

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

NEWSLETTER

April 2020



Minister: Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

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:

Hope even when it is hard

I stand amazed at how quickly our sense of normal has been turned on its head. In a matter of days we have gone from free movement, full shop shelves to isolation and rationed shopping to ensure there is enough to go around. It feels like a scene from a movie.

As this happens we are as church, communities, nations and individuals, 'forced' to take stock and look at what are priorities and what is important. We face unknown duration of limited social contact and church fellowship and this raises concern for those who are already lonely and depend on church or social clubs for contact. With school closures, there is concern about those kids for whom home is not a safe place and those who depend on school for meals.

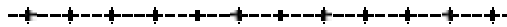
I have been encouraged by our effort to keep in touch through group chats and other social media, even though this doesn't reach everyone; and by those both in and out of church who offer visits, phone calls and meals to those in isolation.

With the suspension of regular church services and activities there will be no Good Friday or Easter services yet this does not mean that there is no Easter. Christ completed the work of salvation once, for all on that first Easter so that we may dwell in the shadow of his glory at times such as these. That we, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24.13-35) confused and scared at what has happened, may know the presence of Christ as he comes alongside us - through the words of scripture and our fellowship (however remote).

For those who are able to access the internet please check these links for prayer/worship resources during this time:
www.methodistlondon.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk

May Almighty God watch over us as we watch over each other in love. When this is over may we gather in celebration of those who would have been called home and for those whose God's given mission continues.

Mmasape



We ask for God's blessing on all those in our church family who are unwell and all those we have concerns for at this time. We remember them and their families in our prayers.

It was with great sadness that we heard Corinne Smith had died on 12th March after being unwell for some time. We remember her brother, Nicholas and her friends in our prayers. Corinne will be cremated in Danbury, family only. A service will be held when things are back to normal.

Kathleen Taylor

Unfortunately, due to health problems, Kathleen has resigned as a class/pastoral leader after many years faithful service.

Her service will be greatly missed and we thank her for all that she has done for the Church over many years.

Thank you Kathleen and may you enjoy your "retirement".

Brian Grinham

Coronavirus Pandemic

Following Government guidance, we have been advised by the Methodist Church that we must close our premises for church services and all community activities with immediate effect. This means that the Halls and Church buildings are currently not available for use. We will advise again when we are permitted to reopen the premises.

Jeremy Foster
on behalf of the Property Committee

Financial Matters

The Covid 19 Emergency is having a huge impact on our lives and routines. This includes our church finances as, with the premises now closed, we are no longer receiving rental income and are unable to collect your freewill offerings through the usual Sunday collection. Some costs such as utilities and cleaning will reduce, but many of our costs such as service contracts, maintenance, insurance and the Circuit Assessment will continue.

I am therefore appealing to everyone who is able, to continue to make their freewill offerings to support the church. The best way to do this is by setting up a weekly or monthly standing order with your bank. Alternatively you can make on line payments. For both of these arrangements you will need our bank details which are as follows:

The Drive Methodist Church HSBC; 40-25-36; 21101218;
Please either use your envelope no. as a reference or your name. Alternatively you can send cheques payable to The Drive Methodist Church to: The Drive Methodist Church, The Drive, Ilford IG1 3PP.

Thank you for your continued financial support for our church during these difficult times.

John Higgins



The Drive Together

As all church services have now ceased we have created a WhatsApp group to keep in touch and support one another called 'The Drive Together'. If you have a mobile phone and want to join, download the WhatsApp app and request to become a participant. If you already use WhatsApp, just make a request to join. Please pass on this information to others.

Lorraine Bendon



Our Changed Reality

It is very true what they say, you don't truly know what you've got until it's gone. I've been self-isolating for a week and although I was initially very happy to be working from home I had a video call with my team after a few days and we were all really happy to see each other.

Similarly the move to close churches for a period left me feeling very sad. It feels strange not to have the church there and particularly at such an important time in the Christian calendar.

The church WhatsApp group has been a God-send. We have been able to start and end the day with a prayer from Revd Mmasape and others have contributed prayers, uplifting items and encouragement. I also know that the prayers have been shared with others who are at home.

Michelle Garner

Bible Reading Group

The Bible reading group will not meet face to face. We will set up a WhatsApp group and invite anyone who wishes to take part in our discussion. Please contact us with your mobile number if you want to join the group.

For those without a mobile we will ring you after the event if we have your telephone number to brief you on points raised and get your views which we can circulate. We will take each month as it comes and decide what our format will be.

If, for safety's sake we must forsake assembling together let us not neglect prayer and God's Word.



Church Prayer Meeting

In April the prayer meeting will not be at church instead we will pray at home. Sheets are available at the back of the Church and on the Church website.

John and Jan Pearson

School Students and Exams

As some of you may know, the coronavirus has meant that all exams taking place in May/June, have been called off. I'm in year 13 and so was in the last year of my A-levels but now that this has occurred, I won't be sitting my end of year exams.

This timing is very unfortunate as for sixth formers, A-levels won't be sat; for year 11 students, their five years of work has amounted to nothing and a prom is no longer a possibility and for year 6 students, their SAT's, the biggest exams

they've had so far, are no longer happening and neither are their special, end of year trips which I'm sure they've all been looking forward to. Many milestones have been disrupted as a result of this virus which is a huge shame for each end of year generation.

My year 13 experience was cut short meaning that I had my last day a lot sooner than I was expecting. The day was full of emotions from teachers and students alike. The teachers I met at sixth form were amazing and have become almost like friends to me, laughing and bantering on a daily basis as though we weren't at sixth form. I also made an amazing group of friends whom I cherish and will miss greatly during this period of isolation. The last day saw us all writing messages to each other in our school planners and getting memoirs from our teachers and after the final school bell rung, many hugs and tears were shared along with photos of the 2020 cohort. I have no doubt that in the future, my year group will all meet up when the virus has run its course and have the proper goodbye we were all eagerly awaiting.

Now that I'm officially stuck at home, I have made a schedule which means that I'm doing lots of new activities such as learning new languages as well as completing some very overdue chores so that I can start university eventually feeling refreshed and knowing that I spent my time usefully... so things aren't all bad although I'm sure the parents stuck at home with young children aren't feeling the same way!!!

So, after that, I hope you're all well and that you're staying safe during these times. I can't wait to see you all when the streets are safe again and I hope you all have a wonderful Easter !!! Xx

Thea Garner

Police Warning

Please can we remind residents to remain vigilant. Sadly there have been reports of criminals taking advantage of the increasing concern around the spread of the Coronavirus.

Reports have included people visiting homes posing as police or health officials in an effort to scam the occupants or gain entry with a view to burgling the home.

Tactics have included offering fake virus testing kits or offering to assist those who are unable to leave their homes including assistance with food shopping often particularly preying on those more vulnerable and the elderly.

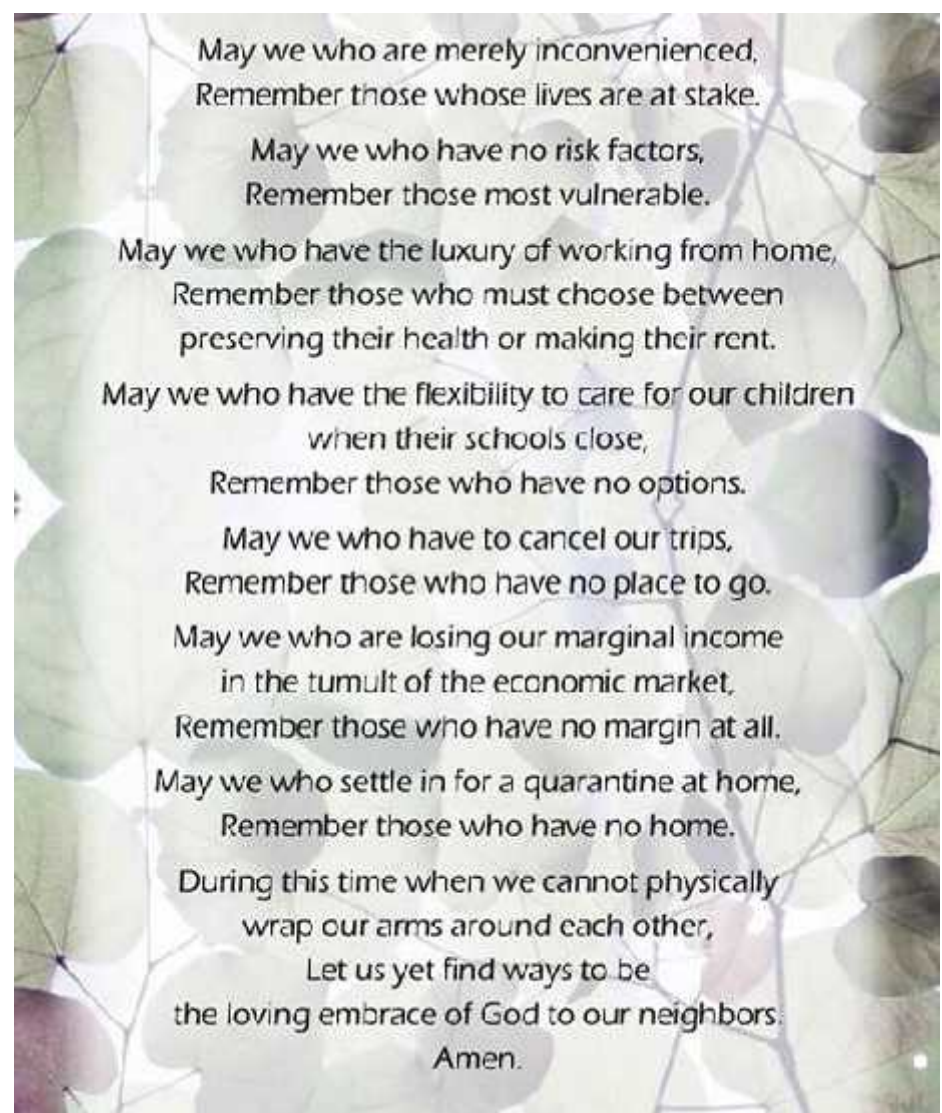
If you are suspicious of anyone knocking on your door, or have anyone you don't know or recognise offering the above services, please do not open your door and call the police via 101 (non-emergency) 999 in an emergency.

If you would like any further advice from Cranbrook Safer Neighbourhood team please call 0208 721 2558 or email Cranbrook.Snt@Met.police.uk

From the Cranbrook Safer Neighbourhood Team



Prayers and reflections during this time of a pandemic



May we who are merely inconvenienced,
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children
when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,
Remember those who have no place to go.

May we who are losing our marginal income
in the tumult of the economic market,
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,
Remember those who have no home.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be
the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

Thank you for all who are at the frontline of health provision and to those who do acts of kindness that don't make headline news. Thank you.

In the face of change, uncertainty and confusion our God's promise of salvation remains true. As he has been with generations through strife and struggle, he is with us through this.

Rest in the knowledge of his grace and mercy that will follow us all our days. Amen

Revd Mmasape Zihle

As we all begin to miss the freedom we had to come and go and get on with everyday things, let's remember families struggling with school closures, no work and the pressure this brings for the parents who need to feed and provide activities for their children with reduced finances.

They will be missing the breakfast clubs and school dinners which many rely on to ensure their children are fed.

The children will miss the structure and safety of school and will be affected by the anxieties experienced by their parents.

May God give these parents strength and ability to cope during these challenging times. Amen

Lorraine Bendon

TDY

We send our love and best wishes to TDY, especially those who were due to take exams. We hold you all in our prayers at this uncertain time.

Jo Wright

And the people stayed home.
And read books and listened, and rested and exercised,
and made art and played games,
and learned new ways of being and were still.

And listened more deeply.
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.
And the people healed.

And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous,
mindless and heartless ways the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together
again,
they grieved their losses, and made new choices,
and dreamed new images,
and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara,
inspired perhaps by an Italian poem by Irene Vella

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

The rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Irish blessing, author unknown

A few Easter puzzles for everyone!

Easter Boggle!!

Find as many 3 or more letter words as you can. You form words starting anywhere on the grid and moving to adjoining letters. You can move horizontally, vertically and diagonally in any direction. Write down your words and score as follows:

3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points

6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 5 points
8 or more = 6 points



E	H	I	C
C	A	S	K
R	E	T	G
W	R	G	A

My points =



EASTER WORD SEARCH

Hunt for these Easter words!



Words Up Puzzles

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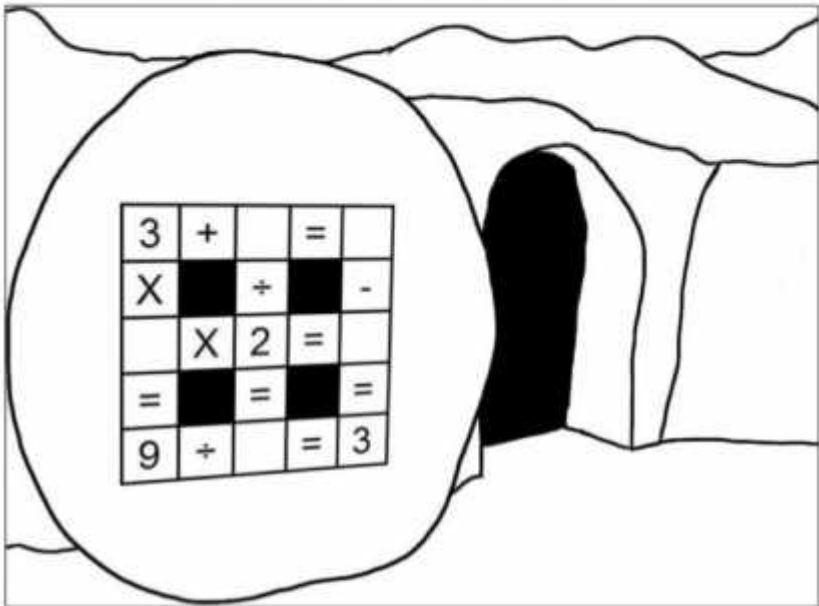
BASKET
BUNNY
CAKE
CARD
CHICK
CHOCOLATE
CHRISTIANITY

CHURCH
CROSS
CRUCIFIXION
EASTER
EGG
FEAST
HOLIDAY

HOLY
JESUS
LAMB
LENT
RABBIT
RESURRECTION
SUNDAY



Complete the sums on the tombstone



Find the hidden message from Luke 24:6



-N



-FH

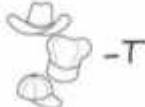


-K



+RE

-EL



-AN

+ 7 -VE

(hint: add or subtract the letters where indicated)

Spot the differences



Loving God,

If we are ill, strengthen us.

If we are tired, fortify our spirits.

If we are anxious, help us to consider the lillies of the field and the birds of the air.

Help us not to stockpile treasures from supermarkets in the barns of our larders.

Don't let fear cause us to overlook the needs of others more vulnerable than ourselves.

Fix our eyes on your story and our hearts on your grace.

Help us always to hold fast to the good,

See the good in others,

And remember there is just one world, one hope,

One everlasting love, with baskets of bread for everyone.

In Jesus we make our prayer,

The one who suffered, died and was raised to new life,

In whom we trust these days and all days,

Amen

The Revd Barbara Glasson
President of the Methodist Conference



(Last date for items for the May Newsletter:
Sunday 19th April)