

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

NEWSLETTER

June 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:

And we who are alive – a response to Covid 19

1. And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!
2. Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join, and in his sight appear.
3. What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled
last!
4. Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.
5. Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.
6. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

This hymn by Charles Wesley reminds us that we have come through this scary and difficult time of the pandemic which begun in Wohan towards the end of 2019. By March the pandemic had spread to most of the busy cities of the world and most countries experienced lockdowns. At the time of writing this, there had been more than 320 000 fatalities; 35 000 of these in the UK. Staggering numbers! and the ongoing impact of the pandemic is felt and will be felt for a long time to come by the poor and vulnerable members of our communities. This is what is prompting me to ask us as a church to think seriously about what will our response be.

I know many of us are thinking about things going back to normal. What will that look like? We are being prompted to think about how we maintain social distancing as schools begin to reopen, people go back to work (those who still have work to go to), how do we remember those who died and how do we begin to gather again – with friends, at church and at play.

Truly, troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!

And yet out of all the Lord has brought us by his love; and still he does his help afford, and hides our life above.

How then do we carry our crosses, help each other bear the load as we respond in love to our neighbours who have been adversely impacted by the pandemic. We have learnt in this time the importance of friendship, neighbourliness; and we now know what is important. As we slowly emerge out of this downtime, we emerge stronger in faith as through modern technology we have not stopped worshiping and may we not stop now. We have connected with each other more than we have in a lifetime – long may it last. At our time together post Covid 19 be shaped by ongoing acts of kindness, our worship space being an extended table of the Lord where the hungry are fed and all their needs met and our fellowship strengthened.

Grace and Peace

Mmasape

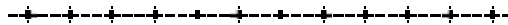
(Hymn: 'And Are We Yet Alive'
Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: Johann G. Nageli; arr. by Lowell Mason)

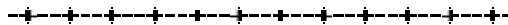
We ask for God's blessing and pray for all those in our church family who are unwell and for all those we have concerns for at this time.

We were very sad to hear of the death of Colin and Pauline Rodway's friend, Jason. We remember all of Jason's family and friends in our prayers.

We also remember the families and friends of those we are aware are unwell - Liz Amah's cousin, Laurence, Josie Jiggin's friend, Neil and John Manuel who is known to some members at The Drive.



We were very pleased to hear that Marlene Henry has now recovered after being unwell. Marlene's daughter Debra helps her to follow the online services.



Thanks

A big thank you to all those who have setup a new monthly standing order for their freewill offering. As you will be aware, our income from freewill offerings and rentals, has been severely reduced due to the current Covid 19 pandemic. As a consequence, our reserve funds are being used to cover essential costs and expenses.

If you have not already setup a standing order, but wish to support your Church during this difficult time, I would ask that you please reconsider. Alternatively, you may wish to make a payment by cheque.

Should you wish to consider either of these options, would you please contact any of the Stewards and they will provide my contact details. Thank you all for your continued support.

John Higgins – Treasurer

(For the purposes of setting up a standing order, the church bank sort code and account number are on our church website – Ed)

Many thanks to Brian Grinham for putting together the Annual Report. This can be viewed on the church website and a few printed copies will be available for those not online. Brian has also been providing some lockdown puzzles which people on the Whatsapp group have enjoyed. For those not in the group another couple of puzzles can be found on page 18.

Thanks also to Mmasape and all who provide the prayers and services and to Mike Seviour for keeping our website up to date.

Lorraine Bendon

Annual Report postscript

I had meant to say in the Music section of our Annual Report what a privilege it was for the choir to sing at the funeral of Roy Brunnen in December. A great supporter of the music in church, and of Janet's membership of the choir. I fondly remember the conversation I had with him about the organ music on Remembrance Sunday, the last time he was in church.

Andrew Taylor

Church Prayer Meeting - 25th June

Due to Coronavirus, this will still be held at home on Thursday 25th June at 7.15pm – 7.45pm. There is a prayer sheet on the Drive Church website. Please join us in prayer if you are able.

Bible Reading Group - Date and Time to be Announced on The Drive Together WhatsApp Group.

We will be discussing Luke Chapters 19 to 24 and Proverbs 3 We will use Zoom to Video Conference and post information on the Bible Reading Group WhatsApp group.

If you would like to participate then email John Pearson with your mobile number and he will add you to the group and invite you to the discussion. john.pearson27@ntlworld.com

Jan and John Pearson

More Daily Exercise



Following Government advice that a short drive to a place of exercise was permissible I have been venturing a little further afield.

A couple of weeks ago Diane and I parked at the church and walked down to Royston Gardens near Redbridge roundabout. From there, a path runs alongside the old Kearly & Tong sports ground through to Wanstead Park. We then crossed the river Roding and followed the Alders Brook which runs along the side of the City of London Cemetery. The path emerges at the railway line between Ilford and Manor Park where there is an underpass for pedestrians through to the Romford Road. The route we took is actually part of the Roding Valley Way

which is a 5 mile route from Ilford to Roding Valley station running alongside the river Roding. So, for our next walk we turned north at Redbridge roundabout and walked along the Wanstead side of the river through to Charlie Browns roundabout and then back along the Redbridge Lane side.

I completed the final section from Charlie Browns roundabout on my own. In places the route is really very picturesque and if you ignored the roar of the M11 you could imagine being in the English countryside. Just 50 metres from the roundabout I saw a Little egret nesting on the river and further on a Peacock butterfly. Near Roding Valley station the river is crossed by a rather impressive viaduct carrying the Central Line. Adjacent to this is a small footbridge across the river. For some reason it had been barricaded and blocked the last part of my route. Faced with the prospect of simply retracing my steps I nipped over the barrier and emerged on Loughton Rugby Club's playing field. I returned via Ray Park and the Cycleway.

I have found a rather interesting website called "the lost byway". It is a video blog by a John Rogers who undertakes urban and semi rural walks around London. One of his walks follows, as closely as possible, the old Great Eastern Railway loop (now the Central Line) from Newbury Park to Woodford via Hainault and Roding Valley stations. This gave me the idea of extending my Roding Valley walk back to Newbury Park and then home via Seven Kings Park.

With the help of an OS map I devised a route using minor roads, tracks and footpaths. From Roding Valley station I nipped back over the barricaded bridge and off on a lane taking me over the M11 towards Chigwell. There is a footpath across Chigwell Golf Course leading to a footbridge over the Central Line. This leads to open farmland just half a mile from Grange Hill station. I continued round the back of the Hainault

train depot to reach New North Road. This long straight road was originally a logging track cut in the 19thC to allow removal of some 2000 acres of felled trees from the forest. I could not resist a nostalgic detour to 146 New North Rd where my father grew up and my Granny lived until she died in 1973. Then across the playing fields to Fairlop station. An empty train took me back to Roding Valley.

A few days later I returned to Fairlop station and walked home via Fairlop Waters park and Aldborough Hatch. It is amazing to see areas of farmland that have survived the urbanisation of Ilford. After crossing the Eastern Avenue I walked home through the grounds of King George's Hospital, Happy Valley and Seven Kings park.

Jeremy Foster

Milestones

I don't know how many people know, but before the coronavirus put all our lives on hold, I had announced my decision at school to take early retirement from teaching at the end of this school year. Quite a momentous decision, as I'm sure anyone who has reached that same moment in his or her working life will agree.

Well, retirement is now on hold! I'll still be there in September, hopefully helping the school to return to some sort of normality, but at the moment, who knows what that will look like. I'm incredibly privileged to teach right across our large primary school, so everybody knows Mr Taylor! The last day we were in school before the lockdown began, I had the sense that my job as the music teacher had never been so important. Only a quarter of the children were present, so I saw everyone for some singing over the course of that one

day, and with emotions running high, those singing sessions were something both the children and staff needed.

Another milestone reached during May was 15 years of living in my house in Walthamstow. Spending so much time at home for the last two months has persuaded me that it is finally time to arrange those internal alterations I've been talking about for at least 10 of those 15 years!

And that reminded me that May also marked another anniversary for me – 25 years since Frank Sayers stepped down as the regular organist at The Drive and I took over. I said I'd do it for five years and see how it went...

Twenty five years is an opportunity for reflection; looking back and remembering all the musicians in our church over that time (many of whom have been "promoted to glory" as my Salvation Army grandmother would have said!), and all the Sunday by Sunday services and special occasions that music has added to in that time; but also looking forward to the changes and challenges that are ahead. Our church had already begun a time of planning for the future, even before the shutdown of public worship, and I firmly believe that in many ways, whenever and however we return, things will not be the same as they were before. I know that the music in church can help with that process, so don't let me be complacent!

Andrew Taylor



Have the Wheels of Justice ground to a halt in Lockdown?

(As a barrister, Sandra Folkes gives us a view of how the courts are coping)

The headline news at the beginning of this lockdown was that there would be no more jury trials. So those lawyers doing criminal cases were now only going to be occupied doing short hearings, which could essentially be done by a junior lawyer. So, the fat cats of crime, unless they can turn their hands to other areas of the law, are essentially laid off waiting for the courts to re-open.

Family Law on the other hand is booming - as more family members are now forced to spend more time together, it is like being in a melting pot and things are bubbling over. When things get too hot, the police and social services have to take action to cool the situation down and ensure the safety of the children.

Despite the lockdown, the family courts are still in full swing. However, the hearings are no longer taking place in the court buildings, but like our Church, it's all taking place remotely. Skype, Zoom and Microsoft Teams have been used by lawyers to communicate with each other. The Court uses a combination of Skype and telephone to conduct hearings. Telephone numbers of all the lawyers, the social worker, the parents and the representative of the children (known as a Children's Guardian) are given to the court and at the appointed time the Judge (if he/she is working from home) or the Judge's Clerk will call everyone and then the hearing commences.

The parents are expected to listen and not participate over the phone as their respective lawyer will make known their

position in the case. Before the hearing starts everyone is given a warning that it is a criminal offence to record the hearing, and they must ensure that they are in a quiet place where no one can overhear the case.

Despite the fact that we are no longer having to get up, to go to far flung places, such as Birmingham and Canterbury, there is still an early rise because at 9am there is a pre court discussion between the lawyers before the hearing at 10am. On the plus side, I can do this whilst in bed. The dress code also has changed in that it is business attire on top and pyjamas below!

Sandra Folkes





VE Day and other war memories



I remember the children's party in Danehurst Gardens. I believe the tables were laid out in one of the neighbour's garages near the street shelter (like the one in the church grounds). Sylvia Miles, Enid Andrews and both Eastern Avenue Church families, along with Alison and Adrienne Amor and Valerie Edwards were amongst the friends. There is a photo of this party in one of the Ilford local history booklets.

Mr "Forgery", who lived in an original farm cottage in the alleyway leading to Inglehurst Gardens, organised the games. A few years ago, speaking to Sylvia Fordree, I discovered he was related to her husband John, and I had mispronounced his name!

In the evening, there was a bonfire with all the families.

Audrey Taylor

Twenty five years ago we celebrated the 50th anniversary of VE day in Norfolk. There was a street party in the village and despite being "outsiders" we were made very welcome. However, my father was reluctant to join in. He was called up in 1943 and recalled that in May 1945 he spent VE day in Catterick Barracks waiting departure to the Far East. Whilst relieved that the war in Germany was over, for Dad and for many others, the war ended when Japan finally surrendered.

Jeremy Foster

They call the generation who fought and won the Second World War 'The Golden Generation' and that's just exactly what they were. We will not see their like again.

Although celebrations of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day were limited because of this terrible virus, nevertheless they were heart-warming. I watched the splendid BBC coverage from the comfort of my favourite armchair and sang along with those lovely wartime songs and listened to our dear Queen, who has dedicated her whole life to us. I then stood up and sang the National Anthem and then sat down and cried.

At the beginning of the war I was an evacuee in Devon. Being a coastal town, Exmouth was again bombed and one terrible night I was in the crowd that stood on the bank of the River Exe and sobbed as on the other side of the river enemy planes mercilessly razed Exeter to the ground. After that I came back home as Exeter was no safer than Ilford

The war between 1939 and 1945 wasn't just fought by our Army, Navy and Airforce. It was fought by civilians too. Those who huddled together night after night in damp chilly Anderson shelters with death and destruction all around. And those who were dug out of the ruins of their homes bloodied and filthy. Both the blitz and the unpredictable terrifying buzz bombs were very much the experience of that Golden Generation....make no mistake about that.

I can remember VE Day vividly. Although I was only a kid then of course, I danced and sang and yelled like everyone else who was going mad with joy. But for me there was an underlying sadness; a deep sense of loss which all the noisy rejoicing couldn't even begin to quench for, as young as I

was I remembered friends, neighbours, some of my Sunday School teachers and little children who were killed or maimed in the bombing or on active service. I remembered too those occasions when innocent civilians had been machine-gunned down in the street by enemy fighters which had somehow managed to get through before the warning sirens had sounded. My school friend Hazel died that way.

There was the memory too of being taken to safety following an air raid by the dear kind Air Raid Warden who saved my life and seeing my mother , her clothes all torn and in deep shock and hearing her say to me bewilderedly 'who are you little girl?' I have never felt so desolate and unloved and hope I never will again.

VE Day was a great blessing after those long weary years of war. The First World War was supposed to be the war that ended all wars, but it wasn't and sadly wars still go on. So does the loss of life, the pain and the sorrow. We never learn, do we?

What was it the angels sang when Christ was born in Bethlehem? Peace and goodwill, wasn't it? The little girl who lived through the blitz and the doodlebugs; the memory of which still haunt her sometimes, never ceases to pray that peace and goodwill really will come to our poor battered old world, when people have to love and not hate, but sadly she knows that it won't be in her lifetime.

Betty Griffiths

I remember the beginning of the Second World War. I lived in Worthing with my father and sister. The south coast was often bombed.

I have vivid memories of being at school and hearing the air raid siren going off. We had to run across the school field to the shelters. It seemed to be the only exercise we had, as all the young men, who were PE teachers, had been called up. We learnt to run very fast!

My father, Walter Sayers, had been a soldier all his life. He had joined the army at a young age. He had been stationed in Newcastle and my brother and sister were both born in the army hospital. At the time of the Second World War he was retired.

My sister, Dorothy was part of the auxiliary ambulance service and so when the siren was heard, she would jump on her bike and pedal down to the ambulance station. My brother, Sidney worked for the air ministry, which was a reserved occupation. The work was highly secretive and he never spoke of it.

I have a memory of two Canadian soldiers being billeted at our house. There was no choice in the matter; most households had soldiers staying with them at some point. I often wonder what happened to them.

I was 17 when VE day came, but strangely I don't have any recollection of celebrations in Worthing, but I do remember being glad that the war was over.

Frank Sayers



Morning prayers

Loving God, at the start of the day, fill our hearts with your love and let the praise of your glory be the joy of our lives through our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Gracious God, whose loving kindness has no limits, teach us afresh the way of Christ.

Where we have felt discouraged, renew us through signs of hope;

where we have been tempted to give up, grant us strength and faith to face the day;

where we have grown anxious about the future, give us courage to plant the seeds of tomorrow in acts of radical love today.

Renew us by your Spirit and set us free to serve you so that the whole of creation may rejoice in your name. Amen.

Loving God, we thank and praise you today with grateful hearts, because you have called us into your own marvellous light.

We commit the NHS into your mighty hands. We pray that through your Holy Spirit, you will give them a new heart in their struggle to improve the quality of our lives.

We pray for the sick, the needy and the vulnerable. Help us to pour out our lives in the service of your people, bless our efforts that the whole of humanity may become a sacrifice acceptable to you. Amen



Evening prayers

Gracious father, we ask that you give comfort to those who are ill and suffering. Give rest to the weary and to the dying the assurance of your presence. Abide with those to whom the evening tide is swiftly falling. Through Christ. Amen

Thank you for bringing this day to a close. Thank you for giving me rest in body and soul. Your hand has been over me. Forgive my lack of faith and any wrong that I have done today and help me to forgive all who have wronged me.

Let me sleep in peace under your protection and keep me from all the temptations of darkness. Into your hands. I commend my loved ones and all who dwell in this house. I commend to you my body and soul. Oh God, your holy name be praised. Amen

Dear Lord God, as another day has passed, we thank you for
all that you do for each and every one of us
Be our hope, our strength, our shield
As we head into the night, light up our hearts
Relax our bodies and thoughts
Let your spirit nurture and caress us
Protect us throughout the night and allow us to dream
peacefully
Hear our prayers, for we know you are never sleeping
Amen



Hidden animals

Look for the animals in the phrases below
(eg I wonder if **RO**Ger is at home)

1. Take the calico with you
2. Your new hairdo gives you a youthful look
3. John abhors every kind of joke
4. On the level I only wish to help you
5. You can't learn this game unless you go at it more vigorously
6. I'd rather be right than Prime Minister
7. Is this all the help I get
8. We were invited to a dinner on Friday
9. If you wish to gain prestige, remember your manners
10. I hope you will try to be a very good boy

Hidden flowers

Look for the flowers in the phrases below
(eg Do you know **I RI**Se at ten)

1. After you wash the pans, you may prepare lunch
2. I have taken part in many races in this car, national and international
3. Did Chopin know Beethoven
4. If this car goes any faster, I will fall out
5. The plane is now dropping food to the marooned people
6. Before we knew it, the rhinoceros entered the water
7. I believe this is the best plane money can buy
8. This scow slips through the water like a rowboat
9. I understand that the panda is your favourite animal
10. Is your porch identical to ours

Answers to last month's puzzles:

Books of the Bible anagrams:

1. Exodus,
2. Micah,
3. Obadiah,
4. Colossians,
5. Timothy,
6. Samuel,
7. Lamentations,
8. Amos,
9. Song of Solomon,
10. Acts,
11. Hebrews,
12. Deuteronomy,
13. Numbers,
14. Esther,
15. Matthew,
16. Ruth,
17. Ezra,
18. Ecclesiastes,
19. Hosea,
20. Thessalonians.

Paragraph with 16 hidden books of the Bible:

1. Mark,
2. Luke,
3. Kings,
4. Acts,
5. Revelation
6. James,
7. Ruth,
8. Numbers,
9. Job,
10. Amos,
11. Esther,
12. Judges,
13. Titus,
14. Lamentations,
15. Hebrews,
16. Peter.

May the Lord bless you and take care of you;

May the Lord be kind and gracious to you;

May the Lord look on you with favour and give
you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

***(Last date for items for the July/August newsletter:
Sunday 21st June)***