



The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue Ilford

Minister Revd Bernardino Mandlate

NEWSLETTER

Christmas 2018

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.

Dear Friends

I pray to God that you are all well and getting ready to enjoy whatever Christmas may bring your way. I know some of you, if not all, are busy with preparations for your Christmas celebrations, either buying presents, wrapping them and/or making shopping lists for Christmas dinner.

As you do so, please consider the world in which we live and our role in its well-being. How much plastic are we going to throw away during this season that may end up messing up the environment. The food waste that always happens at this time of the year, as we cook more than we can eat, while on our streets people are going hungry and cold also affects the environment and God's creation. God entrusted the world to us to live out of but not abuse so that generations and generations may continue to benefit from it.

Life as we know it, is fast becoming meaningless in some parts of the world as we continue to witness conflicts, wars and constant bloodshed in the name of someone's values that are not extensive to all God's creation. We continue to feed wars in places like Yemen because it keeps our defence industry active and keeping jobs regardless of the wrong ethics and the human distress that we witness as a result. Aid agencies struggle to keep up with the needs of millions of people who are directly affected in all areas of conflicts. Refugees grow in number in search of better lives for themselves and their loved ones because they realise that they will never make it in their own countries. The world economic order is against the poor. Some fundamentalist Christians would look at what is happening around the world as 'signs of the end of time' and thus do nothing about it because the world is coming to an end.

The gospel demands of us action that alleviates the suffering we see and unwillingly participate in. Jesus came so that we may have life and have it abundantly, all of us regardless of our background. Share your Christmas blessings with the less fortunate. That would be true Christian witness. God has blessed me so I bless you.

Our young people in the church are beginning to organise themselves and they will need our support. Let us all share with them our experiences and guide them where we are able without overwhelming them with our own ideas of what we think they should do. Let us just give the support they may ask for.

I wish you all a happy Christmas season and a blessed New Year.

Blessings
Dino



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

We particularly remember Janet Wragg who has fractured a rib following a fall on holiday and Ian Warden who has been diagnosed with an eye condition.

See Ian's message on page 12.

Thanks

John and Audrey Taylor would like to thank everyone for their best wishes following John's brief visit to King George Hospital recently. He received prompt and excellent emergency treatment for an infection and was back resting and recovering at home within a few hours.

December/January Birthday Greetings to:



Toju Fadina who will be 12;
Funmi Fadina who will be 7;
Paige Fordree who will be 9;
Stacey Eshun who will be 9.

We were also very pleased to sing a special Happy Birthday to Elsie Blanchard who celebrated her 95th birthday in November.

Church Council 8th November

The Church Council met on 8th November. Our minister was in the chair and 14 members attended. Kathleen Taylor is stepping down as Church Secretary and Priya Imbakumar has kindly agreed to take over. The Council unanimously agreed to appoint Priya as the new Secretary.

Reports from the Church Committees were given:

Finance Committee: John Higgins distributed copies of the Accounts. He pointed out that cleaning costs had gone up and amounted to 25% of the Property Account.

Property Committee: Jeremy Foster said we were over budget because of unexpected work on the church tower. Some jobs still need to be done. We need to re-roof the Cranbrook Room to prevent water getting into the woodwork, which would incur greater expense. There is now double-glazing in the Cranbrook Room, and we should now double-glaze the Church Parlour which we are budgeted to do.

Pastoral Committee: Brian Grinham reported that we had 67 members and 37 adherents.

Church Life Committee: Brian Grinham reported he is preparing "Welcome Packs" which could include booklets produced by the Methodist Church on such subjects as "What being a Methodist means" and "Communion" etc. A current Newsletter could also be included. He said the showing of the film "The Shack" was successful and we can buy more films and show them. We have a licence for the year. "The Shack" will be shown again on the 26th January and the Circuit will be invited.

TDY/Junior Church: A report was read from Jo Wright: "It's wonderful news that our young adults have taken action on the circuit discussion and are developing the youth section. Bambo and Lola will be the leaders of the youth group, initially with some support until their DBS checks come through. Lorraine is organizing this at the moment. The Youth club will meet monthly".

Jo asked if the church could give financial help. The Council agreed to do so. Jo went on to say that numbers have dwindled in the younger section, and she is in touch with families who come sporadically. Plans are to link with the pre-school to try and promote and work together to build the younger section again and with that in mind the pre-school has been asked to join us for the Nativity. Priya and Lorraine will go into the pre-school and promote the Nativity and the Christmas fund-raiser. Kay Whiddon is fully supportive of this. Thanks were expressed to Lorraine and Peter Bendon for producing the church Christmas cards and Christmas banner.

Kathleen Taylor

Remembrance Day Service 11th November

Many thanks to Roy for leading the beginning of our service on Remembrance Day. On this centenary of the First World War, poems written by First World War poets, were read which were very poignant and moving reminders of the horrors of the war. We were pleased that Matthew was able to join us and read one of the poems.

JMA Awards Presentation 18th November

Receiving badges and certificates this year were Thea Garner, Rochelle Inbakumar, Yetunde Fadojutimi, Toju, Tunrayo and Funmi Fadina, Paige Fordree and Iris Bennett-Wright.

The splendid amount of £653.43 was raised by The Drive for JMA this year. Our collectors raised £328.43 and the rest came from donations and the Beetle Drive which was cancelled because of bad weather. Another Beetle Drive is planned for March - let's hope there's not another Beast from the East!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Diane Foster

Church Prayer Meeting 29th November

The Church prayer meeting is in the church vestry from 7:15pm to 7:45pm on Thursday 29th November. Come if you can. Otherwise see sheets at the back of the church.

Bible Reading Group 30th November

The Bible Reading Group will meet on Friday 30th November from 10:30am to 11:30am followed by refreshments at 104 Wanstead Lane. We will be discussing Genesis chapters 39 to 44. All are welcome.

Jan and John Pearson

The Drive Youth (TDY) – key dates for your diary

Nativity rehearsals and TDY planning will take place on **Sunday 25th November and Sunday 2nd and 9th December**, during our normal Sunday morning sessions.

Saturday 1st December is the Christmas fundraiser – see below

Saturday 15th December is our Nativity rehearsal in the church and “pizza fest.” in the parlour 11.00-1.00pm.

Sunday 16th December is our Nativity and toy service. Please arrive by 11.00am.

Also, if you can, please bring a new toy/ game to the service. This will be given to the family centre where Lorraine Bendon works. It will then be distributed to children and their families who are supported by the centre. Thank you.

Jo Wright



TDY Christmas fundraiser
Saturday 1st December
10 am -12 noon in the church hall

Come and enjoy a mince pie and some festive fun and crafts.

The money raised will be sent to the "WE" movement, a charity that helps to empower children to make a difference locally and globally.



Christmas Concerts



THE NEW ESSEX CHOIR
Saturday 8th December
7.30 pm at The Drive Methodist Church

REJOICE AND BE MERRY

Conductor – Lawrence Tatnall
Piano – Janet Baldacci, Organ - Andrew Taylor

When Icicles Hang by John Rutter, Mid-winter by Bob Chilcott plus carols for everyone to sing and mince-pies for refreshments

Tickets £10/£8 from Brian Taylor or £12/£10 on the door.



VALENTINE SINGERS
Saturday 15th December

7:30pm at St Andrew's Church, The Drive, Ilford

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

a feast of seasonal music
including

Jonathan Rathbone's Dickensian delight
Mr Fezziwig's Christmas Party

£10 (£5 students/benefit holders)
(buy in advance - £13/£7 on the door!)
phone 020 8550 6454 or visit our website
www.valentinesingers.org
or see Andrew Taylor

Music Matters

The Choir is already busy rehearsing for our Carol Service on Sunday 23rd December, which this year includes music from as far away as the Caribbean and Australia, as well as all your favourite congregational carols. (Letters to the Editor if your favourite isn't actually included!)

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...

The Chorale will also be taking part in the Carol Service, and we will have practices after the Sunday services on 25th November and 2nd, 9th and 16th December, as well as in the afternoon of the 23rd before the Carol Service itself. Anyone is welcome to come and sing with the Chorale - no, really, anyone! Try it out.

Andrew Taylor

Refreshments - Candlelit Carol Service 23rd December



Following the Carol Service refreshments will be served in the church parlour as usual. Offers of mince or apple pies will be gratefully received. If you wish to contribute please put your name on the list at the back of the church.

Many thanks

Anne Dellow



Join us for our Christmas Services



**The Junior Church and Staff
are pleased to invite you to their
NATIVITY AND TOY SERVICE
Sunday 16th 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 23rd 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!

TDY

It is wonderful to see our young people inspiring change and taking new directions. As a church we are changing our mindset from "I can't" to "I will give it a try" and from "they can do it" to "I will be part of doing it".

We will also be linking more with our pre-school and hopefully some of them will be joining us for the fundraiser and Nativity service.

2019 will hopefully be a year of change at The Drive.

Jo Wright

Ian Warden writes:

I was diagnosed in May 2018 with central vision deterioration for which there is no cure and which leaves me with a constant mist. By September the condition had deteriorated to a degree that my consultant at Moorfields suggested two eye operations to hold back my sight loss. The first one will be in November followed by a second one in due course. Anne is helping me to write this article.

The reason for this information is that, although I usually send Christmas cards each year, I will unfortunately be unable to send any this year due to my sight problems.

We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Love to you all

Ian and Anne Warden

(I understand that Ian has now had the first operation which went well. With love and best wishes to you both from all your friends at The Drive – Ed.)

PROPERTY UPDATE

If you have been in the Cranbrook Room recently you may have noticed that we have new double glazed windows and door to the Pre School play area. The old wooden windows were completely rotten and it made sense to replace these with modern double glazed units.

The Property Committee now has a medium term objective to double glaze the Hall and, where possible, Church windows which will help to reduce draughts and to reduce heating and maintenance costs. I am therefore pleased to report that the Church Council has approved the Property Committee's

proposal that the next priority is to double glaze the Parlour windows next year.

The second major project approved by the Church Council is to renew the roof covering to the Cranbrook Room. Whilst there are no obvious leaks, the roof is over 40 years old and is showing signs of deterioration so it makes sense to renew the roof before we have a bigger problem. This work will be undertaken during one of the school holidays.

Every year the Property Committee is required to complete a Checklist covering the general maintenance of our premises. Whilst there are always repairs and renewals required, I am pleased to report that we have been able to complete the Checklist with positive answers throughout. Our premises remain in good order.

Jeremy Foster

Notices for January

Church Prayer Meeting 3rd January and 31st January

Church prayer meetings in the Vestry at 7:15pm to 7:45pm on Thursday 3rd January (moved from December) and Thursday 31st January.

All welcome if you cannot attend, prayer sheets will be at the back of the Church.

Bible Reading Group 4th January and 25th January

The Bible Reading group will meet on Friday 4th January (moved from December) to complete our discussion of the Old Testament readings about Joseph.

We shall also meet on Friday 25th January to discuss Philemon in the New Testament. Both meetings from 10:30am to 11:30am followed by refreshments at 104 Wanstead Lane. All are welcome.

Jan and John Pearson

The Shack 26th January

We are planning to show "The Shack" again on 26th January 2019 in the church hall and inviting anyone from the circuit who would like to come.

We expect to start promptly at 2.30 pm.
A reminder that the film has a 12 classification.

Brian Grinham

Changes

As we prepare for changes in our church in 2019 I have been thinking back over the years about all the changes the Drive has been through in my lifetime. There have been many in the 50 years I have been here at The Drive.

The refurbishment of the church hall, the removal of the altar and the new church entrance being developed are to name but a few.

One thing that hasn't changed is that the Drive has always had wonderful, supportive people who enjoy worshipping, singing and caring for each other. Something my family and I are grateful for as we get use to the loss of my mum, Catherine.

Jo Wright

Raysin Hope – Faith and Trust

It is some time since I have been able to organise a fundraising event and yet funds continue to arrive from loyal supporters who have faith in us and trust us to use their money wisely for those people who have been diagnosed with a brain tumour. Without our supporters we could not have financed the 'Quiet Room' at Queens Hospital or given help to some couples to have a well needed break.

In January we enter our tenth year of fundraising which started with coffee morning at The Drive. During those ten years we started the Romford Brain Tumour Support Group and have continued to fund it ever since and now have more than 30 members. Although we are an independent group we continue to liaise with the Brain Tumour Charity and recently some of us took part in a short film which they hope to use for publicity next year. Currently we are waiting to hear if another room at Queens can be used provide a quiet place for patients and carers, as we wish to finance this project.

We could not achieve anything without the help of so many kind people and our thanks to Ruth who has once again worked throughout the summer sewing and selling the lavender bags that are so popular with everyone.

Thank you to the church congregation for your support in so many ways, from the Communion collection donated to the Raysin Hope saving pot holders of whom Betty Griffiths is 'Collector of the Year' once again.

We are so thankful to have your faith and trust in us.

Anne Dellow and family

Justyna Jastrzebski

There are several of us at The Drive who, for some years now, have had cause to be grateful to Justyna, who looks after us so well. She keeps our homes in good order and has helped and comforted in times of illness or sorrow.

This kind and caring Polish lady, who is a devout Roman Catholic, is greatly appreciated by the Methodists of The Drive and we wish her and her family, both here and in Poland, the happiest of happy Christmases and many blessings in the New Year.

Betty Griffiths

Diary

November

Thu	29 th	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Vestry-see page 6
Fri	30 th	10.30am	Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane-see page 6

December

Sat	1 st	10.00am -	TDY Fundraiser-see page 7
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		12.00 noon	
Sun	2nd	11.15 am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Sat	8 th	7.30 pm	New Essex Choir concert at The Drive-see page 8
Sun	9th	11.15 am	Morning Service led by Mr John Pearson
Sat	15 th	11.00 am 7.30 pm	Nativity Rehearsal-see page 7 The Valentine Singers concert at St Andrews Church-see page 8
Sun	16th	11.15 am	Nativity Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate see page 7 & 10
Fri	21 st	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	23rd	11.15 am	Morning Service led by The Revd Angela Pothecary
		6.30 pm	Candlelit Carol Service see page 9 & 10
Sun	25th	10.30 am	Christmas Morning Worship led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Sun	30th	11.15 am	Morning Service led by Members of the congregation

Diary contd.

January

Thu	3 rd	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Vestry-see page 13
Fri	4 th	10.30am	Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane-see page 13
Sun	6th	11.15am	Covenant Service with

			Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Sun	13th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr John Nicholls
Fri	18 th	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	20th	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Wed	23 rd	8.00pm	Property Committee TBC
Fri	25 th	10.30am	Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane-see page 13
Sat	26 th	2.30 pm	'The Shack' in the church hall see page 13
Sun	27th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Robert Debrah
Thu	31 st	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Vestry-see page 13

***(Last date for items for the February newsletter:
20th January 2019)***

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

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

