on this famous narrow gauge railway. In the afternoon we took a ride on the Llanberis Lake Railway. On Thursday we took a day off from trains.

On the Friday we rode on the wonderful Talylyn Railway. Like many of the narrow gauge railways it was built to carry slate, but also operated a regular passenger service. The line closed in 1950 following the death of Sir Henry Haydn Jones who owned the railway. His widow gifted the line to the Talylyn Railway Preservation Society and thus it became the UK's first preservation railway.

I will be showing some photos of our travels at our annual Action For Children Slides Evening on 25 November.

Jeremy Foster

Bethesda Church Choir – 40 Years On

It is 40 years since I sang in this choir and sadly the church is no longer there. This summer I returned to Canada for an 80th birthday (not mine!) and met several former Bethesda members at their new church in Mississauga. Our former music director, Laurie, with whom I was staying, arranged for us to have lunch together after the service. Laurie attended the Harvest Festival at the Drive in 2003 before flying home on Concorde to Toronto airport, which is really in Mississauga. A long way to come for our Harvest Festival.

Susan Ruckes



Awareness Day

Facing Depression Together
An opportunity to learn about depression from a clinical, personal and pastoral perspective, and how the Church can be a good neighbour to those living with depression and their families.

Saturday 14th October 2017
The Holiday Inn, Egerton Road, Guildford
10.00am to 3.30pm
Lunch Provided

This free event is open to anyone who would like to attend.

To register please contact the PeerTalk administrator:

Liz Whitfield

Post: High Park House, Wray, Lancaster, LA2 8QU

Email: admin@peertalk.org.uk

Phone or text: 07908493880

Online: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peertalk-facing-depression-together-awareness-day-tickets-37145617542

Deadline date for registration:

Monday 9th October 2017

For more details about the day please see the leaflet on the notice board in the church foyer.

(PeerTalk is the charity which Stephen and Philippa Normanton have established to support people suffering from depression and their families – Ed.)

Advanced Notices

Property Committee Work Day

At the recent meeting of the Committee, we discussed the upkeep of our premises and the need for a general tidy up in the Church, around the grounds and the garden. To this end we have organised a special work day for Saturday 11th Nov. Attendance at the work mornings in recent times has been rather patchy and we are therefore making an appeal for people to support this day. We will start at 10am and work through to mid-afternoon with a break for lunch. Any support that you can give, even for just a couple of hours, will be most appreciated.

Jeremy Foster on behalf of the Property Committee

Junior Mission for All (JMA) Presentation Service

This will be held on Sunday 19th November and will once again be led by Sanya Strachan. Please join us to see our JMA collectors receive their badges and certificates and to hear about the work supported by JMA.

Diane Foster

Action for Children Slides Evening

The Slides Evening will be on Saturday 25th November starting at 7.30pm in the Church Parlour. This is always an enjoyable evening and it would be great to welcome some new attendees in addition to the regulars. As well as our usual presenters, Thea will be showing some slides (digitally projected) and telling us about her recent trip to Ghana with the Guides. If you would like to present some slides please let us know. During the interval we will break for our usual buffet supper. There is no charge for admission and you are welcome to just turn up on the evening but it would be helpful to let us know for catering purposes. A collection for the work of Action for Children

will be made. If you would like a lift to and from the Church, again please let us know.

Diane and Jeremy Foster

Disaster relief for the Caribbean

The Methodist Church in Britain is raising money to support the humanitarian aid and relief work following the heavy rains and winds causing disaster across the Caribbean.

The Church is working with its humanitarian aid and relief partner in the Caribbean, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), which is supporting affected communities as soon as their needs are assessed.

Following Hurricane Irma, Bishop Otto Wade, the President of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas, wrote that "Barbuda, Antigua's sister isle has been devastated. Anguilla, St Martin/Sint Maarten, USVI, and the British Virgin Islands were all greatly affected. As was the Turks and Caicos Islands of the Bahamas/Turks and Caicos Islands Conference. Many homes have been destroyed or have lost their roofs, as have some churches."

You can read more details, including the effects of Hurricane Maria, on the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

See It. Say It. Sorted.

Following the recent terrorist incident on the London Underground, the Metropolitan Police have contacted us to say that they are asking tube and rail passengers and people who use railway stations to help keep themselves

and others safe by reporting unusual items or activity on the railway.

Their message is to be ALERT not alarmed.

See It - Please remain vigilant for anything that seems out of place or unusual on trains or at stations. This could include:

-) Someone being somewhere they shouldn't be, for example trying to get through a door marked 'no entry'
-) An unattended bag
-) Someone checking security arrangements, for example filming CCTV cameras at a station
-) Someone avoiding rail staff and police officers
-) Someone who could be concealing something under their clothing.

Say It -If you see something that doesn't feel right, we want to hear from you. Let us decide if what you have seen or what you know is important.

You should tell a member of rail staff or a police officer what you have seen. You can also call us on 0800 40 50 40, or text us on 61016. In an emergency, always call 999.

Sorted - We will check any information you give us thoroughly. In an emergency call 999 - For non emergencies call 101 - For the Anti-Terrorist Hotline call 0800 789321.

Diary for October

Sun	1 st	11.15am	Morning Service led by Members of the Congregation
Sun	8 th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino
Mandlate			
Sun	15 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Kenneth Samuel
Agyekum			
Fri	20 th	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	22 nd	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino
Mandlate			
Sun	29 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Janet Pearson
November			
Thu	3 rd	8.00pm	Church Council
Sun	5 th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino
Mandlate			

(Last date for items for the November newsletter:
Sunday 22nd October)

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