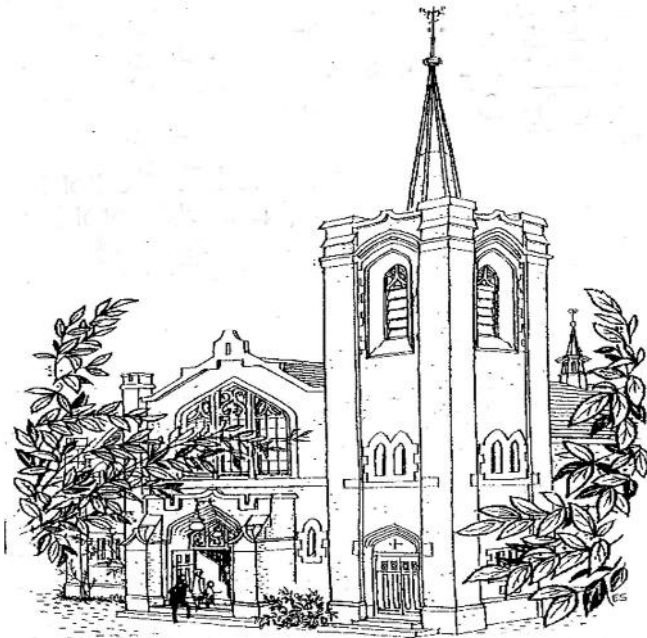


**The Drive Methodist Church**  
**Eastern Avenue**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**JULY 2021**



**Minister: Revd. Mmasape Zihle**

Website: [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.

## Mmasape's Message for July

A Methodist Way of Life is a way of living. It is how we try to live our lives in response to God's love, made known to us in Jesus.

"Like the early Christians (Acts 2.42-47), we seek to express what it means to follow Jesus in the regular, practical actions of worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. In this sense, A Methodist Way of Life is both new and old. It is new, in that Methodists first discussed such a way at the 2018 Conference, although it is based on Our Calling, agreed in 2000. That, in turn, was built on what Methodists have always done, since the days of John Wesley, in trying to follow Jesus and live out the Christian faith – just as those first followers in Acts did."

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.

As far as we are able, with God's help:

### Worship

- ) We will pray daily.
- ) We will worship with others regularly.
- ) We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

### Learning and Caring

- ) We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- ) We will learn more about our faith.
- ) We will practise hospitality and generosity.

## Service

- ) We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- ) We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- ) We will challenge injustice.

## Evangelism

- ) We will speak of the love of God.
- ) We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- ) We will share our faith with others.

May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church,

for the transformation of the world.

For more resources and information on the Methodist way of life can be found <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life>

With love as we seek to be obedient disciples of Christ.

Mmasape

## Sunday Worship at The Drive

When you read this, there will have been four Sunday services held at church; and what a joy it is to see one another and share a service together. I would estimate there being about thirty people attending each week but I'm sure someone will have the actual attendance.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June our wonderful TDY group gave us a glimpse of their experiences, and how they coped with the restrictions of lockdown.

Just as a reminder if you haven't already attended:

- You will be required to wear a face mask and sanitise your hands on arrival and when leaving.
- It will also be necessary to keep a safe distance from one another.
- At present the congregation will not sing but we will enjoy hearing the choir sing.
- At this stage, the usual refreshments at the end of the service will not be served but it is hoped that this will be reintroduced very soon.



## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We offer our thoughts and prayers for ...

Michelle, Thea and their family, as they mourn the loss of Elise their dear mother and grandmother. Elise, who had been ill for some time died in hospital on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Kathleen and Brian – as Kathleen continues her treatment in between resting at home under Brian's careful watch.

Sandra Runeckles – who is taking it easy at home while she continues with treatment.

Sheela and Selwyn's family in India – where Vincent, (Selwyn's brother) and his wife Rachel remain on ventilators in hospital. The children, Rebecca, Abigail and Karen have thankfully returned home.

Anne Dellow – who is now recovering after a spell of ill health.

Susan Ruckes - who, following two successful cataract operations thankfully has a clearer view of the world.

Janet's daughter Heather who has recently spent time at Barts.

20<sup>th</sup> June was The Annual Church Meeting.

We offered our thanks to those who were leaving their service and welcomed those taking up their stewardship.

Joel Inbakumar

We offer our sincere thanks to Joel Inbakumar who after 10 years of committed service to the church has stood down from his role as church steward.

Thank you Joel.



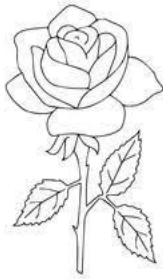
Brian Grinham

Brian, our Senior Steward has hung up his stewards hat after 10 years!

Welcome to Michelle Garner  
and Diane Foster, your new  
joint Senior Stewards.



A thank you from Brian.



I would just like to say a big thank you for the lovely rose I was given at the Annual Church Meeting on 20th June when I stepped down from my time as Senior Steward. It was a lovely surprise, and it has now left me with a decision to make. Where in my garden do I plant it? I will decide shortly and, when it comes into bloom, I will post a picture on the WhatsApp group. Many thanks once again.

Your rose is called Fragrant Cloud Brian. LB

### Tributes to Brian's Service

Brian has been an absolute stalwart and our church owe him a debt of gratitude. He has been a Senior Steward at least three times as well as serving as a steward. In all it must total at least twenty years. It is not easy being Senior Steward as I found out when I took the job on. Brian kindly took over the role as Senior Steward from Roy when Roy was too ill to continue, for which we were both so grateful. Brian is kind, helpful and diligent and always helped in any way he can.

We are lucky to have him as a member of our church.

Janet Brunnen

Brian has retired from being Senior Steward and his place has been taken by two people: Michelle Garner and Diane Foster; that says it all really. In his quiet way, Brian has been 'running' the church since taking over from Roy Brunnen. Brian has served as a Steward and Senior Steward since the last century (and millenium) and has juggled this with various other posts. As he says in his article 'I Remember When', \* he has probably been connected to The Drive, previously Eastern Avenue Methodist Church for almost all his life.

Unlike people like me, who still live technologically in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Brian is up to date with modern communication. He knows what is going on in the far flung corners of the Circuit as well as news of The Drive church members. Enjoy your 'retirement' Brian! people are still going to be looking to you for advice, and I am sure you will still be up to date with information.

\* 'Memories of some of our members' - Roy Brunnen – Senior Steward 2014.

The Drive Methodist Church, 'In the Beginning'.  
Susan Ruckes

' THE BG STANDS DOWN!'

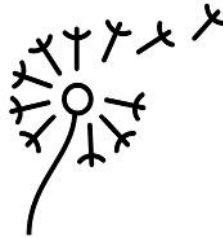
I'm sure you will all join me in saying a very big Thank You to Brian Grinham for all his years of hard work as Senior Church Steward. The pandemic even extended his term of office by another year. Its easy to forget how many things go on behind the scenes to ensure that everything at the Church goes smoothly and with Brian in charge it did run very smoothly. He will be a hard act to follow. However, he will be walking a little taller now the burden has been taken from his back. He was like one of those Middle Eastern donkeys whose legs buckle under the strain!



So take it easy Brian.....but not too easy. I'm sure we can find more things for you to do!

Thanks again

Hilary Stevens



Cranbrook Community Garden



When I moved into my present home in 1980, there was a flower bed containing beautiful roses almost outside. a few years later, the roses were removed for some reason. No replacement was ever successful and the place became an eyesore. A few months ago, some local residents cleared the flower bed and lovely spring flowers appeared. gradually, these were replaced by summer plants. the recent rain has helped to produce a beautiful colourful display. Thank you, Barbara and your team for creating a joy to behold.

Susan Ruckes

Run the Royal Parks Half Marathon for the West London Mission

Calling all beginners and seasoned runners - West London Mission Needs You! If you would be interested in raising money for West London Mission by completing the Royal Parks Half Marathon on Sunday 10 October, please contact

[zoe.gardner@wlm.org.uk](mailto:zoe.gardner@wlm.org.uk) to reserve your space.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to:

Michelle, who has a birthday on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Sandra Runeckles , who has a milestone birthday on 22nd July.

Lorna and Iris, who have recently moved into their new home.



Colin Rodway who has now moved to Leicester and is settling into his new home, thanks you all for your wishes and care with his move.

Congratulations to Revd Sonia Hicks on her confirmation as next President of the Methodist Conference, to Revd Michaela Youngson on the confirmation of her new role as Assistant Secretary to the Methodist Conference and to Barbara Easton on her new role as Vice President of the Methodist Conference. We pray that their work may be joyous and fruitful.



## CANON JOHN BARWICK BARNES

A Cedar of Lebanon has been planted in South Park in memory of Father Barnes, as we know him. twenty eight of us attended Celtic Evening prayer on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June for the blessing and dedication of the tree. The service was led by Father Gareth of St Mary's, Ilford's Mother Church.

The first tree and plaque were vandalised but this tree has been planted a short distance away in the vicarage garden, where Father Gareth can keep an eye on it. Why South Park? after his retirement, Father Barnes lived in a flat at the end of Henley Road, a few minutes walk from the park.

The tree planting was the idea of local landscape architect and garden historian, Stephen Smith, who was present at the dedication, in spite of his impossibly busy international schedule.

The man-with-the-spade was Simon Litt, who is based at Valentines Park but is in charge of all the parks in Redbridge.

Doreen Weller has written a booklet of Father Barnes life.

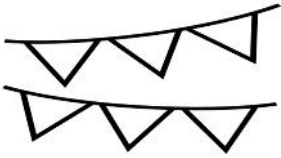
I am grateful to all these talented people for contributing to such a worthwhile event. we are very fortunate to have such talent connected to our borough.

Susan Ruckes

How interesting, thanks Susan.LB

Hosea 14.6 I will be like the dew to Israel; they will blossom like a lily; they will strike root like the cedars of Lebanon.

What's happening?



## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Our usual BBQ at The Roding's will not take place on 4<sup>th</sup> July. It is postponed until further restrictions are lifted and a safer event can be provided for all to enjoy and celebrate.

Watch this space!

## Youth and children's worker Virtual gathering 6<sup>th</sup> July

Those involved in youth and children's work are invited to attend the next virtual gathering which will be held on Zoom. These meetings present an opportunity for the sharing of ideas, resources and discussion; as well as praying for each other and the work we do. The session will be led by Brian Smith. If you would like to attend, please contact [Brian](mailto:brian@methodistlondon.org.uk) [brian@methodistlondon.org.uk](mailto:brian@methodistlondon.org.uk) for the Zoom details.

## ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY - JULY 11th

Dear friends,

By the time you're reading this I hope that we're all safely out of lockdown and returning to a sense of normality. It's been a challenging year for everyone, but I'm sure that happier, more hopeful times lie ahead. Sadly, this isn't the case for many of the vulnerable children and families Action for Children supports. Even before coronavirus hit more than 4.2 million children were living in poverty. The pandemic has only made things worse, amplifying the many inequalities and injustices

these children and their families face every day. Our staff have worked tirelessly to support around 20,000 children through our Coronavirus Emergency Fund. Their work has only been possible thanks to the generosity of supporters like you and your churches. We're immensely grateful for your continued commitment in such difficult times. However, there's much to do to help families in the aftermath of this crisis. I hope the theme of this year's Action for Children Sunday service, 'Peace within, peace around', gives you the chance to reflect on how we can create peace around us – in our communities – and within us, as we attempt to return to life as it was before. Thank you so much for your support – it really does mean the world to us. I pray you have a lovely time of worship and may mercy, peace and love be multiplied to you in the name of Jesus Christ. Blessings,

Karis Kolawole Faith Partnerships Lead  
[karis.kolawole@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:karis.kolawole@actionforchildren.org.uk)

#### 'Woven' on BBC Radio 4

There are just 10 days left to listen to the episode of Sunday Worship which featured the district project 'Woven'. The service was led by Revd Michaela and includes a number of voices from across the district.

You can listen in on the BBC website.

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Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Course | 01, 03, 07, 09 September (four-day course)



The Well and MHFA England have come together to offer a heavily subsidised four-day youth mental health first aid training course to all those working for the Methodist Church. The course will be held

online at a cost of £30 (which includes the cost of materials).  
For more information, please visit [Eventbrite](#).

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Changes to Memorial Service at Grange Hill.

Due to the extended period before the easing of COVID-19 restrictions until July 19, the Memorial Service to be held at Grange Hill Methodist Church has been moved from Sunday 27th June to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 3pm.

Please could you pass the message on!

Jackie Saito, Circuit Administrator

News of meetings from Jan and John



### Bible Reading Group

We shall finish reading 1 John and discuss on July 30<sup>th</sup> in the Gardener's Café Valentines Park over a cup of coffee.

### Prayer Meeting

We are stepping down from organising the Church Prayer meeting as we now have morning and evening prayers on the WhatsApp group. We will no longer produce a prayer sheet.

Jan and John

Thank you, Jan and John for your commitment to the Church Prayer meetings. LB

*May mercy, peace, and  
love be multiplied to you.*

## *Jude 1:2*

### COVID-19 vaccinations and Redbridge Vaccination Bus Schedule

Until now, the NHS has asked people to wait until they are contacted to help ensure those most vulnerable are protected first but it has been announced that people aged 18 and over, who have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19, can now contact the NHS to arrange a jab.

Residents aged 18 and over can now book the COVID-19 vaccination appointment without needing an invitation letter [here](#), or by calling the number below or calling 119, free of charge. Residents can also visit one of our pop-ups or walk-in clinics below.

Call 0800 038 59 29

The Redbridge Vaccination Bus is available for residents to have their vaccinations. Residents can book their vaccination appointment on the bus by calling the free phone line on 0800 038 59 29 between 8am – 8pm, seven days a week.

### WALK IN VACCINATION CLINICS AT ILFORD TOWN HALL

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 are slowly increasing in London and across the country. So that we can safely move into STEP 4 of the government roadmap out of lockdown on 19 July, and

to keep you, your family and your neighbours safe from COVID-19, it is important to get vaccinated. Studies have shown that vaccination provides a strong boost in protection, including for those who have recovered from COVID-19.

To make it easier and quicker for residents to get their jabs, a partnership between Redbridge Council and the NHS will see more Pfizer vaccination clinics every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Ilford Town Hall from Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July. Appointments are 4pm to 7pm with a walk-in clinic from 7.30 to 8.30pm.

To book an appointment, call the free phone line 0800 038 5929 between 8am – 8pm, seven days a week.

Everyone aged 18 years or older can get their first or second Pfizer vaccine at these clinics. Please remember to invite any family members aged 18 or over, who have still not been vaccinated to come along.

No proof of address, immigration status or NHS number is required for the walk-ins – just confirmation of your age.



## SCOUTS and GUIDES

) are you a veteran scout or guide?

) were you once a uniformed leader?

) we need you to share your memories in a drive to encourage others to become leaders.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lorraine

### Rochelle's Lockdown Experience

When the lockdown was imposed in March 2020, it seemed that our lives were put on hold. For me, this was mainly my school situation - we had to stay home and complete our work. Unlike other schools, mine didn't shift to video calls straight away and we were simply ordered to complete the work emailed to our inboxes. I think it's true that you only realise the worth of something after it's gone; I was suddenly missing the place I struggled to wake up in the morning to go to, just because my desk at home looked more evil every time I looked at it!

However, I do feel we were blessed in the way technology was there for us. Using the phones and laptops we had at our fingertips, my group of friends video called every morning and

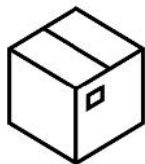
we put each other in the background on mute to at least have each other's faces as motivation.

When the teachers finally worked out a way to implement this for lessons and teach interactively, it made me realise how much we had at our disposal that we had never noticed before and took for granted. It proved to me that despite the terrible hardships our world was facing, God was looking out for every one of us in His own unique way. Like many others, August was the first big outing when the lockdown was eased. TDY was lucky to meet socially distanced in Valentines Park. We'd learned new words like "social distancing" and "test and trace" which all seemed foreign a few months ago but we were learning to implement in our lives to look out for the well-being of others.

In September, we went back to school wearing masks and I was really happy to see that whilst this new normal wasn't what we would prefer, we were doing our bit to look out for each other. Over this pandemic, I have noticed a sense of community that has further expanded across all the areas of my life: my local area, my school and even church. I believe our shared experiences have brought us closer together than ever before.

One way or another, I finally finished sixth form a few weeks ago and after reflecting on the tumultuous journey, if there is one thing I can conclude, it is that I wouldn't have been able to get through it without God.

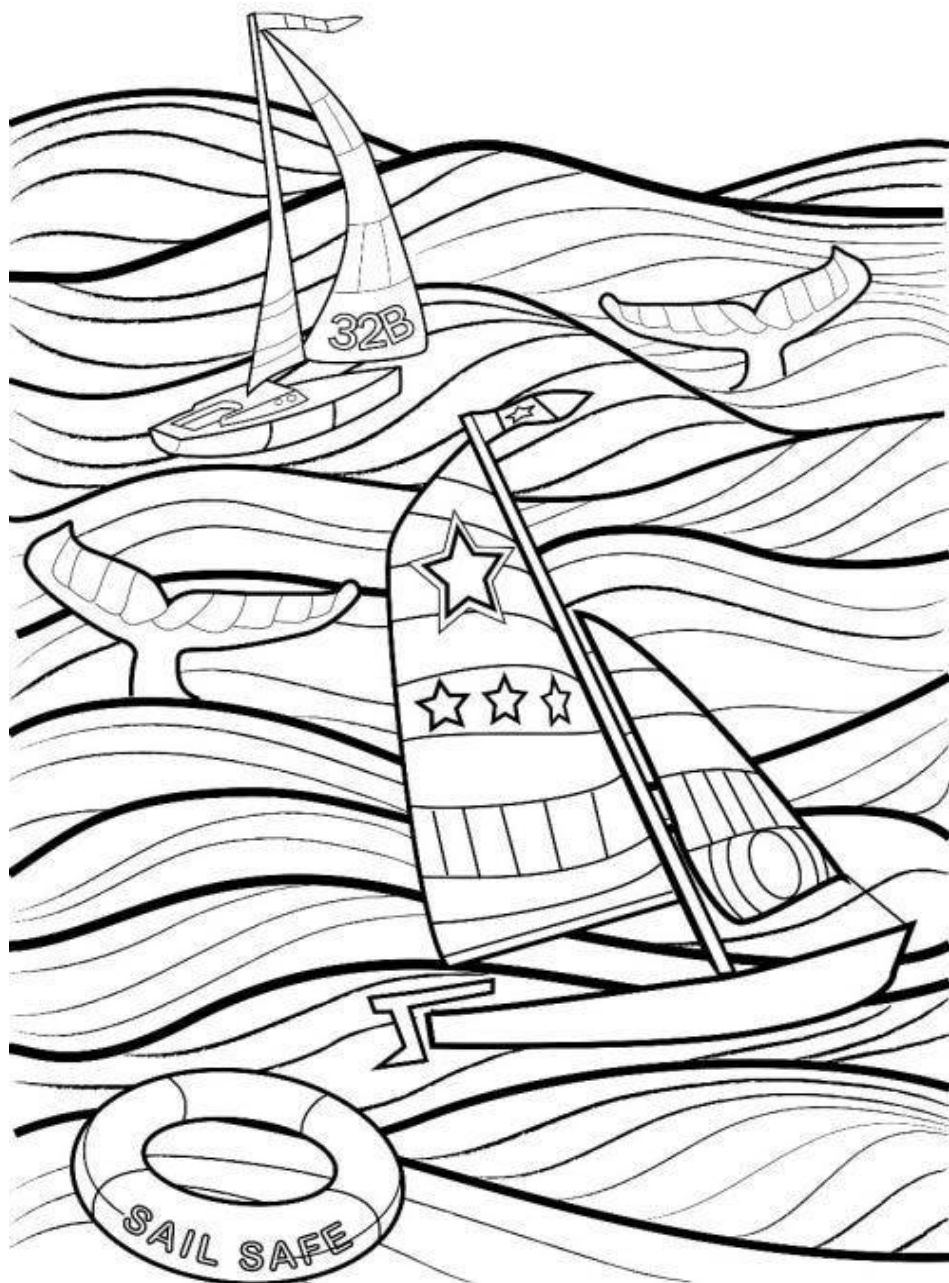
Rochelle



SAMARITANS PURSE

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL.

A reminder to all who wish to support this special charity that shoeboxes will be required earlier this year. We have shoe boxes available at church. please ask Brian Grinham, Jo Wright or Lorraine Bendon.





Let's Sing!

Peace is flowing like a river,  
Flowing out through you and me,  
Spreading out into the desert,  
Setting all the captives free.

Chorus:

Let it flow through me,  
Let it flow through me,  
Let the mighty peace of God  
Flow out through me.  
Let it flow through me,  
Let it flow through me,  
Let the mighty peace of God  
Flow out through me.

Love is flowing like a river ...

Joy is flowing like a river ...

Faith is flowing like a river,

Hope is flowing like a river ...

His healing's flowing like a river ...

Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia.

anonymous (Godsongs)

## A special view of India and its people from Sheela Selwyn

Hello everyone,

I thought I would scrawl down a few of my thoughts on my scribbling pad. Living in a distant land away from family and friends has been very difficult during the pandemic. Most of us move to another destination for betterment and helping our people for upliftment.

In recent times TV blasts about the India tragedy, Corona killing Indians, mismanagement and hoarding of resources. My heart aches, it is very hard to convey the full depth and range of the trauma, the chaos and the indignity the people are being subjected to. To break from it, I decided to tell something nice about my country where I was born and lived my youthful years.

India is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest country by area and 2<sup>nd</sup> most populated country with 1.39 billion and the largest democracy in the world. It is a beautiful peninsular country surrounded by water on 3 sides and land on 1 side. India has the largest coastline, Marina Beach in Madras (my hometown) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest beach in the world. It has huge land diversity with mountains, plateau, plains, delta, desert, rivers and seas. It is a mixture of culture, regions, traditions, diversity in food and languages, as India has 31 states with its own languages. 'Unity in Diversity' is our living motto. India's culture is among the world's oldest civilization which began 5000 years ago.

India being a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious society celebrates holidays and festivals of various religions. They are born to survive anywhere in the world, borders are not their boundaries as they learn to break the barriers and explore without hindrance.

Pandemic has taught us a lot of lessons, people move to different parts of the world to survive, progress - not gain hatred. Let us all break the racism, let people live in love and

peace let's all strive and have the courage and commitment to make this world a better place to live.

I'm proud to be an inhabitant of India. I miss my family and friends a lot back home and the festival splendour in India.

Much love, Sheela



## Be Seated



ARMCHAIR  
 BEANBAG  
 BENCH  
 BLEACHER  
 BOOSTER  
 BOOTH  
 CART  
 CHAIR  
 CHAISE  
 COUCH

CUSHION  
 DIVAN  
 FUTON  
 HASOCK  
 LAP  
 LOVESEAT  
 OTTOMAN  
 PAPASAN  
 PEW  
 RECLINER

ROCKER  
 SADDLE  
 SETTEE  
 SKI LIFT  
 SOFA  
 STOOL  
 STOOP  
 THRONE  
 WINGBACK  
 ZABUTON



## **SUPPORT REDBRIDGE FOOD BANK**

### **Helping Local People in Crisis**

**Jubilee Church 14 Granville Road Ilford IG1 4JY**

Website: [www.redbridge.foodbank.org.uk/](http://www.redbridge.foodbank.org.uk/)

Phone: 020 8518 0056

### **Opening times for donations are:**

Tue: 11.30am – 1pm    Sat: 10am- 12.30pm

### **Opening times for collection are:**

Tue: 12pm – 1pm, Wed 2pm – 4pm, Sat 10am- 1pm

Our shopping list is:

**Tinned Meat/Fish    Custard/Rice Pudding**

**Tinned Fruit    Pasta Sauce    Jam/Spreads**

**Long Life Milk and Juice    Tinned Spaghetti**

**Sanitary items    Toilet Paper    Toiletries**

**Size 6+ Nappies**

**Donations of Money are also very welcome.**

**PLEASE USE THE DONATION BOX AT CHURCH IF YOU  
CANNOT GET TO THE FOODBANK**

## Helplines and Support

- ) Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provides free debt help and local community groups across the UK. Our free services, run with local churches, provide practical and emotional support and show people that there is always hope.

Ilford CAP Debt Centre is run in partnership with City Gates Church. Call 0800 328 0006 to speak to a debt coach.

- ) Concerned about a rough sleeper? Tell someone.  
If you want to tell us about someone sleeping rough, you can contact Street Link on 0300 500 0914 who will take note of all the information that you provide and arrange for the rough sleeper to get access to local services and support.

- ) Victim Support 08 08 16 89 111 is here to help anyone affected by crime. We are here just to support you. Freephone [www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/essex](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/essex)

- ) Mind for Mental Health Support  
Infoline: 03001233393 Email: [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)

- ) Samaritans now has the free telephone number. You can talk to Samaritans on the phone whatever you are going through. Calls are free from anywhere in the UK on telephone number 116123 day and night. If you prefer to email you will receive a response within 24 hours by contacting us on [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

) Childline

You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small. Call 0800 1111 or via 1-2-1 chat between 7.30am and 3.30am every day.

) Call the National Domestic Abuse helpline on 0808 2000 247

) Download the Bright sky App. Bright Sky is a mobile app and website for anyone experiencing domestic abuse, or who is worried about someone else.

) Call Age UK Redbridge, Barking and Havering 020 8220 6000

**We offer you free, independent and confidential advice through our information service. If you need to know about social care, welfare benefits, leisure or health, we are here to help.**

CITIZENS ADVICE

Address: Central Library, Clements Rd, Ilford IG1 1E  
Phone: 020 8514 1878

Victim Support - Support line 08 08 16 89 111

## FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

As we are now able to return to church, the bulk of the monthly newsletters will be available for collection in church.

I will continue to deliver or post to those unable to attend.

Please contact me with any dates, prayers, memories or interesting articles you may have.

There will be an August Newsletter and the deadline for contributions is 20<sup>th</sup> August as my grandson is getting married on 27<sup>th</sup> and I am making the wedding cake!

Thank you

## A Prayer for Action for Children Sunday

God of justice,

Help us to offer love and hospitality to the stranger.

Work in us to transform this world, where justice and peace will ever flow in all the nooks and corners of the world.

Grant us courage: courage and strength to make a difference in this world.

Take us and use us to love and serve you and all people, in the power of your spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

May mercy, peace and love be multiplied to us in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen. (Jude 1:2).

Prayer by Elizabeth Bishop, Action for Children District Advocate for Yorkshire West District