

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

December 2017 / January 2018



NEWSLETTER

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.

As members of the Methodist church we are called to worship, learn and care, service and evangelism. Please speak to Bernardino or the stewards to find out more about becoming a member at The Drive.

Our Minister writes:

Dear Friends

Christmas is upon us. We all get busy preparing for Christmas, writing cards, sorting out presents, and going through the list of what we need to get and who we'll be sharing our Christmas lunch with. We do get so absorbed in all those mundane things that sometimes we forget the centre of Christmas, Jesus Christ.

God, out of his love for us, invested his love in us, each one of us, to the extent that he sent his only Son into the world to die on the cross, because of that love. We, in turn, are expected to yield a profit of that love, God's love. The only way to show profit from love is to endeavour to take risks and love even the unlovable, sharing our meagre resources with those around us and especially those who are in more desperate need than we are.

Sharing Christmas with those who will have no Christmas at all would be a practical way of showing God's love to our community, and to people who find themselves on the margins of society.

It's beginning to get very cold and we have rough sleepers around us, some by choice but many finding themselves in that predicament. It is our duty of care and love to support those who try to provide night shelter in the winter months. I have, on your behalf, made donations to the Ilford Salvation Army night shelter in previous years and, with your help, would like to do that again this year, if you could make some generous donations towards it.

I would like to invite you to take time and think of those people who are lonely, with no one to talk to, those who are

vulnerable and elderly this Christmas. They may appreciate your endeavours to satisfy yourselves of their wellbeing. It is being Christian to do that and it is to show and exude the love God has afforded us.

May you have a wonderful and blessed festive season, a good start to the New Year when we get there in a few weeks. May all your wishes be blessed by God as we go through this period. Remember that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ who came into the world to experience our life, to have a trade as a carpenter, to be a refugee in Egypt, to be a guest at a wedding, to be a human like any of us, yet Holy and Son of God.

Be blessed. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all

Dino



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

We are sorry to hear that Josie Jiggins recently had a fall at home, breaking her arm. We send her our love and prayers and hope to see Josie in church again very soon.



Birthday Greetings

Very happy birthdays to:

Toju Fadina will be 11 in December

Funmi Fadina will be 6 in December

Paige Fordree will be 8 in December

Stacey Eshun will be 8 in January

We wish all our young people a lovely day.



Happy Birthday also to Jo Wright who celebrates a very special birthday in December. Have a wonderful day Jo with love and best wishes from all your friends at The Drive.

Operation Christmas Child

A carload of over 60 shoe boxes from the church and the pre-school were taken to the collection depot. Many thanks to those who organised this appeal and to those who very kindly contributed.

JMA Presentation Service 19th November

I was delighted to report at the service that The Drive had raised £647 for JMA funds during the past year. Of this amount, £314 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 and Yetunde Fadojutimi.

Sanya Strachan once again led our service during which the Chorale sang 'Praise is Rising'. After praising the efforts of our JMA collectors and donors, Sanya encouraged the church

to listen to our children and young people. She went on to tell us about 3Generate, an annual conference for the children and young people of the Methodist Church, where they have the opportunity for their voices to be heard. This year's event takes place next weekend with a 1000 young people from the age of 8 years attending.

Thank you all for your continued support of JMA.

Diane Foster

The Church Website is moving.....

Yes it's true – after nearly eleven years in its present home, it's time to move! Well actually, the Church authorities have decreed that from next year, all church websites must have a domain name ending in ".church" (instead of ".org.uk", ".co.uk", etc.).

We have secured a suitable domain name, and conversion work is already under way. The website will have a new address (URL) and all the email addresses associated with it will change.

At this stage, it's not possible to give a precise date when the move will take place. The migration will involve a lot of work and testing, but I am aiming to complete it before the end of December – and certainly well before the next edition of the newsletter is published. At the appropriate time, brief details will be announced in the weekly notices. For the next year, the existing website address will automatically redirect you to the new site.

Full details of the changes will be in the February Newsletter.

Mike Seviour

New Essex Choir Concert

The New Essex Choir will give a concert of Christmas and other music in the church on

Saturday 2nd December, 7.30 pm

There will be carols old and new, including Vaughan Williams 'Ceremony of Carols' with baritone soloist Simon Tatnall
Tickets £10 (concessions £8) in advance from Kathleen and Brian Taylor. Tickets on the door £11/£9, under 14 free.



Junior Church - Dates for your diary

Nativity rehearsals will take place on Sunday 26th November and Sunday 3rd December, during our Junior Church sessions.

Saturday 9th December 2.00-5.00pm is our Nativity rehearsal in the church, after which we will be having a Christmas chill out session in the hall.

Sunday 10th December is our Nativity and toy service.

There will be no Junior Church sessions on Sunday 24th, 25th and 31st December, but everyone is welcome to stay in the service.

Jo Wright

Music Matters

The Choir is already busy rehearsing for our Carol Service on Sunday 17th December. The Carol Service is always a highlight of our musical year and made more so if there is a large congregation, so do 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 26th November, 3rd December and 10th December, as well as in the afternoon of the 17th before the Carol Service itself. Anyone is welcome to come and sing with the Chorale – no, really, anyone! Try it out.

Andrew Taylor

Valentine Singers - A Dream of Christmas
Saturday 16th December at 7:30pm
St Andrew's Church, The Drive, Ilford
£10 (£5 students/benefit holders)
visit www.valentinesingers.org
or see Andrew Taylor for tickets

Bible Reading group

The Bible Reading group will meet at 104 Wanstead Lane on Friday 29 December at 10:30m when we will be discussing the Birth Stories in Matthew and Luke, followed by refreshments. And on Friday 26 January when we will be discussing John's Gospel Chapters 15-21, followed by refreshments. All welcome. Join us if you are able.

Jan and John Pearson



Join us for our Christmas Services



The Junior Church and Staff
are pleased invite you to their
NATIVITY AND TOY SERVICE
Sunday 10th December 11.15am
If you can, please bring new toys or
books to the service which,
along with monetary donations,
will be given to the
Woodlands Family Centre, Harlow.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
for choir and congregation
with readings telling the familiar
Christmas story

Sunday 17th December at 6:30pm
Followed by Christmas refreshments
in the Parlour



CHRISTMAS MORNING WORSHIP
10.30am
led by
The Revd Bernardino Mandlate

Bring all your families and friends!

HMS Sutherland

I remember as a boy going on a boat trip from Tower Bridge down the Thames to Southend and then home by train. It is a journey I have always wanted to repeat, so I was excited when Matthew invited me to join him aboard HMS Sutherland for the 48 hour journey from West India Dock down the Thames and along the South Coast to Plymouth. The ship had been to London for a visit by Her Majesty the Queen to mark the twentieth anniversary of the ship's commission.

My "orders" were to be at South Quay station for midday. On the dot a Rating met me, took my bag and escorted me through security and onto the ship. There were a few other civilians aboard and after lunch and a safety briefing we were free to go on deck and watch the preparations for departure. At 15.30 the ship slipped its moorings and two tugs assisted the ship into the lock and out into the Thames. It was fascinating to see the familiar sights pass by. The dockside warehouses that 50 years ago would have been full of produce are now desirable apartments. Then through the Thames Barrier, past Tate & Lyle, under the Dartford Crossing and finally past Southend pier all lit up.

Matthew was duty officer from 20.00 so I was able to observe from the bridge as we made our way round North Foreland Point in Kent and into the Channel – one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world - I was under strict instructions not to interfere! At around 22.00 I left Matthew to it and retired to bed. Matthew had kindly allocated me the top bunk. I managed to haul myself up reasonably easily, but it was not so easy getting down in the early hours to visit the "heads" (Jack Speak for toilets).

Matthew woke me at 07.30 and announced that we had 30 minutes to shower, shave, dress and have breakfast – I just made it. Although I dislike flying, I had put my name down for a flight in the helicopter off the rear deck of the ship. I reported at 08.15 for a flight briefing, but was given the news that there was an age restriction of 60 and that they could not take me up – I had mixed feelings as to whether I was disappointed or not. However, it was fascinating watching the helicopter take off and land on a moving ship at sea. In the afternoon the ship's company gave a demonstration fire drill, completed a "man over board" exercise and then a simulated attack by a small vessel. The whole ship went to "action stations" and after a series of warnings fired off live rounds. It was also interesting to see the South Coast from the sea and to recognise many of the places that I had walked when I was on the South West Coast path.

In the evening the officers dressed for dinner and I enjoyed their company in the Ward room. Matthew was on duty again from 20.00. A thick sea fog had developed and the ship was navigating solely by radar. By morning the fog had cleared and we reached Plymouth Sound breakwater at 11.00 and were moored at Devonport Dockyard by 13.00.

It was a fascinating experience, although I am thankful that the sea was relatively calm.

Jeremy Foster



Christmas greetings to friends at
the Drive Methodist Church

I was given a copy of your November newsletter and was interested to read Revd Bernardino's opening letter focussing on being a good neighbour.

Most people already know about Redbridge Voluntary Care – our local 'good neighbour' charity where we try to be exactly that. A good neighbour. If anyone was challenged by Bernardino's message, we can offer you the perfect opportunity to take up that challenge to people in your own neighbourhood who need a little bit of friendly help and support. To find out more details please contact our duty officer – number on your back page – or Jan, details below. Or maybe you may know someone who needs a bit of support themselves, so contact is through the same channels.

No pressure. Just discover more about us. To join our band of duty officers you don't even have to leave your house – just have some office skills and a good empathetic telephone manner! One day a month. And we are always pleased to welcome new drivers to our scheme, as and when you are available, expenses paid.

With best wishes to all your readers.

Jan Cheal 8500 0956

jancheal@btopenworld.com

(Chairman, Redbridge Voluntary Care)

Diary for December

Sat	2 nd	7.30pm	New Essex Choir Concert See page 6
Sun	3 rd	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
		4.30pm	Circuit Advent Service at Seven Kings Methodist Church
Tue	5 th	7.30 pm	Circuit Meeting at Old Dagenham Methodist Church
Sun	10 th	11.15am	Toy Service & Nativity led by The Junior Church see page 6,8
Fri	15 th	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	17 th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
		6.30pm	Candlelit Carol Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate See page 7,8
Sun	24 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Angela Potheary
Mon	25 th	10.30am	Christmas Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Fri	29 th	10.30 am	Bible Reading Group 104 Wanstead Lane, see page 7
Sun	31 st	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Kenneth Samuel Agyekum

Diary for January

Sun	7 th	11.15am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Sun	14 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Janet Pearson
Fri	19 th	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	21 st	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Sun	28 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr David Pender
Wed	31 st	8.00pm	Church Life Committee Valentines Room

(Last date for items for the February newsletter:
21st January 2018)

Our Newsletter

Thank you for your support in my first few months as Editor by sending me your news and articles. Our newsletter at The Drive goes back a long way and it is a good vehicle to share our news and to keep updated with the whole church family. Over many years John and Audrey Taylor have printed and collated each edition. To keep our newsletter going we are now looking for someone to take over this task each month. If you feel this is something you could do (or perhaps share with another person) please let John or Roy know. Training on the church printer can be provided.

It would be a great shame to lose our monthly newsletter.

Diane Foster



CHRISTMAS PUZZLE PAGES

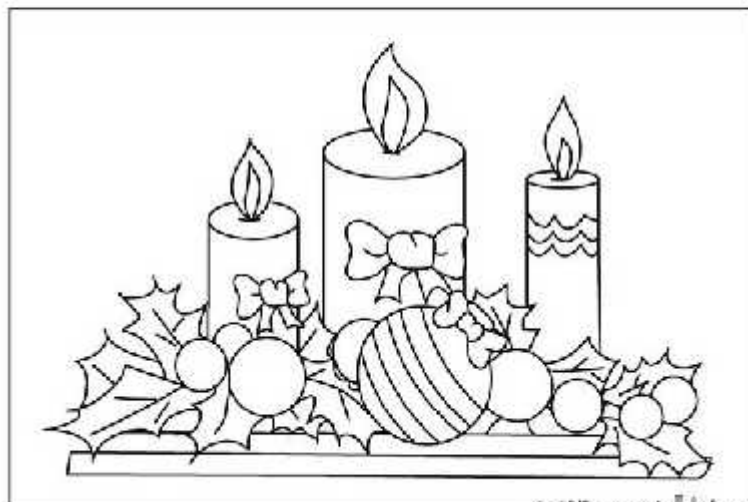
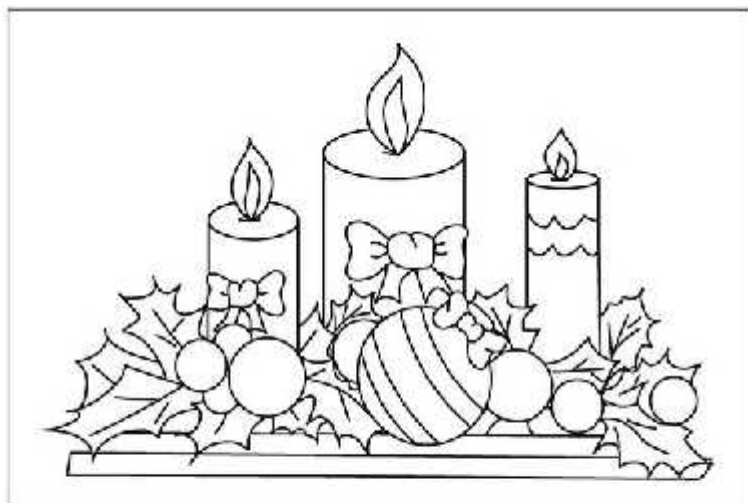


(NO PRIZES– THEY'RE JUST FOR FUN!!)

CONNECTING WALL
WHAT ARE THE 4 GROUPS OF 4 AND THEIR
CONNECTIONS?

CAKE	BAUBLES	FRED	STOCKING
STAR	CRATCHETT	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	LIGHTS
SCROOGE	PUDDING	MARLEY	ELF
CAROL	LOVE ACTUALLY	TINSEL	THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES
HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?



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IDENTIFY THE CHRISTMAS CAROL FROM THE INITIALS OF THE WORDS OF THE FIRST LINE

ICUTMC _____

AIAM _____

SNHN _____

HTHAS _____

DDMOH _____

THATI _____

OCAYF _____

ISTSCSI _____

SHLOABOS _____

OCNACS _____

NATIVITY WORDSEARCH

G N I K Y Y R S I G K B W L B
B M G J X R H K H T J U H E E
A N Y R B E A F H E U O K L T
B O N E P M W M F J E G T B H
Y F S H R H P C D F O P D A L
G J E S A D H P E S O J C T E
F R T D T M N B T H J R D S H
D A A X S S B E E B I W J W E
J C O Q Y T Q O A B G B S O M
R W Y H L J D J R N V U Z C Y
S E V E I R S M P J K E P S M
E Y G F B E S T C F K N S O Y
I N P N X J E S U S I A W Z B
A L I V A E E A F B U T S Q A
L S S N Z M F L D J O J A K X

ANGEL, ASS, BABY, BETHLEHEM, CRIB,
JESUS, JOSEPH, KING, MANGER, MARY,
SHEEP, SHEPHERD, STABLE, STAR

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.
Amen

Robert Louis Stevenson

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY JOYOUS CHRISTMAS
AND A PEACEFUL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

