

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

NEWSLETTER

May 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

I trust you've all had a good Easter Season, although I am aware that some of you have been unwell.

As we head towards Ascension and Pentecost the Lord will be by our side as usual.

We continue to live in a world still affected by violence. London has recently been going through a spate of violence, stabbings and shootings involving especially young people. As a society we struggle with this phenomenon and we seem unable to find proper measures to deal with this once and for all. It is incumbent on us as Christians to pray and reason with our communities to find ways through which further deaths can be prevented. We should not give up hope, not in our city nor the world at large that desperately needs our prayers and actions to help solve the violence, bring to an end wars and enable justice and harmony to prevail in our dealings with each other.

Church wise, our circuit needs to begin to strategise for the future in light of decreasing numbers of Presbyters. Please refer to John Pearson's article in reference to the initial conversations we've had and possible way forward. There is no easy answer. We need to think outside the box and we need everyone's ideas on this, please do participate when the consultations begin soon. It's not the end of world yet. Let us try to mobilise potential candidates for local preachers and those who can offer for the ministry as part of the solution not only for our circuit but for the whole church that is affected by the shortage of Presbyters.

At the Drive we can do with more 'hands' to help with the running of the day to day of the life of our church. There are a few activities, I don't want to call them 'jobs', that need people to volunteer and commit some of their time to do them. If you think you can spare some time to help keep the church running please let us know and we can find ways of getting you involved. We need 'pastoral visitors'

who keep in touch with a small group of church members on behalf of the church, either by phone or by physically visiting them. It is an important aspect of the life of the church. If this is something that you feel able to do please let us know so that we can allocate a few families to your care.

May the Lord continue to bless you as you seek his guidance for your lives.

Dino



Please remember in your prayers:

Janet and Roy have both been unwell recently. They thank everyone for their cards, phone calls and good wishes and hope to be back at church very soon.

Peter Mitchell is currently unwell and is in King George Hospital, undergoing tests.

We have also heard that Danny Henry is unwell.

We ask for God's blessing on Janet, Roy, Peter and Danny and all those for whom we have concerns at this time.

Good luck

At this time of year we like to wish all our young people good luck with their studies, assessments and exams. It's a tough time for them and we wish God's blessing on them all.

Jo Wright

Birthday Greetings

We wish a very special Happy Birthday to:
Folake Fadojutimi who will 18 in May.
Have a wonderful day Folake.



Palm Sunday

Thank you to everyone who helped with the refreshments after the circuit service on Palm Sunday. It was a great team effort and many people commented on how much they had enjoyed it.

I especially want to thank Oli and the young people who put out the tables and chairs on Sunday morning. Thanks must also go to the cake bakers, the servers, the washing up team and the putting away team.

Many hands did make light work!

Easter Egg Hunt

Thanks to everyone who supported the event and to all the volunteers and Junior church team who helped run the morning. We had lots of new faces taking part this year and this was partly due to it being advertised on the website, 'mumsnet', probably through parents at the pre-school.

Thank you also to everyone who sponsored an Easter Egg for our young people to find. It was very generous of you.

Jo Wright

Good Friday

There is a set of ancient books of choir anthems in the choir vestry cupboard. An unfamiliar title for many English people is an excerpt of Mozart's 'Requiem' called the 'Benedictus'.

Each Good Friday, a musical event is organised to raise money for an orphanage in the Philippines. The orphanage is run by Andrew Taylor's friend, Nickie Kenning.

Ninety years ago a performance in Latin of Mozart's 'Requiem' at The Drive might have been, at the least, unusual. On Good Friday 65 singers arrived for a 'DIY' performance. Just a few, including our Superintendent Minister, the Revd Ermal Kirby, had never sung the work before. There were experienced choral singers from several local choirs, past and present.

The singers pay to take part but it was free for the audience. This year more than £1500 was raised.

I have sung Mozart's 'Requiem' several times in various locations but this was probably the most thrilling performance I have ever taken part in.

Thanks must be expressed to our musical director, Andrew and our 'orchestra', Tim Smith. We could not have managed without them.

Susan Ruckes

Easter Sunday

Easter was celebrated at The Drive in our usual style with the dressing of the cross prior to the commencement of the morning service. During the service the Choir sang This Joyful Eastertide and were joined by the Chorale for a couple of items at the beginning and during Communion. At the end of the service Andrew played Toccata by Théodore Dubois which was a fitting end to the worship. We are so lucky to have such talented musicians in our church and their contribution greatly enhances our services.

Jeremy Foster

Esther Olujinmi

A number of our congregation attended the songs of praise and/or funeral of Esther on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th April. The church was packed for both services with family and friends, many of whom had travelled from overseas including America and Africa. The tributes paid to Esther by various members of the family were extremely moving and gave testament to Esther's interesting life, faith and her passion for her family. We shall miss Esther's warm smiles and presence on a Sunday morning.

Diane Foster

A Circuit Conversation 21st April

Preamble

About 80 church members together with ministers from across the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit met in the Drive Church hall on Saturday 21st April to begin discussing what response we might make to the situation regarding the decreasing pool of Methodist ministers able to be allocated to our churches.

The meeting commenced with a hymn and then our Superintendent Minister The Revd Ermal Kirby opened the discussion by explaining that three of our ministers are due for review and we may not necessarily keep them all and as the pool of new ministers was getting smaller we would be prudent to consider ways in which we might prepare for a situation where we had fewer ministers than we do now.

Multi-Site Churches

To help us with our deliberations Revd Kirby had invited The Revd Tim Bradshaw, Superintendent of Islington and Camden Mission, who had guided a circuit in West Sheffield through the process of moving from a circuit organised much like our own to one where there were multi-site churches. Revd Bradshaw reported that as a

result resources of people and money had been freed up and the churches were growing in a way they had not been before.

He explained that in a multi-site church, the congregations stay with their premises and continue to worship there. However instead of each congregation being a separate church, they are all one church. This means that they only need one treasurer for example. He reported that in West Sheffield they had hired someone to manage the property and the lettings and because of this coordination of the different sites lettings had increased. Eventually they were able to pay the full cost of the property manager.

People who were over-busy trying to do several roles in a smaller church, a situation not unknown in our circuit, were able to get support from the larger church membership since they were now one church. This enabled people to become more creative and innovative.

A mission enabler was also hired to work in local council estates which resulted over time in church growth.

It was pointed out that the specifics of what was done in Sheffield may not be right for us but that what was right for us would be decided by us. It was clear to us that we need to engage in mission if the church is to grow.

How we get our ministers

The Revd Bernardino Mandlate spoke from his knowledge of how the ministers are appointed to our circuits. The issue seems to be that more ministers are stepping down from ministry than there are new candidates being accepted. The average age of candidates is increasing and so they are in service for a shorter time. Also, he said that not all those who put themselves forward are accepted for training and not all those accepted for training would complete this successfully and enter ministry. This creates a problem for all Methodist Churches in Britain.

Questions

We were invited to ask questions, at first for clarification and then regarding the process and content of reorganization. Revd Bradshaw responded to all questions and was able to allay many of the concerns people had. He mentioned a problem that they had in Sheffield which is common in all organisational and cultural change, mindblock. This means an inability to see that things can be done differently – to think ‘outside the box’. We must be prepared for ‘mindblock’ in any changes we may make.

Process

Revd Bradshaw explained that to move forward with the reorganisation in Sheffield, five people plus himself were charged by the circuit with thinking through the issues and bringing back proposals for discussion. Questions were asked about how these people were selected. It seemed that they were people who could think clearly and see things from all angles.

Other models of possible groups to get us started were proposed but we came to the view that a smaller group such as they had in Sheffield would better serve our purpose. Revd Kirby suggested that we ask folk to put themselves forward by writing to him, if they were willing to put in the time and wanted to seek a good solution for the circuit. He also recommended that we put forward to him nominations where a person who would be suitable to do this work was too self-effacing to put themselves forward. This seemed to please the meeting and it was decided that we would do this. Since we have little time to prepare a Ministerial Profile for a possible minister in 2019 it was proposed and accepted that we include in the profile that we will be in transition and such a minister would be helping with the transition. Revd Bradshaw said that he would be willing to visit again if it would be helpful.

The meeting was closed with thanks for attendance and prayer.

John Pearson

The Drive Scout & Guide Group



Plant Sale



Refreshments and Cake Stall

Saturday 12th May 2018

10:00 am to 12:30 pm

The Drive Methodist Church Hall

Please come early for the best selection

Ilford Historical Society 14th May

Colin Runeckles is giving a talk to the Ilford Historical Society about buildings in the area titled "On the Street Where you Live" at 7:30pm on Monday 14th May in the Ilford Hospital Chapel.

Visitors welcome, £3 admission which includes refreshments. Limited parking and wheelchair access via Read Close.

Church Prayer Meeting 24th May

This will be held from 7.15pm – 7.45pm in the Minister's vestry. All welcome (sheets will be at the back of the church for those who are unable to attend but wish to pray along with us).

Bible Reading Group 25th May

This will take place at 10.30am, at 104 Wanstead Lane. We will be discussing Luke, chapters 17-24, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Jan and John Pearson

Redbridge Voluntary Care

On behalf of Redbridge Voluntary Care, I would like to thank friends at The Drive Methodist Church for their kind donation of £42.19p.

We can only continue our work in the neighbourhood with the help of supporters like yourselves.

I would be pleased to hear from anyone in your congregation who is interested in learning more about us with a view to becoming a volunteer, as we are always pleased to welcome some new blood, so to speak.

Thank you again

Jan Cheal
Chairman

Exploring the Choir Cupboards

Over the last few months, I have been gradually working my way through the cupboards in the choir vestry, replacing ancient crumbling folders with new ones, updating the index of choir music, and generally tidying up. It's a task that was long overdue, having been started some years ago with the help of Phyllis Spencer. At that time, we identified a number of sets of choir anthems that could be "archived" – in other words, binned – as there was no prospect of us or anyone else ever wanting to perform them again! We got as far as moving those folders to another cupboard, and I have finally found the courage to transfer them to my recycling bin

at home. It very much goes against the grain for me to throw music away, but I have kept one copy of everything that went in the bin!

Our collection of choir music comes from a variety of sources. The first anthems to enter the cupboard would have been bought 90 years ago when the Eastern Avenue United Methodist Church was opened. Since then, we have inherited the libraries of other churches, most notably of course that of Cranbrook Park Methodist Church when the two churches joined together to form The Drive Methodist Church in the 1970s. There is also music from Chadwell Heath Baptist Church and most recently Sue Ruckes and I rescued some music from a very dusty cupboard at Seven Kings Methodist Church. All of this has now been incorporated into our folder system, and logged on our music database.

It's been interesting to see through our collection the changing fashions in church choir music. There are certain old anthems that you'll find in a corner of practically every choir vestry in the country. We now have 104 copies of "O Saviour of the world" by John Goss (which we sang on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday). Other ubiquitous pieces include "Ring out wild bells" by Percy Fletcher, "All in the April evening" by Hugh Roberton, Gordon Jacob's arrangement of "Brother James' Air (Psalm 23)" and Roger Quilter's "Non nobis Domine", all of which will be familiar to choral singers of a certain age. Also evident is the fact that in the past, every church seemed to have a choir capable of tackling some seriously challenging music – choruses from Handel's "Messiah" and Mendelssohn's "Elijah", as well as the yearly Passiontide performance of works such as John Stainer's "Crucifixion" and "Olivet to Calvary" by John Maunder. However, when did anyone last hear or sing "Cast me not away" by C L Williams or Martin Shaw's version of "O Brother man"? We have over 50 copies of both of those anthems as well! One piece I found which I would like to hear is "Father of love" by E R Gronow, which, intriguingly, is dedicated to the Eastern Avenue Methodist Church choir. I'd love to know the story behind that one.

The more recent additions to our library reflect the changing shape of church choirs, often with fewer men, and tenors being particularly rare! We're very lucky at The Drive still to have a small four-part choir, but not everyone can be singing all the time. It is therefore useful to have a stock of flexible choir music that can be sung in unison, or just two or three parts. The music we have sung at the Small Choirs Festivals over the last few years is chosen with such flexibility in mind, as are many of the items in the latest books of anthems.

With individual anthems and items from anthem books, we now have in our cupboard getting on for 1,000 pieces of music. A quick calculation tells us that if our choir sang a different piece each week, it would take over 19 years to get through the entire library! The reality is that we will never use the majority of the music we have, but we are nonetheless custodians of a remarkable archive, and this must be the case in churches up and down the land.

Now that I've got our database up to date, maybe it's time to start a national one...

Andrew Taylor

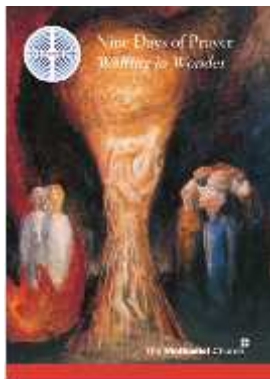


Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement and the Methodist Church is a major partner in this initiative. It invites all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost, 10th – 20th May, for more people to know Jesus. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, and the Secretary of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Canon Gareth J Powell, are inviting people around the world to join with this campaign. See

www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/thy-kingdom-come/

You can also see a video on Youtube of Archbishop Justin Welby speaking to Reverend Gareth Powell about what this means to him. A truly fascinating conversation which also touches upon the life of John Wesley.



Waiting in Wonder

This A6-sized booklet contains nine reflections and prayers written by the President-Designate of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Michaela A Youngson. It also includes images from the Methodist Modern Art Collection. The booklet can be used between Ascension and Pentecost as well as at other times of the year.

You can download a copy at www.thykingdomcome.global or order from Christian Publishing & Outreach Ltd,

Garcia Estate, Canterbury Road, Worthing,
West Sussex, BN13 1BW. Tel: 01903 263354.

Did you know?

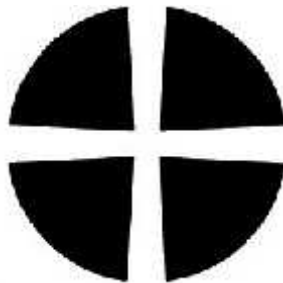
On most Methodist publications you will find the Orb and Cross. It has been carefully chosen to express the Methodist Church's deepest beliefs.

The Orb represents the world. The colour red, the traditional colour of Pentecost, may be taken to symbolise the Methodist conviction that through the power of the Holy Spirit, all humanity may be saved.

The Orb is charged with a radiant Cross, which, like the field it is set on, is white, celebrating the glory of the risen Saviour.

There is no boundary to the arms of the cross, just as there are no limits to the grace of God.

Ours is a faith that addresses the deepest longings of the heart, but it is always turned outwards to the world and its needs.



Diary

May

Sun	6 th	11.15 am	Morning Service with Holy Communion and Baptism of Alice Rose Marlow led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Sat	12 th	10.00 am	The Drive Scout & Guide Group Plant Sale at The Drive Methodist Church Hall see page 10
Sun	13 th	11.15 am	Morning Service led by Mr Collins Frimpong-Manso
Mon	14 th	7.30 pm	Iford Historical Society talk at Iford Hospital Chapel see page 10
Fri	18 th	10.30 am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	20 th	11.15 am	Morning Service led by The Revd Angela Potheary
Thur	24 th	7.15 pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's vestry see page 10
Fri	25 th	10.30 am	Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane see page 10
Sun	27 th	11.15 am	Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate

June

Sun	3 rd	11.15 am	Morning Service led by tbc
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(Last date for items for the June Newsletter:
Sunday 20th May)