

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

# NEWSLETTER

## November 2020



Minister: Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

[www.drive-methodist.church](http://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:**

### **Best of all God is with us!"**

These words by John Wesley have been a source of comfort in the last few days, weeks, months, as we have continued to battle and wrestle with the pandemic and all that it has wrought in our lives. The worst of the impact has been the loss of familiarity of worship and planning for significant events like Advent, Nativity, Carols and Christmas worship. Some of these will happen albeit differently; as well as the dying of loved ones or friends and this is what we face at this time.

We, as The Drive Methodist Church mourn the loss of two fantastic ladies in Betty Griffiths and Elsie Blanchard.

**To their memory we dedicate this edition of our newsletter.**

May these and all the dearly departed rest in eternal peace.

**Mmasape**

## **We hold in mind .....**



**Two of our dear friends who, after falling ill died in hospital within a few days of one another.**

**Betty Griffiths** died on 20<sup>th</sup> October while being treated in King George Hospital and **Elsie Blanchard** died on 28<sup>th</sup> October, while in Whipps Cross Hospital. Thoughts and Memories of Betty and Elsie are included in this edition which is dedicated to these wonderful people and the marvellous productive lives they led. We send our prayers and condolences to Betty and Elsie's families and friends.

**Frank**, as he acclimatises to being back home after visits and treatment in several hospitals.

**Sophia**, who had a short spell in hospital and is now recovering at home. Get well soon Sophia.LB

**Janet and Geoff**, who are their usual cheerful and uncomplaining selves, while also coping with ill health.

**Pauline**, as she makes slow but positive progress at home, while continuing to attend hospital for treatment. Good to get regular updates on your recovery. Go Pauline! LB

**Sandra R**, who is recovering well at home following a recent operation. So pleased to see you looking so well Sandra. LB

**Sandra F**, as she progresses at home after a serious setback following her transplant operation. So pleased you are home and recovering Sandra. LB

**Kathleen**, who continues to receive regular outpatient treatment at hospital.

**Elise** (Michelle's Mum) continues to acclimatise to being back home after her prolonged stay in hospital. Michelle is pleased that she is seeing some positive change in her Mum.

**Reverend Mmasape** and her family as she prepares a visit to South Africa to visit her mum who is coping with Dementia.

Our thoughts are also with our friends in other churches in our district who are coping with ill health and bereavement and we give thanks to all who provide continued care and support for families and friends.

### **A Message from Frank**

Frank would like to thank all his friends at The Drive, for their love and good wishes whilst he was in hospital. He is beginning to feel better and is grateful for the care he received in all three hospitals.

**Congratulations to Lola** who has passed her driving test. May you enjoy many years of safe, happy driving. Well done!

**Blessings to Julia** (Justyna and Lucas's daughter) who took her First Holy Communion at St John The Baptist.

**Belated birthday wishes** to Yetunde who celebrated her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Hope you were able to celebrate in style Yetunde.

**Thea reports** that she is well, has made friends and is pleased with how her course is progressing. She plans to return home briefly for a cuddle with her mum and her Granny in early November.



## **News of meetings from Jan and John**

### **Church Prayer Meeting**



The Church Prayer meeting is on Thursday 26 November from 7:15 to 7:45. Our prayer sheet can be found on the church website. We shall all be praying at home for the time being.

### **Bible Reading Group**

The Bible Reading Group will be on Friday 27 November at 3:30pm on Zoom. We will share our thoughts on Joshua 13-16 and Proverbs 8. A link for the meeting will be provided on our Church WhatsApp 'The Drive Together' on the Friday morning.



**Reminder: there is a to be a Zoom Church Council Meeting on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 11.am.**

**Details for joining will be forwarded to those concerned.**

### **A message from John, our Church Treasurer**

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, Church Services are being disrupted and many people are finding it difficult to get to church. In addition, many of our regular property lettings have been cancelled. As a result, our income has been considerably reduced, however we are still incurring regular costs for the safe running and maintenance of the Church. The longer the current restrictions apply, the more we will have to draw on our limited reserves to meet necessary expenditure.

In these difficult circumstances more of the congregation are choosing to make their freewill offerings by bank transfer. If not already done, I would urge you to consider setting up a regular standing order.

Furthermore, if you are a UK taxpayer please consider signing up for the gift aid scheme, which will enable the Church to reclaim the tax from HMR&C.

Please contact me and I will gladly pass on details of our bank account. Your continued support and generosity are much appreciated.

***John Higgins***

## Betty Griffiths 1927 – 2020



Betty died on 20th October at King George Hospital following a short stay. Being the first baby to be baptised at her church, was one of her proudest achievements.





**In her long life, Betty touched the lives of so many people. Those in our church family share their thoughts and memories of Betty.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**I have very fond memories of Betty.**

**Many years ago, Betty and her dear friend, Jane Shields, ran the Toddler Group at The Drive where I went with Louise and Matthew from when they were small babies. Betty's warm nature, enthusiasm and great sense of fun shone through and the children loved her.**

**Some years later when I took over as Beaver Scout leader Betty used to come every week without fail to serve refreshments and assist generally. On special celebrations Betty and Jane would put on a spread according to the occasion – Christmas, Easter, Harvest and of course St George's Day. Betty was very patriotic, and I shall miss receiving my St. George's Day card next year.**

**Betty had beautiful handwriting and loved to write letters. I think her character can be summed up in the following words she included in a recent letter to me:**

***"Despite self-isolation I had a terrific 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday...The old gel battles on merrily! Once a Methodist always a Methodist!"***

**I am so grateful to have known Betty. She was an inspiration to me and many people and will be greatly missed.**

**Diane Foster**

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Betty was a kind, caring member of our church community. There was never a service that went by where she wasn't smiling as always. Some of my many fond memories of her include her compliments on my Sunday dresses or whenever I read the bible. No matter how old I got, she would always say "I knew you when you were in your mummy's tummy"! She was always proud of the fact that she was the first baby baptised at the church and I would never get tired of hearing those stories. In addition, TDY was never short of snacks as Betty was always on hand to give us biscuits. She regularly supported us in whatever we did, be it our charity fundraisers or our youth services. Her cheerful personality radiating from the back of the church will be sorely missed.

Rest in peace, Betty. May God bless her soul.

**Rochelle**

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We are really sad. May her soul rest in peace.

**Priya Inbakumar**

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Very sad to hear about Betty. I know she has been such a support to many people stuck at home recently with her phone calls. First baby to be baptised at The Eastern Avenue Methodist Church, end of an era.

**Andrew**

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Such sad news of Betty who will be greatly missed. She was a friend and comforter to so many people. Our sympathy to Richard.  
**Kathleen and Brian Taylor**

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**I will miss my friend Betty and cherish the memories I have of her and her wonderful stories.**  
**Michelle**

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May her soul rest in everlasting peace. I do feel honoured in getting to know her. **Antonia**

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So sorry to hear the sad news of Betty. May her soul rest in peace.  
**Janet Brunnen**

### **Memories of Betty, from Jo**

Betty and my mum, Catherine, grew up a few doors away from each other in Windermere Gardens. They both experienced being brought up during the war and the heart ache of being evacuated.

One terrible night Betty's house was destroyed by a bomb, she told me my grandfather, who was an air raid warden, had helped rescue her from the rubble. Betty was truly a strong and resilient lady.

When the war was over Betty continued to go to the Junior Church and Youth Club at The Drive. She always rejoiced in the fact that over 200 children attended the church then, and the Christmas parties were a delight and an event she enjoyed remembering.

My memories of Betty are of always giving a helping hand at Junior Church events. Betty and her good friend, Jane Shields, would

offer to prepare and serve refreshments. Betty would adorn the tables with an array of seasonal goodies, whether it was Easter eggs and chicks or Christmas crackers.

Betty supported and cared for many young people who have been part of The Drive Church over the years and her love and guidance has been a source of comfort and joy. For many years Betty also gave her time and energy in helping to prepare the church lunches. Laughter and fun were had, and a delicious meal and fellowship was shared.

Betty was a caring and loving lady who adored her wonderful dogs. She treated them with love and affection and enjoyed the company they gave her. She enjoyed the hymn "All things bright and beautiful" as the words state, "All creatures great and small... The Lord God made them all".

My dad, Frank, is also grateful for the friendship Betty gave, especially when sitting at the back of the church and finding hymns together. They would go through the hymn list and hope there would be a great Wesley hymn that they would both enjoy singing. Betty kept her faith through good times and bad. She believed in loving God and serving the church and community. My family and I feel blessed to have known such a wonderful lady called Betty.

**Jo Wright**

## **Memories of Betty**

I got to know Betty when my children were old enough to go into the Sunday School, and to the Delloes she soon became Aunty Betty.

A true Methodist, she exemplified strong Christian values and we were all to benefit from her knowledge and kindness. As our young people began to enter their teens Betty was instrumental in helping Pam Murphy and myself to set up a new youth club, We

met on Friday evenings and Betty would come along to support us, her help was invaluable.

As the years passed, I spent more time in her company and enjoyed listening to her stories and quips which she would attribute to her mother, and often deliver the line in a cockney tone which amused me, being a Londoner myself. Betty had numerous friends to whom she was so loyal and kind. She must have kept Royal Mail busy with the number of letters she wrote and every month she sent church newsletters to those friends who had moved to pastures new. I was so fortunate to receive many cards, letters and poems from her and recently I told her that I had kept most of them, as they were so interesting and often very funny; she was so pleased to know that.

When it came to praise, Betty was very modest, and would rather one not mention her kindness, but I shall always be thankful for her commitment to 'Raysin Hope' during the past ten years.

I will always think of Betty with a dog by her side and a cheery greeting for everyone. God bless you dear Betty.

**Anne Dellow**

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I have lost a long time friend. Betty is now at peace with her Lord and for that we must be grateful. My condolences to Richard and his family.

**Brian Grinham**

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It's at times like this that we miss the coming together to share our reflections and sorrow. Betty impacted so many of our lives and will be greatly missed. The Lord gives, the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**Jan and John Pearson**

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I feel so sad to hear about the lovely Betty. She has given so much of her time to the preschool and she was so loved. We will miss her smiling face so much. God Bless.

**Kaye Whidden**

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So sad to hear the news about Betty. May her soul rest in peace. Condolences to her family.

**Oli Fadojutimi**

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I cannot find the right words, may Betty rest in peace. We phoned each other every day and she would say to me `is that my little duckie?' We had lots of laughs together and I will miss her calls and her friendship so much.

**Liz Amah**

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May her soul rest in peace. **Sheela**

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### **Dear Betty**

I got to know Betty when Peter and I moved to Redbridge in 1971. She has always taken an interest in my family and frequently recalled memories of my children growing up and continued to show an interest in their wellbeing as adults and of my grandchildren too. I often took my iPad when I visited her to show her photos and keep her up to date with weddings, holidays and other significant family events.

When I managed the Playgroup (now known as the Preschool) `Auntie Betty `was a great favourite with the children and an

important member of our staff team. She had such a rapport with small children and easily 'walked in their shoes'.

Similarly, she had a strong emotional understanding of animals; particularly dogs, and we I used to joke with her that I was coming back as one of her dogs as I knew I would want for nothing.

The last few months without her beloved Belle were so difficult for Betty as she felt bereft without her doggie companion to love and care for. I will miss having Bettys strong Christian influence in my life and knowing that she was 'just across the road'.

## **Lorraine**

### **My Friend Betty**

I have known Betty for nearly 50 years. I met her after moving from the Cranbrook Park Church.

Back then in the old days, we were both able to sit on at the front of the church on the hard pews but as the years have rolled by we gradually moved to the back of the church on the comfy chairs for the old folk.

Over the years, our companionship developed into a friendship and I used to love the little tales about her Mum.

If either of us were unable to attend the Sunday Church Service; we always spoke on the phone to check on each other.

When I'm able to return to church safely, I will miss her company in the chair next to me.

**With love Josie X**



## **Bettys Favourite Hymn**

### **ABIDE WITH ME**

*Abide with me, fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away  
Change and decay in all around I see  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me*

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me...*

**Audrey Assad**



## **ELSIE BLANCHARD      1923 - 2020**



Elsie died on 28<sup>th</sup> October at Whipps Cross Hospital following long term health problems. What follows are memories and tributes from those who loved and cared about her.

I am so sorry to hear this sad news about dear Elsie. Another lovely lady who will be greatly missed. She used to make Matthew smile with tales of her time in Malta during the war and socialising with the charming Naval Officers in their crisp white uniforms.

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**Diane**

I remember seeing Elsie and her sister after church, chatting away on the bus and having a good time in each others company. Both are at rest now.

**Michelle**

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May her soul rest in peace.

**Justyna**

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This is sad to hear. May she rest in peace.

**Antonia**

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So sad to hear the news of Elsie's passing. May her soul rest in peace.

**Oli**

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So sorry to hear the news that we have lost another lovely member of our church. May her soul rest in peace.

**Priya**

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I'm so sorry to hear about Elsie. Who is now at peace with her Lord and Saviour, Jesus. A place she has wanted to be for a long time. May she rest in peace. Thanks to Jo, Anne and Ruth for the love and care they have given Elsie and to Ruth who was with her during her last few hours and stayed with Elsie to the end.

**Brian**

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So sorry to hear about Elsie, such a lovely lady but glad she is now at peace and thank you Ruth for being with her at the end.

**Janet**



RIP Elsie and may the peace of the Lord which passes all understanding be with Jo, Ruth and Anne and all friends and family.

**Sandra F**

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I have many memories of Elsie with her sister Ella. They seemed always to be together and were such good buddies. Together they showed an interest in the social work I did at the Family Centre which began its life under the management of NCH (National Children's Home), now known as Action for Children.

When the centre celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday Ella and Elsie provided 3 beautiful silver birch trees to be planted in the centres large garden. Over the years, and without her sister, Elsie continued her interest in my work with vulnerable families. Always interesting to talk to and always interested in others; Elsie really was a special lady.

**Lorraine**

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May the Good Lord shelter Elsie under his wings.

**Liz**

## **Elsie Blanchard – My Friend**

Elsie was born in East Ham on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 1923 and had one elder sister, called Ella who she was very close to.

When she left school, she trained as a nurse until she could no longer afford to live on the very low money they paid. When war broke out, she signed up to be a Morse Code operator and was sent to Malta for 2 years which was really in the thick of it.

After the war, she spent 4 years in Hanover, Germany with the Peace Keeping Forces helping to get Germany back on its feet after it lost the war. I remember many years ago, my Dad Stanley telling me that she was approached to write about her exploits for the Church newsletter and she declined, citing "The Official Secrets Act". Draw your own conclusions!!

After the war, she worked as a temporary secretary for a Government minister for quite a while, eventually finishing her career at the Atomic Energy Authority which involved spending time briefly in New York and Washington DC.

She moved to Ilford over 40 years ago to be closer to her sister, Ella and her family. She took enormous pleasure in being a part of the lives of Ella's son, Geoff and all his family. She started attending the Drive Methodist church sometime after her move and involved herself fully in the church activities, including

helping with the monthly Church Lunch. When she retired, she volunteered her services to the Redbridge Volunteer Bureau, an organisation set up by a former minister, Reverend Peter Hudson, and still running today.

She had a number of health issues (eyes and heart attacks) which have been very stressful, but she carried on regardless, only stopping attending church when her eye problems meant that morning church was not feasible. Those who remember her will

recall the big dark glasses she wore which were for extreme light sensitivity.

Elsie was interested in everyone and cared for all. She kept regular contact with people, by letter or visiting but as her sight and mobility deteriorated, by phone. Up until recently, she had regular phone conversations with her dear friend, Doris, who lived in Seattle, USA and had been a GI bride after the war, their communication only stopped when Doris developed severe dementia.

She was a loyal, wonderful, friend and I was fortunate to be part of the group of friends who she entertained with stories of her exploits that were invariably followed by `YOU DID WHAT'!!

She sadly passed away yesterday afternoon, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Hitler couldn't get her but Covid did. I was privileged to be with her and I can tell you that she passed away as she lived her life, as a true lady.

**Ruth**



I didn't know Elsie, but it looks like she was a remarkable lady, who touched the lives of the people who knew her.

Ruth, Anne and Jo, you are amazing showing such compassion, especially when Elsie was at the end of her life. May God Bless Elsie.

**Kaye**

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Another amazing lady who will be missed by so many. Thank you to Ruth, Anne and Jo and everyone who has cared for Elsie over the years.

**Andrew**

### **Memories of Elsie**

There are so many fond memories of Elsie, where does one begin when recalling the joy of knowing her?

A long time ago when my children were young and I would be running around after them in church following the service, a brief, " Hello Elsie and Ella, how are you?" was the extent of my interaction with them, but fast forward a few years and it was a delight to get to know them. Apart from coffee mornings and bazaars, one event that was to establish our friendship was the first of the 'Tea in the Garden' afternoons at number 52. Elsie and I would often recall that day and we shared the memory with gales of laughter. As our friendship grew, so too did the amount of occasions that would instigate our humour; both having been born in East London, albeit twenty years apart, I could relate to the recollections that Elsie had of life in a working class area.

Every moment spent in the company of Elsie was a delight, she had an incredible memory and would recount schooldays, wartime stories and family events with an incredible amount of detail.

We would take walks in the park and sit by the lake watching the birds and admiring the many dogs that passed by. Once we sat in the park for so long that the sun went down and we heard a bell

ringing and realised the gates were closing, that was a close one as I thought I would have to get Elsie on my back and climb over, how we laughed!

There are numerous stories of our 'Adventures' as I called them and the Barbican day was one which I will never forget, it would have made a TV moment and almost did!

Elsie loved family life and shared some of our gatherings, which were always noisy, but she never seemed to mind. It was a pleasure to be in her company and we discussed various subjects; trees were a passion of hers and she could name most of them. She was a source of information and entertained and intrigued me. Elsie was not only my friend but mentor and confidante too. She enriched my life and I was privileged to know her and thank God for the opportunity to meet her all those years ago.

**Anne**



That is truly sad. May God comfort all who mourn.

**Reverend Mmasape**

**Elsie**

I first met Elsie when I was about 15 years old. She used to come and visit her sister, Ella, on Sunday and they would attend the evening service together. I remember thinking how sweet and petite they both were.

Fast forward 10 years and we were living in Cowley Road next door to Elsie's sister. We thought this was a miracle as we could not have moved next door to nicer neighbours.

We saw a lot of Elsie as she would always be going on trips out with Ella or they would be sitting in the garden together enjoying the sunshine. They were lovely years, and we are incredibly

grateful for all the love and kindness that Elsie and her sister showed us.

We also became friends with Elsie's nephew, Geoff, and his children Lauren and Ben, a wonderful family Elsie treasured and adored.

When we all went to church together Elsie and her sister would sometimes have a minor tiff about who would be sitting in the front of the car, something that made us all chuckle.

Elsie always enjoyed the church Christmas lunches and remembered sitting in the hall kitchen peeling vegetables and singing Carols along with her sister and friends.

She enjoyed the women's fellowship and the Thursday fellowship and always supported functions and events at the church. Elsie had a strong faith and her Christian values shone through in all the kindness that she showed people.

Elsie was a truly inspirational lady. She travelled the world and had many wonderful stories that she shared. I always marvelled at the fact that she would tell a story that I had not heard before. The story of the elephant in Valentine's park is a particular favourite of mine! Her attention to detail was exceptional and her resilience and zest for life were utterly amazing. Elsie's outlook was always positive.

Andy and I will miss her sense of humour, great conversations, and infectious laugh, but my family and I feel so blessed to have had Elsie as our dear friend.

**Jo and family**





## **Elsie's Favourite Hymn**

### **Great is Thy Faithfulness O Lord My Father**

Great is Thy faithfulness, " O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—  
"Great is Thy faithfulness, " Lord, unto me!*

**Thomas O Chisolm**



## For All The Teachers!

T'was the week before half term and all through the land,  
The teachers were tired of washing their hands,  
Of cleaning the desks, and the drawers and the pens, of  
reminding their class not to cuddle their friends,  
Of hand gel and soap, of bleach and of wipes,  
Of passwords and Google and all things that swipe,  
Of trying to stand at the length of a lion, from friends whose  
shoulders they wanted to cry on.

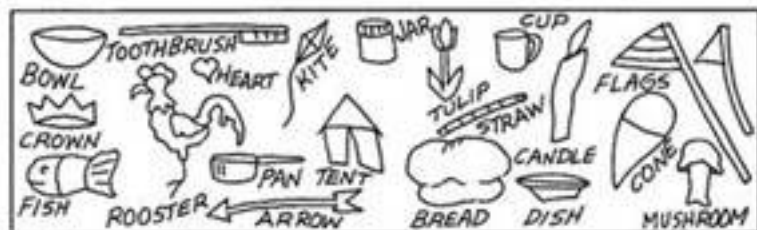
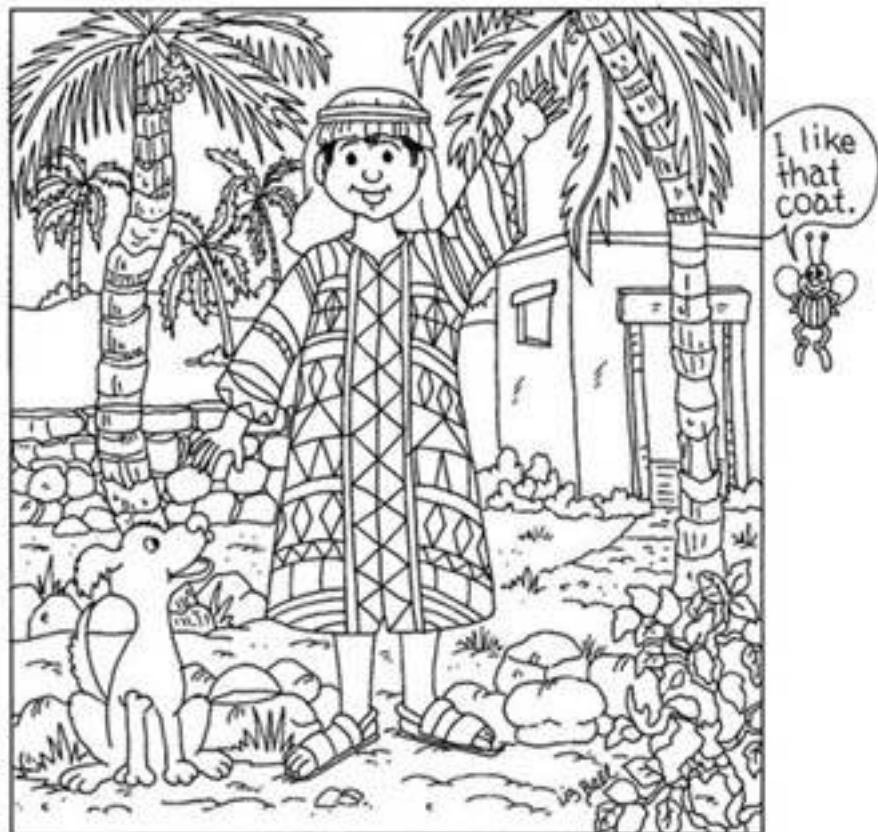
T'was the week before half term and all through the land, the  
parents were trying to make up great plans,  
That don't involve meeting, or greeting, or places,  
That in these strange times don't resemble safe spaces.  
They look to the teachers, and all they have done  
To make school inviting, inspiring and fun,  
To see past the problems, the issues, and rules,  
To bring back the joy and excitement of school

Thank you for being the safe place for the learning,  
For standing there strong with the children returning,  
For finding solutions that don't feel so strange, with no funds or  
magicians to help you arrange,  
For stories and spellings and phonics and play,  
For taking the fear of this moment away.

**By Esther Nzenza   October 2020**

Thanks, Jo, for submitting this.....we feel your pain, frustration  
and passion **LB**

**This will keep you busy!**



Find the hidden pictures above in the puzzle.

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and his special coat.  
(Read the story in Genesis 37)

## Poetry in Motion

*"Long ago when I was young, and life was virus free  
I would hop upon a train and go to Leigh -on -  
Sea"*

For those of you who read my article in last month's magazine I hope I have captured your interest with the ditty above that reveals the destination from where I started my 'serious' walk. Leigh-on-Sea holds so many wonderful memories for me.

Fortunately, I chose to walk on what was to be one of the most beautiful Autumnal days. I left home as the sun rose and within an hour I was looking across the Thames Estuary; the early morning sun shimmered across the mud flats until the tide began to flow in, a Crane waited patiently for the worms to appear, he was in for a tasty treat and was soon rewarded.

I savoured the moment and then walked on along the edge of the estuary towards Southend, a few passers-by nodded in greeting and some exchanges were made with reference to the delights of an early morning walk. I was surprised at the number of people that were out and about, but they were observing social distancing and it would appear that for some, their dogs too were very adept at doing the same. To the observer the moves involved would challenge anyone who thinks they could be a 'Strictly Come Dancing' contestant.

I continued walking, whilst managing to take in all the sights which included the Crow Stone. The current stone dates from the mid1830s and marks the City of London's original jurisdiction over the River Thames and can be seen a short distance out from the beach. As the tide was coming in, I decided not to include a viewing of the stone within my walk, as a swim was not on my agenda. Reaching Westcliffe, I was sorry to see the Rose Gardens had gone and in their place were smart apartments. Further along

the road building work had started, more flats in place of the familiar cafes of my youth.

Southend Pier was in view and I was looking forward to a cup of tea but not wanting to make life easy, I decided to climb the hundred or so steps up to the main shopping area for my break.

I soon found a tea shop, it was quaint and full of comfy chairs and little tables, I felt as though I had stumbled into the past long before Covid had changed our lives. The tea was delicious, and I was tempted to linger but I had to resume my walk. I made my way back to Leigh via the road along which was once the clifftop.

I have visited Southend so many times in my life and had never walked this way before. The houses were beautiful and there was a recreation garden which provided me with a pleasant detour. This was not the Southend I recalled from childhood. On reflection,

as a child Southend was a place for amusements, ice creams and candy floss, only grownups would appreciate grand houses.

It took me a total of three hours to complete my walk excluding my break, and back in Leigh I am pleased to say that I felt invigorated and ready to plan another 'serious walk.'

**Anne Dellow**



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## Macmillan Coffee Morning



*Due to current circumstances the annual Redbridge Social Centre event in September had to be cancelled – no cakes, samosas, flower baskets.... However, thanks to the generous donations from friends at Church, Pre-school and the Social Centre together we raised an amazing £650 for Macmillan Cancer Support. My grateful thanks.*

**Audrey Taylor**

**How many can you find?**

**Farm Animals**

U	S	E	S	O	T	A	B	A	F	S	L	H	I
O	L	I	H	H	U	E	I	E	B	E	F	L	G
A	A	D	E	E	R	E	S	R	E	I	U	A	O
S	O	O	E	N	K	S	O	S	E	T	E	E	O
N	F	G	P	M	E	E	N	E	S	L	E	A	S
R	E	L	U	S	Y	S	A	N	R	L	B	F	E
H	S	K	S	H	O	R	S	E	Y	A	I	E	O
S	I	O	C	L	A	F	G	C	E	M	R	R	R
T	O	N	A	I	A	B	K	B	K	A	D	A	E
A	F	M	O	R	H	S	C	O	I	E	S	O	T
E	B	O	K	U	H	C	U	E	F	R	R	G	S
F	I	S	H	K	T	B	D	I	C	A	I	O	O
U	E	S	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	S	A	A	O
C	C	O	W	B	U	F	F	A	L	O	O	T	R

- LAMB
- BISON
- CHICKEN
- TURKEY
- LLAMA
- BEE
- ANIMALS
- SHEEP
- COW
- HORSE
- BIRDS
- GOOSE
- FOAL
- DOG
- GOAT
- BUFFALO
- DUCK
- HEN
- FISH
- ROOSTER

***Why do fish always sing off key?***

***Because you can't tuna fish!***

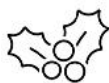
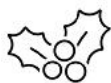
**Remember!**

**HANDs**

**FACE**

**SPACE**

## **Christmas!!**



Christmas is coming and how are we going to get our Christmas presents if we can't go out, do I hear you say? Well, I have the perfect answer to your problem. Lavender bags!!

Over the past few months while you have all been enjoying yourselves gardening, decorating, walking, watching the news and such like, Lorraine and I have been busy making lavender hearts/bags as a solution to your Christmas present problems. All the lavender is locally sourced and prepared. We have bags ranging from small ones at £1 to large ones at £12 and we can make arrangements to deliver them to you. In addition, all proceeds will go to a good cause, namely Raysin Hope. (Local Brain Tumour Trust Charity led by Anne Dellow in memory of her husband Ray)

So, if you're interested in knowing more or would like to have a look at what is on offer, please contact either Lorraine or me for more information.

**Ruth & Lorraine**



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

In the midst of a global pandemic, the lives of children and families have been turned upside down. Boys and girls around the world desperately need to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them. We're seeing new opportunities arise during this crisis, and we want to bring gifts of hope to as many children as possible all over the world.

In more normal times we support this appeal mainly by filling shoeboxes. However, this year the disruption to our church life prevents this.

**BUT WE CAN STILL HELP- Please read the email sent to Brian outlining valuable alternative ways we can support this worthy cause:**

*Thank you so much for keeping us updated and for continuing to support Operation Christmas Child despite the issues you are facing.*

*There are many ways your congregation could still send shoeboxes. We do have 'Shoebox online' on our website whereby people can pack a shoebox online, even if they wish, choosing what gifts they want to include and uploading a message and a photo for the receiving child.*

*Or they can phone us at our office and we will take payment over the phone for a shoebox online and order this for you (in this instance we would not be able to specify age and sex of the child, but we would pack for 'where most wanted'). The cost of a shoebox online is £20, which includes a £5 donation towards packing and shipping as well as the box and the contents.*

Our number is **0208 559 1180**.

*They are welcome to post a cheque too with details of who it's from and that it's for Operation Christmas child, or specifically to pack a shoebox online.*

*Receiving many donations directly to our bank account is the final option, but this is the most 'admin heavy' way of managing many smaller donations from us, and we would prefer any of the above methods if possible, but if your congregation still need to use this method, our bank details are below. They would need to let us know their details by e-mail and how much the donation was for and that it's for Operation Christmas child to [DonorServices@samaritans-purse.org.uk](mailto:DonorServices@samaritans-purse.org.uk) in order for us to know who it was from and which fund to put it to.*

**Sort Code: 20 05 75**

**Account number: 10802255**

*Many Blessings, Sarah*

## **REDBRIDGE FOODBANK**

This year we have seen demand for our services rise to levels we never before anticipated and we have already distributed over 7000 single food parcels to people in crisis – having more than doubled our total of parcels distributed over the same period the year before.

With Christmas fast approaching we are unfortunately not seeing any signs of a drop in demand for food parcels. So, what is the best way to help us make sure that no one has to go without food this Christmas? Keep donating.

Although for the time being you are not able to leave your Foodbank donations at Church. Please continue to collect items and either deliver them yourselves to Redbridge Foodbank

Jubilee Church Granville Road Ilford or call Lorraine or Peter Bendon and they will collect and deliver for you.

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
- Baby food jars
- Size 5 and 6 nappies
- Noodles
- Long life fruit juice
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tuna
- Tooth brushes and toothpaste
- Bags for Life
- Christmas Crackers

**WE REMEMBER THEM**



## Why Poppies are worn

The poppy is the enduring symbol of remembrance of the First World War. It is strongly linked with Armistice Day on 11th November, but the poppy's origin as a popular symbol of remembrance lies in the landscapes of the First World War.

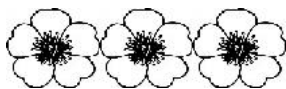
Poppies were a common sight, especially on the Western Front. They flourished in the soil churned up by the fighting and shelling. The flower provided Canadian doctor **John McCrae** with inspiration for his poem 'In Flanders Fields', which he wrote whilst serving in Ypres in 1915.

In 1918, in response to McCrae's poem, American humanitarian **Moina Michael** wrote 'And now the Torch and Poppy Red, we wear in honour of our dead...'. She campaigned to make the poppy a symbol of remembrance of those who had died in the war.

Artificial poppies were first sold in Britain in 1921 to raise money for the Earl Haig Fund in support of ex-servicemen and the families of those who had died in the conflict. They were supplied by Anna Guérin, who had been manufacturing the flowers in France to raise money for war orphans. Selling poppies proved so popular that in 1922 the British Legion founded a factory - staffed by disabled ex-service people - to produce its own. It continues to do so today.

Other charities sell poppies in different colours, each with their own meaning but all to commemorate the losses of war. White poppies, for example, symbolise peace without violence and purple poppies are worn to honour animals killed in conflict.

The poppy continues to be sold worldwide to raise money and to remember those who lost their lives in the First World War and in subsequent conflicts.



## What the Royal British Legion are remembering this year

In 2020 we pay tribute to the men and women of the Second World War generation, and to those of today's, who have served and sacrificed to defend our nation. We remember the collaboration of the Commonwealth and Allied nations who stood shoulder to shoulder then to secure our freedom and the communities coming together today to protect us all.



## We Shall Keep the Faith

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,  
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!  
We caught the torch you threw  
And holding high, we keep the Faith  
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where valour led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never dies,  
But lends a lustre to the red  
Of the flower that blooms above the dead  
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red  
We wear in honour of our dead.  
Fear not that ye have died for naught;  
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought  
In Flanders Fields.

***Moina Michael***

**We hold in mind and pray for those who provide spiritual support to others.**

## **Prayer for Chaplains and Chaplaincy**

Compassionate God, in Jesus you walked among us  
Reaching out and meeting people where they were

We thank you for all those who are among people as chaplains

In education, healthcare, retail, airports and especially in Prisons  
Week, we think about prison chaplains

We pray for your Spirit's guidance and comfort as we support  
people in making sense of an ever-changing landscape

We pray that you will bless chaplains with creativity, to make  
meaningful connections and to build community, even when this  
can't be physical

We pray too that chaplains will afford themselves the space and  
care that they need to ensure their own wellbeing as they support  
others.

We offer our prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen

By Revd Ian Worsfold  
District Chaplain

***Last date for items for the December newsletter:  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November***