

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

NEWSLETTER

July / August 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:

Dear friends in Christ

As I pen this month's newsletter article it's been over three months since we have met and seen each other face to face. I do so whilst watching and listening to the Methodist Conference business deliberations online due to the pandemic.

On Saturday of Conference, the Revd Richard Teal and Mrs Carolyn Lawrence, were inducted as President and Vice President of the Conference 2020. In their address the President set the theme "Best of all, God is with us".

Indeed, God has been with us and all the people of the world as we all adjusted to the devastating impact of Covid 19. We have seen how the normal way of our relating with each other as friends and families has changed; how going shopping, travelling or being and doing church is all different.

Some of us, have not without challenges and difficulty adapted to bringing services via YouTube, whilst others livestream or use Zoom. Through it all we continue to declare that God is with us.

There may be those who feel not fully reached at this time and this task belongs to all of us not just the Minister as together we make contact with those especially isolated at this time.

Some of the key issues that Conference is addressing are the same issues that make everyday news in our society. Issues of environmental crisis, wherein the church is going to urge all of us to become eco-churches (friendly to the environment); issues around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as highlighted by the recent racial discrimination tensions and gender-based

violence. This a loud call on the church – us, to be fully inclusive and representative in our leadership and worship.

On the local level we continue to battle with the day to day impacts of job loss and poverty. I am grateful to those in our churches who have heard the call to meet the needs of those hard hit and are helping to ensure that some are helped to get food. We can still do more. If you're interested get in touch and I will tell you how (mmasape.zihle@methodist.org) or if you're aware of someone struggling.

Finally, as the government loosens restrictions and churches are considered to reopen, we need to consider seriously for ourselves the risk involved, and to make sure that those identified within the Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic groups as most likely to die if infected and those of a particular age and those with underlying health issues are protected. Sadly, I tick a couple of these boxes. So, for now as we continue to worship virtually, we do not stop to acknowledge God's presence with us in our pain, loss and struggle, but also in our joy and celebrations amidst these ongoing trying times. The biggest task we now have is how we continue to reveal this presence in our communities.

For now, I send you love, peace and hope whilst we all continue to safely navigate our new and emerging sense of normal.

Shalom

Yours in Christ

Mmasape

Methodist Conference 2020

We learned from Mmasape that The Methodist Conference has appointed Reverend Sonia Hicks as its first female black President for 2021. We offer congratulations and best wishes.

We hold in mind

Kay Whiddon and her family as she spends time in Cyprus with her son Jake to lay her Dad Vassos to rest. This was her Dads final wish and she was determined to ensure that it was carried out. The funeral took place on 10th July.

John Higgins on the loss of his sister who died recently. Please remember John and his family in your prayers.

The family of Reverend Michael Mason who died on 23rd June. Reverend Mason served as a Minister at Seven Kings and Goodmayes churches from 1991 – 1997. We remember his wife Sally and their children in our prayers.

Those who have lost confidence. While lockdown is being lifted in various areas of everyday life; many feel this brings about its own risks if careful precautions are not followed. Being in isolation in their homes for so long they are now wary and afraid of venturing out.

We think about those in our church family and beyond who are vulnerable and have health concerns, missing out on their regular and essential medical treatments and face to face consultations. We ask God's blessing and pray for their recovery.

Happy Church Anniversary 5th July

This year we missed out on the opportunity to spend time celebrating our church anniversary and sharing a meal together, and so we thank the creativity of Jan and John Pearson and their helpers who provided us with an online service to mark this special day in our church calendar.

The morning prayer on this day:

*Thank you, Lord, for your reckless love
that heals the brokenness within us,
gives us the strength to live another day
and forgives our sins.*

*Help us to live out your reckless love,
so that through the power of the Holy Spirit
we will be able to love you,
love neighbours and forgive others.
We receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour
and surrender our lives to the power
of the Holy Spirit to be used for your glory alone.
In Jesus' mighty name we pray. **Amen***

For those of you who are not online, here are some of the many Church Anniversary Wishes that were shared using **The Drive Together** WhatsApp Group.

Andrew - 'Happy Church Anniversary everyone. Missed the hot dogs and burgers today, although we may have been blown off our picnic chairs'.

Oli – 'I wish everyone a Happy Church Anniversary and a blessed and wonderful day.'

Mmasape - 'Happy Anniversary Church. Lord for the years your love has kept and guided us on our way; receive our thanks today.'

Golden Wedding Anniversary wishes to Doreen and Eddie Larney who were long term members of The Drive until they moved to pastures new in the Essex countryside. They do however keep in touch with much that goes on at The Drive and Doreen continues to sew and knit furiously for many of the the charities supported by The Drive. Warm Congratulations to you both.

We send our best wishes to Pauline and Colin as they continue with their adventure to move to pastures new.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU -

belated birthday wishes to Michelle, Audrey, Derek, Betty, Peter, Sandra and any other church family and friends who have celebrated a birthday since our previous newsletter.

A BIG BIRTHDAY

You may remember that there is usually talk of my birthday at the same time as the Church Anniversary. I have missed getting together with you for the annual barbecue and picnic at the Roding's, seeing everyone smile and chat and share food together. This year I celebrated my birthday at home with Thea, who made me a wonderful cake and a special meal. Perhaps it was a lock down bonus!

I am the youngest of 7 children and my birthday falls in the same month as my eldest sister who would have been 66 this year. We marked her birthday on 4th July, and it was a lovely occasion with lots of reminiscing, laughter and anecdotes.

Michelle

P. S. My age now rhymes with 'nifty'!

Flowers Online

While you might have been missing the marvellous floral displays in church each week since the lockdown, you can now admire them on the church website. Each week one of our talented flower arrangers creates a display and photographs it. When you load the Home page of the website for the first time each day, the current display is overlaid for the first ten seconds, before it gradually fades out of sight.

I will shortly provide a link on the website which will enable you to look back over any previous weeks' displays you may have missed.

Mike Seviour

Reverend Angela Potheary

I fear we will have missed the boat for joining Angela's online leaving service on 19th July. But I am sure it will remain available for those who would like to view it online. Any messages you may have for Angela can also be sent on to her.

kido.baek@methodist.org.uk

Gants Hill Methodist Church

The Drive Church family send Angela our thanks for her service to us and our absolute best wishes to her and her husband Phil for the next part of their journey in Yorkshire and pray they will spend many happy and peaceful years ministering to their local community.

News of meetings from Jan and John

Church Prayer meetings



Thursday 30th July 7:15pm-7:45pm

We are praying at home but together in Spirit

Thursday 27th August Church Prayer Meeting
(prayer sheet available on the Church website)

Bible Reading Group

Friday 31st July 3:30pm on Zoom

We shall be discussing the last 4 chapters of Luke
and Proverbs 4

Friday 28th August 3.30pm on Zoom.

Bible Reading Group.

We will discuss Joshua chapters 1-4 and Proverbs chapter 5.

All are welcome to join this group.



An Easter Lockdown –

is the title of a substantial and interesting account of Easter spent at home restricted by the lockdown, written by Betty Griffiths.

As it is too large a document to include in the newsletter, we will print it separately and make it available online or as a paper copy for all who wish to read it.

Do let me know if you would like a copy.

Lorraine Bendon

Anne updates us about Raysin Hope, the support group she started following the loss of her husband Ray from a brain tumour.

Support Group in Lockdown

In January 2011, the Romford Brain Tumour Support Group welcomed its first members.

We set out a few chairs and waited. Seven people came that day, we shared our stories and agreed that following diagnosis, the feeling of 'living in a bubble' applied to us all.

Nine years later in March 2020 we set out thirty chairs and waited. Gradually the chairs filled with people but there were none of the usual hugs and kisses with which we usually greeted one another. Coronavirus was heading to the UK and 'Bubble' was soon to mean something quite different. Churches and meeting places were being closed and we knew things would not be the same for some time.

During April, Facebook proved to appeal to a number of people, while others such as myself preferred to write letters, emails, text or phone the individual. Thanks to a suggestion from a member of the group, Zoom was set up on a fortnightly basis and those who are able to access it, find it helps them to feel a sense of belonging again.

In Lockdown we have had some sad news of members. In normal times we can be there for families, but Coronavirus denies us the moments when a hug or words of comfort are needed. We have had joyful news when a couple became grandparents for the first time, recently they have been able to hug those babies, (twins)) thanks to being in their family 'Bubble'

As for our brain tumour bubble, it is huge, but we are all in it together, keeping in touch, sending messages to inspire and encourage those who are struggling to cope. Recently someone told me, "I do not know what I would do without the group as there is always someone there for me." That person was one of those first seven people who came on that day in 2011. Everyone misses our meetings; I pray that we will come together again one day.

Anne Dellow

LB. What a blessing this amazing group is to those in such need. Anne, we pray that you will continue to go from strength to strength.

Our God is The God of the whole earth

Lord our heavenly Father we acknowledge you as Father of all nations and races and pray for an end to racial inequality, injustice, and intolerance today.

Father bless us as we strive to find our way to true racial reconciliation. Open our eyes to all that goes on around us that contribute to racial injustice.

Grant us the knowledge to understand all that we do, both personally and as a society, which prevents us from recognising and defending the dignity of all our brothers and sisters, and especially those feeling pain at this time.

Grant us the grace to reflect on our own actions and inactions that contribute to this pain. And grant us the strength to take action to alleviate this pain and to end racial injustice in all its forms.

In your name we pray.

Amen

Thanks to Jan and John. Adapted from a prayer by Phil Chick



Thanks to Mmasape for bringing this to our attention

A Seniors Version of FACEBOOK !

For those of my generation who do not and cannot comprehend why Facebook exists; I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them a 'thumbs up' and tell them I 'like' them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist.

The Trussell Trust - Redbridge Foodbank **Jubilee Church Granville Road Ilford**

Please help our Local Foodbank who are in urgent need of the following items:

- Tinned potatoes, tomatoes, tinned meat and tinned fruit.
- Rice Pudding and custard.
- Long life milk, sugar
- Jam, peanut butter, chocolate spread and honey
- Shampoo and shower gel

The opening hours vary so check their excellent website.

Hello Church Family, Thea here!!!

I'm not sure if many of you know that TDY has been keeping in touch for the last few weeks on a Sunday. This is because we were able to set up a quiz at 4pm on a Sunday over Zoom so that we can all see each other and talk about what's been going on. So far, we've had two quizzes that have been really good fun with lots of unexpected questions and answers!!

Despite being in lockdown, it turns out we're all quite busy and so we missed the quiz for last week, but we'll pick the routine back up again soon!!! I hope all of you are doing well and the sun should be out again soon, so it'll be nothing but sun and blue skies, yay!!

So that you feel as though you're a part of the quizzes I thought I'd leave you with some of the quiz questions.

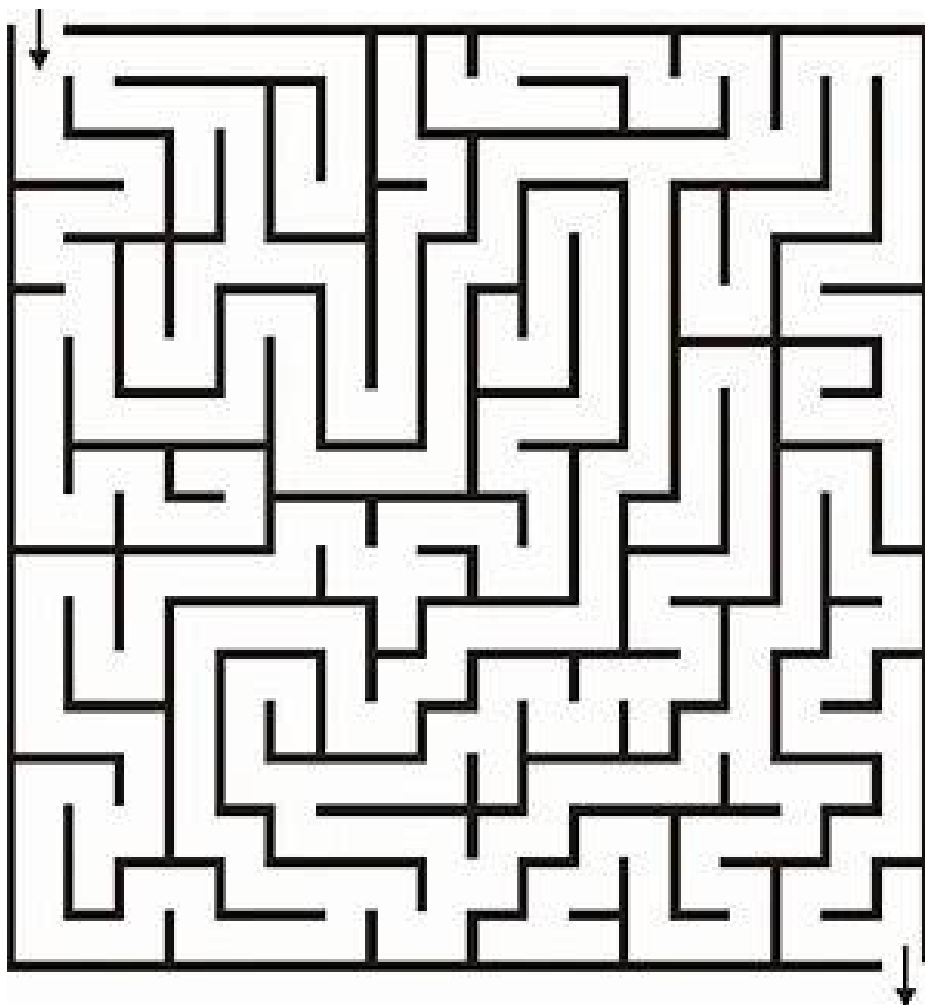
1. What is the largest animal in the rainforest?
2. What do you call a group of hedgehogs?
3. I have a neck but no head and arms but no hands.
What am I?
4. What does the word gospel mean?
5. How many balls were used at the 2019 Wimbledon?

I hope you're able to get the answers right!!!

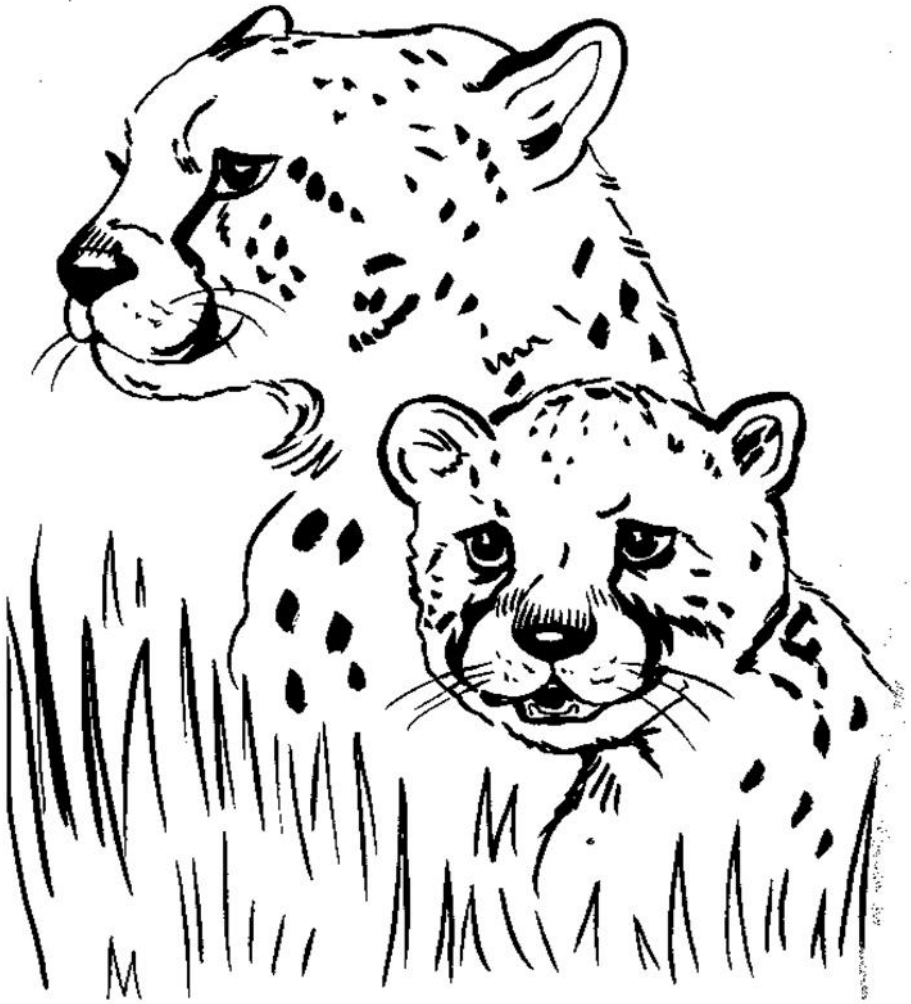
Answers on page 16



AMAZING!



A colouring page for all ages



Quiz answers

1. A manatee 2. A Prickle/Array 3. A shirt 4. Teaching or revelation of Christ. 5. 54, 250

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BEETHOVEN!

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven, arguably the most famous composer of Western classical music. The opening of his Fifth Symphony (da-da-da-daaaah, da-da-da-daaaah) must be the most instantly recognisable eight notes of music ever written.

Along with so many other events in 2020, Beethoven's birthday party has been postponed! This year's BBC Proms season would undoubtedly have included a good chunk of Beethoven's music. The reprogrammed radio-only First Night of the Proms on Friday 17th July included a virtually recorded mash-up of his nine symphonies.

Another of Beethoven's well-known melodies is included in our hymn book *Singing the Faith*. Retired United Reformed minister Alan Gaunt's hymn *God with us: Creator, Father* (StF 8) is sung to the tune *Ode to Joy*, which comes from the last movement of Beethoven's ninth and last symphony. In the symphony, Beethoven sets the words of the German poet Schiller, whose popular poem *An die Freude* expressed a yearning for peace and egalitarianism: "All men will become brothers ... Be embraced, you millions!" It was the first time that singing had been included in a symphony, a revolutionary move in 1824. This tied in with Beethoven's political views – he approved of the ideals of the French Revolution in the 1790s, and dedicated his Third Symphony to Napoleon, only to furiously scratch out Napoleon's name when he heard that his hero had declared himself emperor of France.

Over the years, Beethoven's tune has been used for any number of alternative lyrics, and by any number of disparate groups and individuals. It was briefly used as the anthem for Rhodesia under white minority rule, but then also in a version

sung by Pete Seeger and Paul Robeson (and thousands of school children earlier this year at the O2 Arena!) as a hymn to peace and freedom. The tune (without words) is the official anthem of the European Union.

It's a deceptively simple melody, based on just five notes of a major scale, so is often played by children in the early stages of learning a musical instrument. But Beethoven being Beethoven, it's never completely straightforward. He throws in a little rhythmic twist, starting the last line of music a beat early – a moment that often catches congregations unaware!

In 1907, the American Presbyterian Henry van Dyke wrote the hymn *Joyful, joyful we adore thee* to be sung to Beethoven's tune. The last verse seems to echo the original sentiments of Schiller's poem:

*Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began
Father-love is reigning o'er us
brother-love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward
victors in the midst of strife
joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life.*

Similarly, Alan Gaunt's hymn in our hymn book ends with a plea to mend our broken world, words which ring loud as we explore the notions of privilege and inequality in our society:

*God with us: convict, forgive us;
by your holy love destroy
all that hinders peace and justice:
fill this aching world with joy! (CCLI 183809)*

Andrew Taylor

Evening Prayer

God, my friend, it is time for bed.
Time to rest my sleepy head.
I pray to you before I do
Please guide me down the path that's true
God, my friend, please bless my mother,
All your children – sisters, brothers.
Oh! and then there's Daddy too.
He says I am his gift from you
God, my friend, it is time to sleep,
I thank you for a soul unique.
And thank you for another day,
To run and jump and laugh and play.
God, my friend, it is time to go,
But before I do, I hope you know,
I am thankful for my blessing, too
And God my friend, I love you.

Thanks to Bambo. Michael J Edgar 111 MS

***Last date for items for the September newsletter:
Sunday 23rd August***