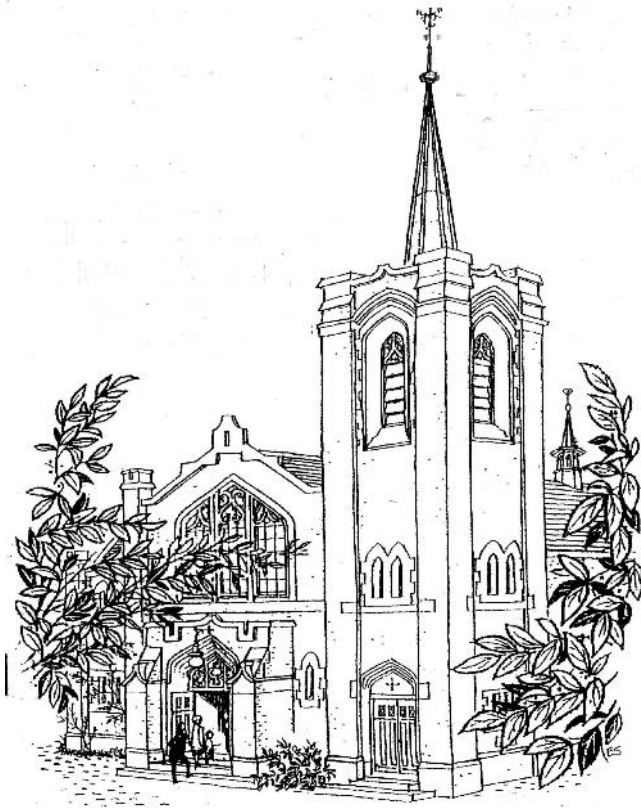


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

February 2018



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

www.drive-methodist.church

**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

A happy new year to each and all of you. Each year begins with its challenges in different form and ways. Our lives are always an attempt to deal with those challenges, be they health, physical ability, finances, social and the list goes on. The Lord Jesus Christ always by our side challenges us on the one hand, and helps us face those challenges on the other.

I am writing during the Week of Prayer for Christian unity and I thought that a quote from the resources material would help us somewhat in some of our challenges and this one is a call to reconciliation. Reconciling ourselves with the rest of society, reconciling ourselves with history and how that plays out in our lives.

“Past hurts rooted in slavery and dominance have left a legacy of deep divisions among God’s children. The lack of repentance for history and memories make us cling to hurts; we let ourselves be defined by them. And our embarrassment in having caused them and the pride which will not let us admit it ensure that hurts and divisions are perpetuated. The Body of Christ remains broken; we are pulled ever further from the reconciler of our faith and the unity that is possible through His love. The Spirit speaks but are we listening? Can we not hear? Enough! Enough! We can say sorry, seek forgiveness, forgive, let go.

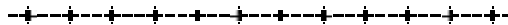
What should be rendered to God? Are we willing to surrender to God the hostility, jealousy, bitterness and guilt that separates us from God’s reconciling grace and mercy? Lord, reveal to us our failings, that becoming aware of them and seeking your grace and forgiveness, we may be united in a relationship of love where institutional divisions fall away.

Then together we will move towards a spiritual reconciliation which unites in the dance of the Triune God.”

This reflection will help us face our challenges towards meeting the goals of making our world a better place for all, and where all are welcome regardless of their origins, inclinations and even belief systems. Let the right hand write in our land and in our hearts.

May the Lord Jesus continue to bless you as you face up to your personal challenges.

Dino



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

There have been a number of people unwell recently with seasonal illnesses and we wish them a speedy recovery.

After a time of being unwell it is good to see Brian Taylor, Josie, Liz and Leotta back in church again.

We remember Pauline and Colin Rodway in our prayers on their recent family bereavements.

We were sad to hear of the death of Ruth Whitton, wife of Cresswell Whitton, a former minister here, whom some of you may remember.

Christmas 2017

This year Christmas was celebrated with as much reverence and success as it always is. The Junior Church led the preparation with a very enthusiastic Nativity and Toy Service for which I thank Jo and her teaching staff who spent much time working with the young people. I felt that both the congregation and young people enjoyed acting out the Nativity story, and there was a good response to the toy collection for our annual support to the charity Lorraine works at in Harlow. A great thank you to all those who took part and or

donated. The monetary donation sent to the Woodlands Family Centre was £194.20.

A week before Christmas, the 17th December, saw us enjoying our annual Candlelit Carol Service. This service was well supported again this year. It commenced with Theodora singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City before the choir processed down the church. We then had six readings and hymns. The quality of this service was again very high thanks to the dedication and professionalism of Andrew our Choir master and Organist.

We then followed our normal Sunday service with a Christmas Day service on Monday 25th which again was well supported.

It is always a great pleasure to be supported by both our regular congregation and visitors which shows so much support and willingness to recognise this very important part of our Christian Year. My thanks to all those who supported and took part in our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ who was born 2017 years ago, and is still caring for us today, together with his father, our everlasting God.

His word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119 verse 105)

Roy Brunnen

The Nativity

It was a snowy Sunday morning, but the Junior Church was determined to tell the Nativity story, despite the chilly weather. Thank goodness they did!

The Nativity was told through drama and carols which had been cleverly put together by John and Michelle.

A big well done and thank you goes to all our talented young people and to all the Junior Church team who helped throughout the whole weekend.

Quite a few people were unable to attend the service, because of the snow, and many have since asked if we could do it again next December.

It's a thought!

Jo Wright

New Website Address – www.drive-methodist.church

On 9th January, the church website moved to its new home. If you have created any 'bookmarks' for the old site, please amend them as soon as possible.

All the associated **email addresses** have also changed. Any addresses you may have previously used will be different – e.g. **newsletter@the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk** is now **newsletter@drive-methodist.church**. A full list of the new addresses can be found in the 'Contact Us' page of the website.

For a limited period, the old email addresses and the website Home Page will continue to exist, but will simply redirect you to the new address. Please ensure that you update any entries in your email address book.

Our website contains over 1,200 files, of which over 400 are programs, every one of which needed to be amended. Given the size of the task, it would be amazing if nothing has been missed, so if you come across any problems, such as broken links or factual errors, please let me know so that I can correct them as quickly as possible.

As part of the project, I have taken the opportunity to update many of the programs (some of which are over 11 years old) to comply with the latest internet standards, which should mean that in most cases they will load faster and display better, especially on tablets and mobile devices.

Most of these changes are 'under the hood' so you won't see much difference for now. The next phase (after I've had a break!) will be to give the website a face lift and fresher look, so if anyone has any creative ideas I'd be grateful to hear about them!

Mike Seviour webmaster@drive-methodist.church
(Thanks Mike for all you do to maintain our website – Ed.)

Redbridge Faith Forum

A workshop on the theme of 'Community Safety' will be held on Tuesday 30th January at the Holy Trinity Church, Barkingside from 11.45 am – 1.45 pm. Come along to find out about local services and support to make Redbridge a safe and caring place to live.

Junior Church Notice Board

The Junior Church has decided to decorate one of the boards at the back of the church for the month of February, with the theme 'love'. To get the rest of the congregation involved, it would be really appreciated if people shared some of their experiences and stories with us.

It could be about how you met your partner or even something God has done for you that you think really demonstrated His love to you. We hope to receive many of these wonderful stories from you all.

Yetunde Fadojutimi on behalf of the Junior Church

Junior Church work morning

On Saturday 10th February there will be a short work morning to tidy the Junior Church area at the back of the church and the cupboard in the choir vestry.

Over the last few months Andrew has painstakingly cleared, ordered and documented all the choir music in the vestry and Jeremy and his team have been tidying and clearing areas in the church too. I think it's our turn now!

I will be at church from 10.30 and we will finish by 12.30. Coffee and biscuits will be served during the morning.

All help from our Junior Church team will be gratefully received. Thanks.

Jo Wright

Bible Reading Group

The Bible Reading group will meet on Friday 23rd February at 104 Wanstead Lane at 10:30 am. We will be discussing the book of Ruth followed by refreshments. All are welcome so please join us if you can.

Jan and John Pearson

Advanced Notices

Women's World Day of Prayer 2018 2nd March

The service on Friday 2nd March will be held at 2 pm at Ilford Methodist Church, Ilford Lane.

The title of the service is 'All God's creation is very good' and has been prepared by Christian Women of Suriname.

This will probably be the last afternoon service in Ilford Town Centre. In future we shall probably join forces with North Ilford or Seven Kings and Goodmayes.

Please come if you are able and support our friends at Ilford Methodist Church.

Susan Ruckes



**Our annual JMA FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE and TEA
(and raffle)
will be held on:**

**SATURDAY 3rd MARCH 2018
2.30 pm for 3 pm START
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL
Adult: £5; Children (under 16): £2.50**

All profits go to JMA (Junior Mission for All)
raising funds for projects both at home and abroad.
Come along and enjoy an afternoon of
fellowship, food and fun!

***Tickets are available from me now
so please tell all your family and friends***

Diane Foster

Palm Sunday 25th March

The Drive will be hosting a Palm Sunday Circuit Service on 25th March at 5 pm. The service will include the accreditation of Jan Pearson as a Local Preacher and our choir, together with our friends from Ilford Methodist Church, will be singing. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Offers of help serving refreshments will be gratefully received. Please speak to Jo for further information.



Easter Egg Hunt 31st March

Saturday 31st March will be our annual Easter Egg Hunt 10.30am - 12.30pm. All are welcome.



Raysin Hope

Thanks to our loyal supporters, Raysin Hope enters its 9th year of fundraising for people who have been diagnosed with a brain tumour. Without all of these dedicated supporters we could not have fulfilled so many projects.

Since our first coffee morning at the church in November 2009 when we launched our fundraising, myself and my family have met so many people to whom we could relate. Each has shared their story with us about life after diagnosis.

Following a donation from Raysin Hope the Romford Brain Tumour Support Group was set up in January 2012 and we continue to fund this group. We also have an information table at Queens Hospital once a month to promote our group and the Brain Tumour Charity UK. Our numbers at the group are rising each month and apart from the hospital recommending our group, social media has played a part in getting our group widely known. We are a lively group but there are times when a gentle hug will be needed and everyone understands.

We have evolved as a group and welcome the bereaved which I believe is important to our group as some patients need to know that their loved one will continue to have the support they need.

There are many projects that have been funded by our generous supporters and I would like to mention Ruth who spends copious amounts of her time collecting lavender to make the pretty bags she sells each year, donating all funds to Raysin Hope. Our many thanks to the church for the donations that Raysin Hope receive from the Communion collections.

Our saving pots are always available and a big 'Thank You' to Betty Griffiths, our Saver Pot of the Year!

Some of you may recall our project named 'The Quiet Room' at Queens which is a tranquil place for relatives to gather their thoughts and sit with loved ones. We are hoping to have details of another project on Sahara B very soon.

When we look back over the past nine years we have seen our prayers answered, sometimes not in ways we hoped for but in ways we never dreamt.

Anne Dellow

Matthew

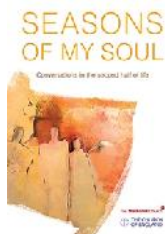
Tuesday 9th January was a cold blustery morning. We were standing at Devils Point to wave Matthew farewell as HMS Sutherland set sail from the Plymouth Naval Base at Devonport to start her seven month deployment. The channel through Plymouth Sound is very narrow and ships have to pass within 30 meters of the point, so we had a good view of the ship and the crew who had lined up along the deck. The ship will be heading for Australia and various other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Originally it was to be for nine months starting last November but the departure date was deferred to January so Matthew was able to spend Christmas at home. Although the return date is not yet finalised, Matthew hopes to be back in time for Harvest!

Diane Foster

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(was £8.99)

**Order by calling
0845 017 8220**

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2017/18

Jesus the First and Last

(was £3.95)



Diary

January

Wed 31st 8.00 pm Church Life Committee

February

Sun 4th 11.15 am Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate

Sat 10th 10.30 am Junior Church Work Morning
see page 7

Sun 11th 11.15 am Morning Service led by Mrs Sharon Grundy

Wed 14th Ash Wednesday

Thur 15th 8.00 pm Church Council

Fri 16th 10.30 am Coffee in the park

Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion

Sun 18th 11.15 am 1st Sunday in Lent Morning Service led by Mr Collins Frimpong-Manso

Wed 21st 8.00 pm Finance Committee

Fri 23rd 10.30 am Bible Reading Group

104 Wanstead Lane, see page 7

Sun 25th 11.15am Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate

March

Fri 2nd 10.30 am Women's World Day of Prayer
see page 8

Sat 3rd 3.00 pm JMA Beetle Drive see page 8

Sun 4th 11.15 am Morning Service followed by Annual Church Meeting

***(Last date for items for the March Newsletter:
Sunday 18th February)***