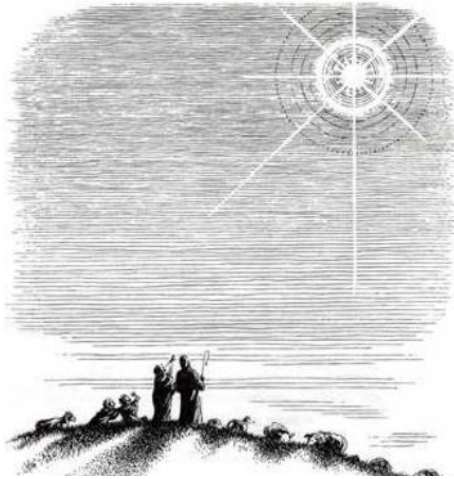


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2019

JANUARY 2020



Minister: Revd Mmasape Zihle

Email: mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk

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:

Great expectations and new beginnings

There is a different buzz in the air...fireworks night has passed and the decoration in the shops has changed to all things Christmassy. I find myself getting excited at the thought of mince pies, mulled wine, Christmas Carols and presents.

However, at the back of my mind as I reflect on the angel's visit to Mary to announce the news that she has been chosen by God to bear the Messiah (Luke 1:36-38), I cannot help but wonder at her fear. Fear as she pondered: "What will the family and the community say?" In bearing the Son of God, Mary risked losing all that she knew and loved including Joseph, such that the angel had to make another visit, this time to Joseph to assure him of God's plan unfolding in Mary's life. We journey with Mary through advent as we (im)patiently wait for the fulfilment of what God is creating. Waiting for what God will bring to life.

As we get excited over our expectations of Christmas, let us share a thought for those for whom this time of year brings great challenge. For those who the expectation of presents and good food comes at a great cost as they cannot financially afford this. Share a thought for those who are lonely at this time of year. And for ourselves as Christians who are tasked with carrying the news of God's Son who is the saviour of humankind at this time of faith apathy. Let us raise our voices as we sing "Come thou long expected Jesus; born to set thy people free".

And when all the tinsel and lights finally come down and the new year dawns, let it be a reminder to us all of how God makes all things new. In each dawning day we are given a

new start; in each new year we have an opportunity to make new promises with God, each other and ourselves to do things differently. I pray that our God, who gifts us the ultimate Christmas gift in Jesus Christ, will make our new beginnings bright. Let us hold on to His promises of remaining with us till the end of the age (Matthew 28).

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mmasape

We pray for and ask for God's blessing on all those we have concerns for at this time. In particular we think of Roy Brunnen, Corinne Smith and Verney Braithwaite. Please remember Roy and Janet, Corinne, Verney and all their families in your prayers.

Birthday Greetings to:

Toju Fadina who will be 13 in December;
Funmi Fadina who will be 8 in December;
Paige Fordree who will be 10 in December;
Stacey Eshun who will be 10 in January.



Property Update

At the recent Church Council meeting approval was given to two proposals which relate to our property.

Firstly, the Council approved a maintenance budget of £13,000 for this financial year. Of this, £2000 will be spent renewing the carpet in the Parlour. It is significant that all of the remaining budget is required just to cover routine maintenance and service contracts. This shows the annual cost of simply keeping our premises in good order.

The second decision was to approve an additional spend of £6000 to erect two new large notice boards on the northern side of our premises. These will be positioned to give traffic travelling in both directions along Eastern Avenue a clear view. The boards will be used to promote our regular services, events and important festivals such as Christmas and Easter.

Jeremy Foster

Remembrance Day Service 10th November

Many thanks to John Pearson for leading our service on Remembrance Day. Andrew recited the familiar verse from the poem 'For the Fallen' which led us into the two minute silence and was followed by a recording of The Last Post. Thea read the poem 'In Flanders Field' and Hilary led our prayers of intercession. A fitting service.

JMA Awards Presentation 17th November

I was very pleased to report that the splendid amount of £582.42 was raised by The Drive for JMA this year. This came from our JMA collectors, our Beetle Drive in March and donations.

Mmsape presented badges and certificates to Thea Garner, Rochelle Inbakumar, Paige Fordree and Iris Bennett-Wright.

A special thank you to Thea and Rochelle who, after a good many years, are still collecting for JMA.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Diane Foster

Action for Children Slides Evening - 30th November

Please join us for our annual slides evening in aid of Action for Children on Saturday 30th November starting at 6pm for 6.30pm in the parlour. This is always an enjoyable evening with a light buffet supper served during the interval.

This year's programme will include a presentation from Colin and Pauline Rodway on their safari and from Jeremy's brother Nick on his trip to China.

There is no charge for admission and you are welcome to just turn up on the evening but it would be helpful to let us know for catering purposes. If you would like a lift to and from the Church, again please let us know. A collection for the work of Action for Children in their 150th anniversary year will be made.

Diane and Jeremy Foster

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

1st and 8th December - Nativity preparations during our normal TDY Sunday sessions;

Saturday 14th and 21st December - our Christmas tree festival.

Sunday 15th December – Nativity and Toy service.

Jo Wright



Christmas Concerts

THE NEW ESSEX CHOIR

Saturday 7th December

7.30 pm at The Drive Methodist Church

A BABE IS BORN

Conductor – John Lilley

Piano – Janet Baldacci, Organ – David Cook

including

*Up Good Christian Folk and Listen; The Lamb; King Jesus
Hath a Garden; In Dulci Jubilo; Mary's Child*

plus carols for everyone to sing

and mince-pies for refreshment

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



VALENTINE SINGERS

Saturday 14th December

7:30pm at St Anne's Church, Chingford E4 6NP

a feast of seasonal music with favourite carols
for everyone to join in and refreshments

Conductor – Christine Gwynn

Piano – Tim Smith, Organ – Andrew Taylor

£10 (£5 students/benefit holders)

(buy in advance - £13/£7 on the door!)

Visit our website www.valentinesingers.org

or see Andrew Taylor



YOU ARE INVITED TO



**The Drive Methodist Church
Christmas Tree Festival**

**Saturdays 14th and 21st December
10am to 4pm
Free entry**



**Refreshments available and
an exciting musical programme
full of home grown talent!**



*All offers of help gratefully received.
Also if you would like to play or sing during
one of the dates, please ask Lorraine Bendon
or Michelle Garner for more details.*



Invitation – 14th December

The Vicar of St Andrew's, The Revd Canon Marie Segal and
The Chairperson of the Asian Congregation, Mr Shaheen Zar

cordially invite

The congregation of The Drive Methodist Church

To join them to celebrate the
10th anniversary of the Asian Congregation's Establishment

On Saturday 14th December at 4.00pm
at St Andrew's Church, The Drive, Ilford followed by
Dinner in the church hall

RSVP

Ashir Saleem (Secretary Asian Congregation)
07966 541512, ashershakeel@yahoo.com or

Marion Pank (PCC Secretary)
07957 924306, marionpank@outlook.com

For further information, please contact:

Suleman Akhtr (Co-ordinatator)
07958 425603, suleman2630@hotmail.co.uk

Church Prayer Meeting – 19th December

Please join us if you can for our prayer meeting in the
Minister's Vestry on Thursday 19th December from 7:15pm
to 7:45pm.

Bible Reading Group - No meeting in December – see
notices for January.

Jan and John Pearson

Church Christmas Flowers



As church flower arrangers we are always pleased to arrange flowers for a dedication so please do contact either Ruth, Anne, or Lorraine (Janet is taking a temporary break) if you would like to make a personal dedication to celebrate an event or remember a person special to you. Our contact numbers are on the flower rota list on the notice board at the back of the church.

This year, as well as the Christmas trees, we will decorate the church with beautiful festive flowers. If you would like to contribute, please speak to one of us and we will be happy help.

All best wishes

Ruth Joyce, Anne Dellow, Janet Brunnen and Lorraine Bendon

Refreshments - Candlelit Carol Service 22nd 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



**TDY and Staff
are pleased to invite you to their
NATIVITY AND TOY SERVICE
Sunday 15th 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 22nd December at 6:30pm

Followed by Christmas refreshments
and songs around the piano in the
Parlour



CHRISTMAS MORNING FAMILY WORSHIP

10.30am

*If you wish, please bring an unopened
gift to unwrap during the service*

Bring all your families and friends!

Notices for January

Bible Reading Group - 10th January and 31st January

On Friday 10th January we will be watching a film at 104 Wanstead Lane 10.30am followed by refreshments. Then on Friday 31st January we shall be discussing Acts chapters 11 to 15 also at 104 Wanstead Lane from 10.30am to 11.30am followed by refreshments. All welcome.



Church Prayer Meeting – 30th January

Please join us if you can for our prayer meeting for January in the Minister's Vestry on Thursday 30th January from 7:15pm to 7:45pm.

Jan and John Pearson

Raysin Hope Dedication and Inspiration

We are ever grateful to our dedicated supporters who continue to donate to our funds on a regular basis. Sometimes we receive donations from people who have heard about us and prefer to give to smaller groups such as ours. Every penny given goes to our cause which is to help people cope with the demands of life following the diagnosis of a brain tumour.

We are inspired by the courage and determination of those people who come to the support group we run in Romford. Our numbers are growing each month and we are moved by the many personal stories we hear so often. These same people whilst coping with the demands of treatment are always ready to offer words of encouragement and a friendly hug to our new members. When a meeting ends people know there is always someone at the end of a phone, a text or FaceTime.

At the forthcoming Christmas tree festival we shall be sponsoring a tree to promote Raysin Hope and will be providing a lot more information about the ways in which we ensure that funds go straight to the heart of what we do. I hope to meet some of you at the event and will be pleased to answer any questions that you may have.

Anne Dellow

Justyna Jastrzebski

There are several members at our church to whom Justyna has been a godsend in times of sickness and sorrow and when household chores have been a burden. We wish her family, both here and in Poland the happiest of happy Christmases and many blessings in the New Year.

Betty Griffiths

My First Sunday School Christmas Party

There have been so many Sunday School Christmas parties in our dear old church hall and I expect that the music, entertainment and even the food will be quite a bit different this year than it was way back in 1932 when I attended my very first Christmas party at The Drive Methodist Church. Life was a lot less complicated then than it is now, but even after all the years I've never forgotten that wonderful party and I can remember it vividly for it was so very special.

It was the very first time I had even been in the brightly decorated hall and to me it was like the Guild Hall in London where Dad had taken me to see the statues of Gog and Magog.

I wore my one and only party dress, which was of yellow satin sprinkled with little pink roses and tied with a big pink sash. With it went ballet style slippers and I had a matching little dolly bag dangling from my wrist in which to keep my clean hanky, but to Mum's horror during tea I bunged two iced cakes in it to eat when I got home!

We played lovely noisy games – blind man's buff, musical chairs, pass the parcel, pin the tail on the donkey whilst blindfolded and oranges and lemons and we yelled ourselves hoarse.

There were long trestle tables covered in brilliantly white damask cloths and laden with big plates of paste sandwiches, fairy cakes with blobs of coloured icing on top, buttered fruit scones, lots of jellies, blancmanges and Symingtons Table Creams (which I understand are still available at a price from Fortnums and Masons) all made in fancy shaped moulds, not all of which had remained intact when being turned out, and alphabet and nursery rhyme biscuits and fizzy lemonade in paper cups which tended to go all soggy before you had drunk it all up.

After we'd demolished all the grub and made a right old mess with the crackers, put on paper hats and made crumbs everywhere we all got up and trundled back into the back room whilst the teachers and helpers cleared up.

First we had a Punch and Judy show, which I did not like at all because I thought Punch would get me next and I bawled blue murder, whereupon Mrs Smith (who taught the babies) scooped me up and gave me a big cuddle (it was not forbidden in those days!) I dried my eyes with a lace edged hanky which smelt faintly of lavender.

Then the curtains were drawn, a little portable screen was quickly put up, a camera whirled and we watched two short black and white silent films. One was Laurel and Hardy, which had us all falling about laughing and the other was called Cinderella and was meant to be taken seriously, but nobody's wig fitted and Prince Charming had a right old job forcing the glass slipper onto a visibly annoyed Cinderella's size 6.

Then we all trooped back to the main hall where our parents awaited us. Some joker had rearranged all the coats so there was a scramble to sort out which one belonged to who and Father Christmas who despite the white beard, really did look suspiciously like the Sunday School Superintendent, stood at the door and presented each of us with little parcel as we left – blue for boys and pink for girls. I've no idea what the blue ones contained but there were little gold filigree baskets in the pink ones, which held tiny phials of eau de Cologne. I was thrilled to the very core and treasured it for many years long after all the scent had evaporated, but like my lovely blue Bible sticker book it was destroyed with just about everything else when our house was bombed during the war.

Betty Griffiths

Diary

November

Thu	28 th	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Vestry
Fri	29 th	10.30am	Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane

December

Sun	1st	11.15 am	1st Sunday in Advent led by Morning Service led by Mrs Jan Pearson
Sat	7 th	7.30 pm	New Essex Choir concert at The Drive-see page 6
Sun	8th	11.15 am	2nd Sunday in Advent Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Mmasape Zihle
Sat	14 th	10am-4pm	Christmas Tree Festival –see page 7
Sat	14 th	7.30 pm	The Valentine Singers concert -see page 6
Sun	15th	11.15 am	3rd Sunday in Advent Nativity Service and Toy Service led by The Revd Mmasape Zihle see page 10
Thu	19 th	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Vestry-see page 8
Sat	21 st	10am-4pm	Christmas Tree Festival –see page 7
Sun	22nd	11.15 am	4th Sunday in Advent Morning Service led by Mr Olusola Kufeji
		6.30 pm	Candlelit Carol Service see page 9 & 10

Diary contd.

December

Wed	25th	10.30 am	Christmas Morning Family Worship See page 10
Sun	29th	11.15 am	Morning Service led by The Revd Kido Baek

January

Sun	5th	11.15am	Covenant Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Mmasape Zihle
Fri	10 th	10.30am	Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane-see page 11
Sun	12th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr John Pearson
Fri	17 th	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	19th	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Mmasape Zihle
Wed	22 nd	8.00pm	Property Committee
Sun	26th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mr Robert Debrah
Thu	30 th	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's Vestry-see page 11
Fri	31 st	10.30am	Bible Reading Group at 104 Wanstead Lane-see page 11

***(Last date for items for the February newsletter:
19th January 2020)***

CRYPTIC CAROLS



Can you work out the popular Christmas carols from these clues?

1. Decorate the corridors.
2. Jubilation to the terrestrial globe.
3. No noise between 8.00pm and 6.00am.
4. Small equus africanus asinus.
5. One perceived with eyes a trio of vessels.
6. Miss Willoughby together with the Hedera genus.
7. Listen the celestial messenger is vocalising.
8. Small trio of royal men.
9. Was the earliest Edmonds or Gallagher?
10. Mixed the orcs to light your way.
11. As ovine attendants looked over their charges in the hours of darkness.
12. The sounds of bells ring from the top of the steeple.
13. Distorted hot helm beef follows small urban settlement.
14. Summon twice footballer Adebayor.
15. Observe through the seasonal precipitation.
16. It arrived at 12.00 on a transparent day.
17. Removed in an animal feeding trough.
18. Summon the entirety of believers.
19. A single time in the noble conurbation of Mr. Beckham.
20. Celestial beings originating in the Kingdoms of absolute happiness.

NO PRIZES – IT'S JUST FOR FUN!!

God, our Creator, we offer this prayer at this Christmas time.

We come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal.

We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth.

We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people.

May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth.

We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ.

Holy Spirit fill our hearts with your love and power.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.

Submitted by Jan and John Pearson

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

