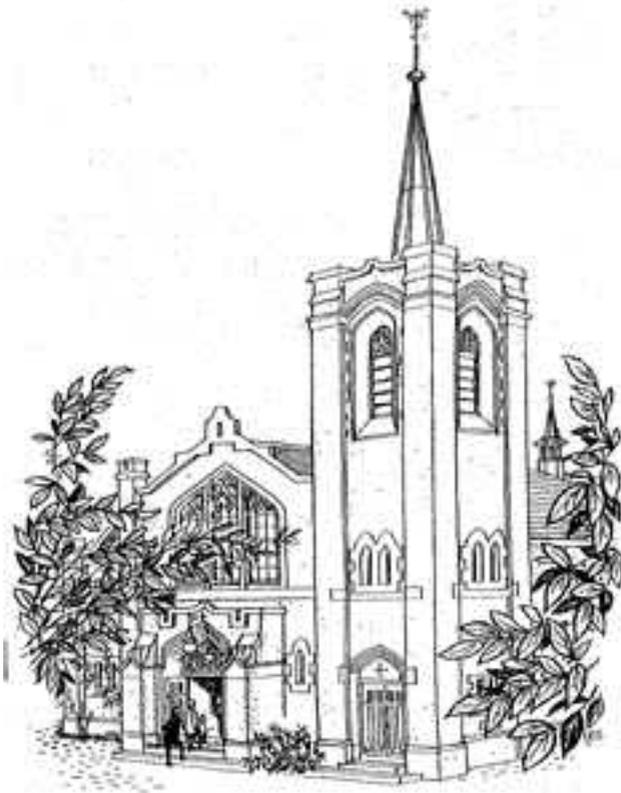


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

September 2017



Minister: Revd Bernardino Mandlate

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

Our Minister writes:

Dear Friends

I am writing a few weeks after coming back from my sabbatical which started in April. Some notes about the sabbatical: we spent some time in Aberdeen, just to know the country a bit more before we start using passports to visit Scotland. We had a pleasant time there. We then flew to South Africa, entering the country through Cape Town where we had a few meetings to understand a bit of their work on interfaith which goes a long way back thanks to apartheid. We had some meetings with people of interest as well as enjoying the beauty that Cape Town can be. We explored the city and surroundings and enjoyed all it has to offer in terms of hospitality.

We met with an imam on a Friday who invited us to join the Friday prayers at lunch time. It was an experience worth having.

We drove through what they call the Garden Route, to Port Elizabeth, and spent a few days with friends there, before driving north to Durban, where we spent most of the time talking to people of interest, including former colleagues. We had the opportunity to revisit the first church we served as a fresh probationer out of Seminary. It was good to relive the joys we had there and also the pains we went through because of crime in the area. It was also good to see some of the old acquaintances and friends from those days. We also visited the university and the new seminary that trains ministers now. The old one where we trained at, before university, has become ruins and we couldn't visit the old site.

Flying out of Johannesburg to come back, we were told that we had overstayed our visa by one day, and that earned us a title of undesirable people for one year. We are not in a hurry to go back to South Africa anyway so we can live with that.

We came back to some illnesses in the congregation which God in his mercy has enabled us to intervene with the required pastoral care. God has been good.

I am taking the pastoral charge of Ilford Methodist Church from 1st September. This means returning to the former ways of working. It also means that I will be able to be more visible because I will be taking two services between The Drive and Ilford, one starting at 9:30 and cruising through for our 11:15 service. I can, at least, take two services a month in some cases three, against the one service a month as it has been for the last two years,

I pray that you all had a good summer and those who could, a good holiday.

God bless,

Bernardino

Editor's note

Welcome to this September issue of the Newsletter and Happy New Connexional Year! As I take over as editor, I would, on behalf of the church, like to thank Roy for his service editing the newsletter over many years.

Now I want to hear your news! Whether it be a special event you are organising, an achievement reached, birthdays - in fact anything that you would like to share with our church family. I hope you enjoyed the summer break - maybe you visited some interesting places. Why don't you write an article to tell us about it for inclusion in a future edition?

You can email items to me at newsletter@the-drive-methodist-ilford.org.uk or leave in the newsletter folder in the Minister's vestry.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Diane Foster

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

New address

Anne and Ian Warden have now moved to York. Their new address and phone number can be found in the printed copy of the newsletter.

We send our greetings to Anne and Ian and wish them many happy years in their new home.

Our young people

Blessings and best wishes to all our young people at the start of a new school year. To those starting new schools, those moving to different classes with different teachers and in particular those starting their GCSE courses. We wish them all well in their studies.

I'm back from Ghana!

I would like to thank everybody for helping me get to Ghana, to fulfil my duty as a Girl Guide and volunteer. It was a truly amazing trip and something I will remember forever.

In the October newsletter I will give you more information on my volunteering experiences, and I am hoping to do the Slides Evening later this year, where I can show photos, too.

Thea

(The Slides Evening will be held on Saturday 26th November – Ed)

Our Drivers

I would like to give a big thank you to the drivers who make sure I get to church on time on Sunday mornings, among the many other duties they undertake. Thank you to Peter who has now retired after many years. The number of drivers seem to be getting short and Ruth Joyce has now volunteered to help. Ruth also visits me quite often which I very much enjoy and is always there to help if needed. Thank you to Ruth and our other drivers, Roy Brunnen, Brian Taylor, Brian Grinham, John Higgins and Mike Seviour.

Josie Jiggins

The Drive Choir at Redbridge Faith Forum AGM, 6 July
We were thanking Jacquie Grieve for 15 years of service. It was a first for The Drive Choir. We have sung during anniversary services but never before for a Redbridge Faith Forum event. It took place this year at Ilford Methodist Church Hall. Our Ilford Methodist Church colleagues were in other places such as Jamaica and Barbados.

We sang the hymn "The day thou gavest" and the anthem "I give you a new commandment." Shamshia Ali, RFF member for many years, was especially appreciative and tried to contact Gareth Malone. The entertainment was varied. Young dancers from the Buddhist Temple took our breath away with their skill and artistry. Their blue and silver costumes were stunning. Tea/coffee/soft drinks and food were available all evening.

Many thanks to Andrew Taylor for bringing a keyboard and leading us. Thanks also to the choir members who gave up their first Thursday of the summer break to take part.

Susan Ruckles.

Congratulations

On 20 July 2017, I was very privileged to attend the Graduation Congregation at Manchester University, to see my eldest daughter, Susan, receive her Doctor of Philosophy. She was also given the President's Doctoral Award, "the highest accolade bestowed upon members of our postgraduate research community. It is awarded to approximately 3% of our research students who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership potential". Needless to say, I was very proud, but can't help wondering where she got the tenacity to succeed from!

Brian Grinham

Defibrillator Project

I hope that by the time you read this in the Newsletter we will have a defibrillator installed on our premises. If you have not seen it, it is the bright yellow box on the front of our Hall building. The idea was first mooted by Peter Bendon and I am very grateful for his support and involvement in the project.

The defibrillator has cost around £2000 of which £995 has been provided as a grant from the London Community Foundation. The defibrillator can be used on people of all ages and is positioned externally so that it is available as a community resource, thereby contributing to our Mission of "being a good neighbour". For security, the box is locked. However, in the event of an emergency, the ambulance control room will provide the access code to the caller. The defibrillator is semi automatic and is designed so that it will not "shock" a patient unnecessarily.

Whilst no training is required to use the defibrillator, we are proposing to undertake a leaflet drop to local houses making them aware of the resource and inviting them to come along to an Awareness event at our premises in the Autumn. This

event will of course be open to the church family and our user groups.

Jeremy Foster, Property Committee

Gift Aid

Thanks to the people who Gift Aid their weekly offerings, we have received back from the Inland Revenue the sum of £6,766.15 in reclaimed tax. Whilst this is not as high as some previous years, it is, nevertheless, a great help to the Church in meeting our financial commitments.

It would be great if some more people, who are taxpayers, would be prepared to join our "Gift Aiders" so that we could increase the amount received back from the Inland Revenue.

I would stress that by agreeing to join us, the financial burden for standard rate tax payers is not increased at all – it is just that we claim back the tax which you have already paid on your contributions. I know that some people feel that they do not want anyone to know how much they give, but I am the only person who does know, and I am fully aware of my duty to keep this information confidential.

If you feel that you could help in this way, please see me and I can explain how the system works.

Brian Grinham, Gift Aid Secretary

Do you Crochet or Knit? If yes, our knitting group needs you.

A few of us ladies in the church have been knitting squares to make into blankets. So far, we have made 40 baby blankets for hospital baby units and are thinking of widening our horizons to include bigger ones for the Whitechapel Mission &

the like. All are welcome but we especially need people who can crochet as, currently, it's just me!! We can supply everything, we just need your hands and your talents!!

For more information, please contact Ruth Joyce or Josie Jiggins.

Work Morning

There will be a church work morning on Saturday 16th September starting at 10am. Your support will be welcome.

Jeremy Foster, Property Committee

Harvest

Our Harvest Festival Service will be on Sunday 24th September and will be led by Mr Tony Miller from the Whitechapel Mission. Donations of harvest gifts will be gratefully received in the church on Saturday 23rd September between 10am – 12noon and during the service.

All gifts will be sent to the Whitechapel Mission.



Harvest Lunch

Following the service on 24th September, we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival with lunch at about 1pm.

As we did last year, the church will provide potatoes and vegetables and it would be great if you could bring something to contribute to the meal.

Please put your name and the food you're bringing on the list at the back of the church so we know how many people are coming.

Thanks very much and please ask us if you have any questions.

Michelle and Jo

If it's September it must mean COFFEE MORNINGS!!

Please join me at the
Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 29th September
10am to 2pm

In the Conservatory
Redbridge Social Centre
for coffee, cakes and chat
including tombola & bric-a-brac

Audrey Taylor

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

WHERE - Church Parlour

WHEN - Saturday 30th September 2017

TIME - 10:00 - 12:00

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE BABIES, CHILDREN AND
TEENAGERS AT THE MACMILLAN CENTRE, U.C.L.H.

(Where Jeff and Janet Wragg have their treatment).

All donations of cake and any unwanted gifts that we
can sell would be most welcome.

We look forward to seeing you.

Jeff, Janet, Alec and Amanda Wragg

Conference News

You may be interested to know that at the end of June in Birmingham, the Revd Loraine Mellor and Jill Baker were inducted as President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. In her Presidential address Loraine asked: "How are we disturbing the present in the Church today?" as she shared her concerns for the current state of the Church and her vision for taking radical risks to change its future. Jill reflected on the need for both laughter and lament, in the Church's life, calling upon her own experiences. The full addresses are available to read online: <http://bit.ly/Lets-change>;
<http://bit.ly/laughter-and-lament>

What do Methodists Believe?

John Wesley wrote an awful lot – sermons, tracts, a diary and goodness knows what else. Theologians who have studied all his vast output talk about his doctrine of Christian reflection and so on and so forth, but for most of us all that is way above our heads and if we were asked what the faith of a Methodist actually is I think we'd struggle to try to put it into words, if in fact, we actually had the words anyway – but dear old Charles Wesley, he DID have the words – ALL the words. He said it all and for me summed up the faith of a Methodist plainly and simply in what was probably the shortest hymn he ever wrote. These words are from the old Methodist Hymnbook no. 195 (no. 329 Singing the Faith):

- 1) Jesus the first and last,
On thee my soul is cast:
Thou didst thy work begin
By blotting out my sin;
Thou wilt the root remove
And perfect me in love.
- 2) Yet when the work is done,
The work is but begun:
Partaker of thy grace,
I long to seek thy face;
The first I prove below,
The last I die to know.

That really doesn't need any explanation, but let's go through it a couple of lines at a time for there's never been a clearer statement of the faith of a Methodist.

Jesus, the First and Last,
On thee my soul is cast:

Jesus is the First and Last. He was born in Bethlehem and died on Calvary. He is the eternal Son of God and in them we trust utterly.

Thou didst thy work begin
By blotting out my sin;

Before the transforming work of grace can begin in our hearts we need forgiveness and the restoration of the broken relationship to God which our sins have brought about.

Thou wilt the root remove
And perfect me in love.

Although the sins we have committed are serious by the grace of God and faith in the love of Jesus, His perfect will will be completed.

Yet when the work is done,
The work is but begun:

The great transaction has been done and we can now begin to enter once and for all into a new relationship with God.

Partaker of thy grace,
I long to seek thy face;

We are promised that God's grace and power will finally reward us with the vision of God to those who are pure in heart.

The first I prove below,
The last I die to know.

Through the grace of God we are given a place in His glorious purpose for the fulfilment of which the world and time affords no adequate scope but the glory of which will be revealed in eternity. What could be easier to understand – and that's the faith of a Methodist in a nutshell. Dear old Charlie says it all. There's never been a hymn writer like him. Absolutely none.

What a pity it is that we don't sing no.105 in the 1933 Methodist hymn book; no. 735 in Hymns and Psalms or no. 329 in Singing the Faith more often!

Betty Griffiths.

And finally...a bit of extra reading

The 'Methodies' in Poldark

If you enjoyed watching the last series of Poldark, you may be interested in an article on the Methodist Church website.

It begins:

'The Poldark books by Winston Graham and the current TV adaptation demonstrate that you cannot tell the story of mining in Cornwall in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, without the story of Methodism in Cornwall. But how much of the current popular TV adaptation or the books reflect the truth of Methodism in the 1790s?.....'

Read the full article which gives the history of Methodism in Cornwall at:

www.methodist.org.uk/who-we-are/history/methodism-in-poldark

(If you don't have access to the Internet and would like a printed copy of the script to read please let me know – Ed.)

Diary for September

Sun	3 rd	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Jenni Kirby
		6.30pm	Welcome service for The Revd Kido Baek at Gantshill Methodist Church
Sun	10 th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Bernardino Mandlate
Wed	13 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Barking Methodist Church
Sat	16 th	10.00am	Church Work Morning
Sun	17 th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr John Pearson
Wed	20 th	8.00pm	Church Life Meeting
Fri	22 nd	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sat	23 rd	10.00am- 12noon	Church open for Harvest gifts (see page 6)
Sun	24 th	11.15am	Harvest Festival Service led by Mr Tony Miller, followed by 1.00pm Harvest Lunch (see page 6)
Fri	29 th	10.00am- 2.00pm	Macmillan Coffee Morning (see page 8)
Sat	30 th	10.00am- 12noon	Macmillan Coffee Morning (see page 8)
October			
Sun	1 st	11.15am	Morning Service led by Members of the congregation

(Items for the October newsletter should be received
by Sunday 24th September)

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.