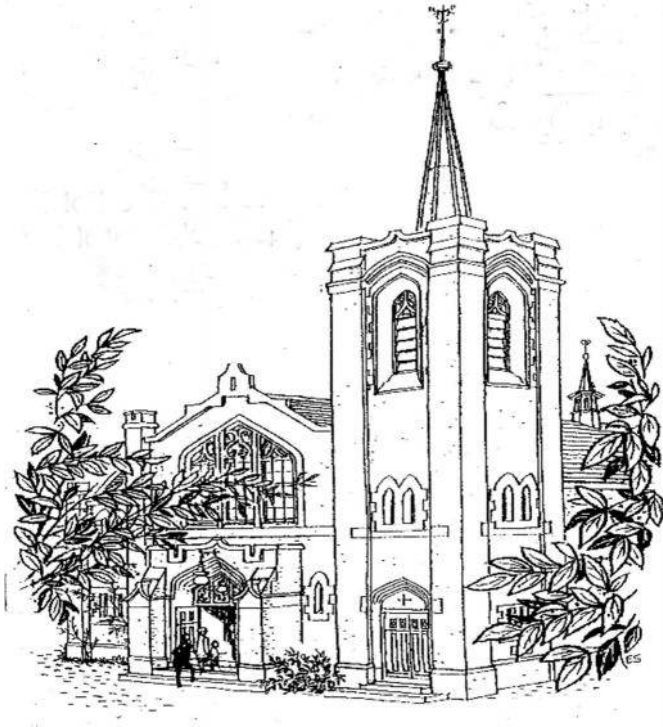


The Drive Methodist Church

Newsletter
October 2021



Minister: Revd. Mmasape Zihle

Website: 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 a world in crisis

"There comes a time

When we heed a certain call

When the world must come together as one. There are people dying

Oh, and it's time to lend a hand to life, the greatest gift of all ...

We are the world, we are the children.

We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving.

There's a choice we're making, we're saving our own lives, it's true

we'll make a better day, just you and me"

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this second edition of our newsletter in this new connexional year. We give thanks for the opportunity to be back in our buildings for worship, albeit, with a measure of caution due to the ongoing COVID impact.

We were once again able to celebrate harvest, to bring produce and money to help those hit by hard times (long standing residence and newcomers who seek refuge from crises in other parts of the world) through the food banks and The Whitechapel Mission; thank you for all your generous gifts.

We were also able to have a harvest meal together. That may seem like such a small thing but the being in fellowship was great.

The extract above is from the 1985 benefit single for victims of famine in Africa. It raised over \$60 Million, which was distributed to Ethiopia, Sudan, and other impoverished countries.

As we journey along this season of harvest, I have no doubt many of us would be aware of and indeed challenged by the significant impact of the Climate Crisis. We may also be aware that, as we continue to celebrate harvest, there are others who experience and lament over non-harvest.

This is particularly true of our siblings in the global south who are living on the frontline of the climate crisis, experiencing life-threatening weather events and living with irreversible obliteration to their geographical and social infrastructure. The Climate Justice For All Campaign, which brings together young Methodists from around the world, has highlighted these stories from Fiji, Zambia, Uruguay and Italy. With that in mind, we may want to reflect on the following questions:

) What does harvest look like for those with nothing to harvest?

) What do they celebrate?

The situation has been compounded by the impact of Covid-19, which has led to difficulties on communities and farmers who need to travel in order to sell their produce. Community development projects have unhelpfully had to work around interruptions and delays. I wonder whether we could, also reflect on the following questions:

) What do you love about our community?

) Where are the important places to us?

) What are the challenges our communities are facing especially as a result of COVID-19?

It is encouraging that The Methodist Church, acknowledges the climate emergency, and we are taking steps to transition towards net-zero carbon emissions.

Against this backdrop, The Methodist Conference which sat from the 24th June to the 1st July 2021, agreed to write a letter to the organisers of COP26 ahead of the meeting in November, giving them assurance of our continued prayers and encouragement in their leadership of this important conference.

The Methodist Church also recognises that we have considerably been stirred by the leadership of children and young people to take steps regarding transitioning towards net -zero carbon emissions. Their prophetic voices continue to stimulate us to be bold in our decisions, and to reflect on the legacy we leave to future generations by the way we steward our resources.

Notably, the Methodist youth assembly, 3Generate, and the youth-led campaign Climate Justice For All, have been instrumental voices in this. We continue to pray that the leaders of COP26 will take the opportunity and engage with our children and young people.

The Methodist Church challenges the UK, to recognise the crucial role we are called to play in leading the global movement towards a net-zero economy, and a climate in which both people and planet can thrive.

Therefore friends, as we draw near to COP26, may we be bold in taking the required steps towards changes that will enable all of creation to flourish.

Mmasape



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We offer our prayers and thoughts for:

Janet's little great grandson Freddie who has been admitted to hospital with breathing difficulties. We pray he will soon recover and return home.

Brian Taylor who has had a cataract operation.

Janet and Geoff Wragg whose fragile health prevents them from coming to church.

Sandra Runeckles who remains poorly and has begun another course of chemotherapy.

Mmasape's mother Rebecca who is very poorly and has been taken to hospital and also **Mmasape's daughter Pearl** who is receiving hospital treatment.

Doreen Barclay whose health has deteriorated.

We pray for all in our church family who are coping with their own ill health or have worries about the health and well being of their family and friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU'

Belated Birthday wishes to Liz for 12th September and to Anne for 28th September. We hope you both had an enjoyable day.

Best wishes to Janet Brunnen who will be celebrating on 1st October.

Sheela will be cutting her cake on 3rd October.
Happy Birthday.



WELCOME BACK

It has been very good to see Frank back in church and having chats with his friends.

Also pleased to see Peter Sharp looking very cheerful at the Harvest Service.

Lovely to see Doreen Barclay in her usual seat in church over the past couple of weeks.

Thea

Thea will be taking part in the Shine Night Walk in South-ampton on October 16th in aid of Cancer Research UK. If you would like to donate you can do so online

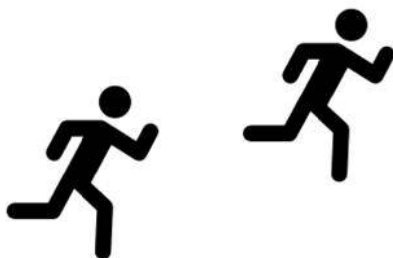
<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/theas-giving-page-21>.

Rochelle

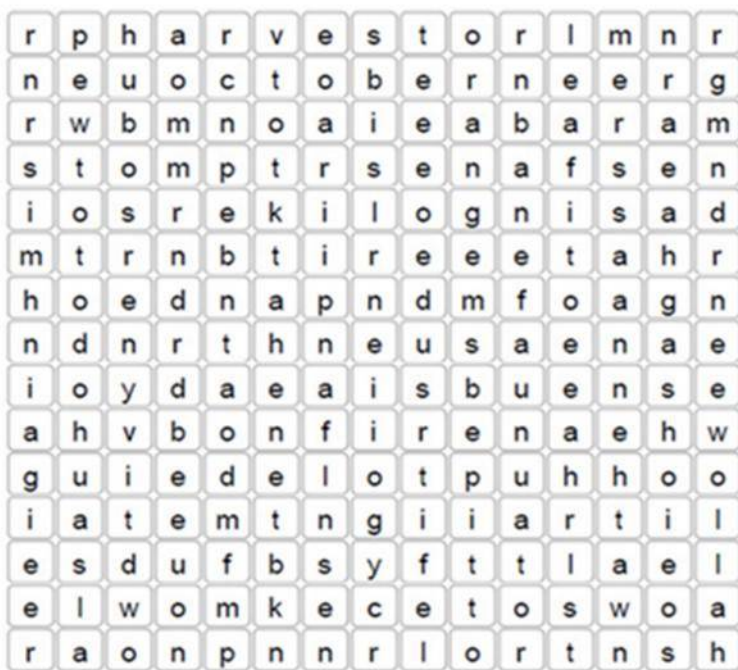
Well done to Rochelle who completed a 5K Race for Life on 25th August. Her donation page is still open if you would like to contribute to her cause.

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/rochelle-race-for-life>

I'm sure both these energetic young women will be pleased to accept cash donations if you are not able to access the online giving page.



All about Autumn



halloween

harvest

september

october

november

bonfire

autumn

green

orange

red

brown

pumpkin

leaf

owl

Brian's Musings.....

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there."

Lewis Carroll

This is a summary of the exchange between Alice and the Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland.

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where—" said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat. "—so long as I get SOMEWHERE," Alice added as an explanation.

"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough."

Where are YOU going? Answering the question is important. If the answer to the question is anywhere, you're probably already there.

+++++

'I have not failed; I've just found 10.000 ways that won't work'.

Thomas A Edison.

Colins Gold Medal Prayer

After providing us with over 150 prayers during his time on our prayer team. This is the one that Colin said achieves a Gold Medal.

I asked for wisdom ...

And God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for prosperity ...

And God gave me brains and the strength to work.

I asked for courage ...

And God gave me danger to overcome.

I asked for love

And God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for favours ...

And God gave me opportunities.

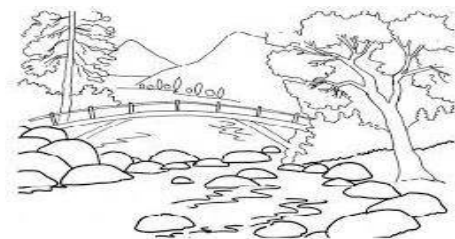
I received nothing I wanted.

I received everything I needed.

My prayer has been answered.

Amen

Thank you, Colin, for the warmth, humour, and compassion you shared in your service to the Drive Prayer Group. We hope others will also now benefit from your gift. LB



**Nature is talking
to you.**

Are you listening?

"Drink water from the spring where horses drink. The horse will never drink bad water.

Lay your bed where the cat sleeps.

Eat the fruit that has been touched by a worm.

Boldly pick the mushroom on which the insects sit.

Plant the tree where the mole digs.

Build your house where the snake sits to warm itself.

Dig your fountain where the birds hide from heat.

Go to sleep and wake up at the same time with the birds – you will reap all of the days golden grains.

Eat more green – you will have strong legs and a resistant heart, like the beings of the forest.

Swim often and you will feel on earth like the fish in the water.

Look at the sky as often as possible and your thoughts will become light and clear.

Be quiet a lot, speak little – and silence will come in your heart, and your spirit will be calm and full of peace."

Bible Reading Group



The Bible Reading Group will meet on Friday 22nd October 11:00 in the Gardeners Cafe at Valentines Park.

We will discuss Genesis chapters 37, 39-41 over a cup of coffee and all are welcome.

Jan and John

Thank you to Jan and John for facilitating this group and to all who provide us with our daily prayers on The Drive Together WhatsApp Group.



My First Helicopter experience

For Christmas 2019, my family purchased a gift of a Helicopter trip over London which had a 9-month expiry date. Wanting to wait until summer but then Covid reared its ugly head. I managed to extend the expiry date and the company extended it again (because of Covid until the end of 2021).

I decided to book during August and managed to get a flight, with a certain amount of trepidation, for Friday 13th August!

I had to be at Redcroft Fields by 09.30 for a 10.00am flight, so set my satnav to the postcode for Redcroft Forge where I had to turn off the road to get to the helicopter. I arrived in the area at about 09.15 but the satnav told me to turn off down a little path that was obviously not the right place. I managed to turn around and found a petrol station where two young people were

changing a notice in a stand. They didn't know where Redcroft Fields or Redcroft Forge was, but being teenagers, they both pulled out their mobile phones and started searching.

I mentioned what I was going to do and asked if they had heard helicopters flying close by to which they said 'no'. Not a good sign! In the end they found the Forge and guided me to the right place. I then had to drive along a car width gravel path between two fields for about 1/4 mile, I turned a corner and saw the helicopter. I parked the car and asked a young lady if there was a toilet to which the answer was "no- the nearest one is back on the main road and the pub will let you use theirs." It was now

09.30. I drove back down the track to the road but had forgotten to ask which way to turn! I went back to the petrol station, which had a Tesco shop attached, and fortunately there was a toilet I could use in there. Back to the helicopter where I arrived at 09.55 just in time for the briefing.

Briefing over, we were fitted with safety harness and were loaded onto the helicopter.

Unfortunately, I was the last one to get on and was facing backwards, which, although I would have preferred to be facing forwards, didn't bother me. We took off and headed towards London crossing over the M25 between North and South Ockenden.

The cloud cover was quite dense, but we stayed beneath it and I had views towards the south as we approached London. It was misty in the distance and photos were not as good as I had hoped for, but I could just make out the Dartford bridge and City Airport was much clearer.

It was very interesting to see how much the river bends both ways as it flows out of London. One disappointment was that, by law, helicopters must fly over the river, so you cannot see the banks of the Thames to see all the sights. One thing I nearly missed as we passed, was the Shard, the top of which was below us!

When we got up to The Houses of Parliament we turned around and started our return trip. We had great views of The Mall, St. James's Park, Green Park, Buckingham Palace – rather misty – and Hyde Park, and as we were approaching our destination we had a good view of the Olympic Stadium, now the home of West Ham United.

All in all it was a good experience for a first helicopter flight and, although it is unlikely that I would do it again, I would pay extra to book the seat next to the Pilot.

I was asked to complete a survey afterwards and made the point that I thought there should have been toilet facilities available even if it was a portable loo, and if that was not practicable, a warning in the literature sent out with instructions, that toilet facilities were not available.

Brian Grinham

What an interesting day you had getting your passenger wings
Brian.LB





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Harvest Festival

Thanks to all who contributed to our Harvest Festival Service on 26th September.

This years generous donations of tinned and packaged food and money are a contrast to Harvests past and reflect the current climate in which we live and the corresponding needs of those in our community. These donations will be swiftly used up but the need remains long after Harvest celebrations are over.

We need to keep up our generosity and support throughout the year and campaign for change to end hunger and homelessness.

The Trussell Trust recent report -

The State Of Hunger reveals: the extreme poverty faced by people at food banks going into the pandemic, with just £248 a month on average to survive on after housing costs. That money needs to cover energy and water costs, council tax, food, and other essentials. This is unacceptable.



*Jesus refers to God as “the Lord of the harvest” (Matthew 9:38).
How do you reflect God’s bounty in your everyday life?*

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

“The Lord of the Harvest”

The symbolic meaning of harvest in Scripture encompasses two main areas: God’s provision for us and God’s blessing for others. While we celebrate a harvest season just once a year, we *experience* the spirit of harvest all the time.

Each day that we go to a job and earn our pay, we experience harvest.

Each time we receive love from our family and those in our lives, we experience harvest. Each time we experience the closeness of God in a way that fills us spiritually, we experience harvest. Any time we are filled, we experience harvest.

Harvest then isn't something that we experience once a year, but something that we experience on a daily basis.

This is where those words Jesus uses are so important: The harvests we experience on a daily basis don't actually belong to us — they belong to God, because he is the Lord of the harvest, not us. The money we earn belongs to the Lord of the harvest. Our partners and children belong to the Lord of the harvest. It's all *His*.

When we put God in his place — his rightful place — we recognise him as the Lord of *our* harvest. We recognise that he is the one who gave us hands to work, that he is the one who supplies our provisions, that our family is actually *his* family ... that it rightfully belongs to him.

Finally, when we recognise the Lord of the harvest for who he is in our lives, we also embrace the fact that while in part our harvest is something he gives to meet our needs, it's also something he wants us to use to bless others.

All those wonderful things in our lives that we'll give thanks for; those things exist, in large part, to be a blessing to the world around us.

Benjamin L Corey

Are you filling a box for the Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal?

Here are some Gift Suggestions:

Toys - A football and pump, cuddly toys, dolls, toy cars, small musical instruments, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc.

School Supplies - Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

Hygiene Items - Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel, sponge etc.

Other Items - Hat, gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, socks, T-shirt, flip-flops, hair accessories, jewellery set, watch, wind-up torch etc.

Don't forget to include a £5 administration cost in the box or send online.

What's Happening?

Post Pandemic Property: reimagining our property with mission in mind | Thursday 07 October | 10am - 1pm

This year's Property Day will be held on Zoom. We'll be joined by speakers from across the District and the Connexion, as we explore:

) How Covid-19 and the pandemic has affected how we use our buildings

) How buildings are thriving in use or used in alternative ways to meet community needs

How churches and circuits can develop their property strategy in line with their mission plans

For more on the Property Day, our speakers and to book your place, (please see Weekly Update to access the link)

Circuit Stewards Gathering | Thursday 14 October | 2pm - 4pm or 6pm - 8pm

Please note that invitations to this year's Circuit Stewards Gathering will be sent out this Thursday to Senior Circuit Stewards. If you are a SCS we kindly ask that you share this invitation with your colleagues. If you do not receive the email by Friday morning, please contact the District Office

REDBRIDGE - OUR STREETS

Applications are now open again for residents to adopt tree pits on their street. The 'Adopt a Tree Pit' scheme is a fun and interactive way to add a splash of colour to your neighbourhood, as well boost local biodiversity and support local wildlife, including bees and birds.

Applications can be made until Tuesday 30 November. If you applied last year you will still have to re-apply for your tree pit again this year.

www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/adopt-and-water-a-tree/

CAN WE REPAIR IT?

Missing button, blocked shower head, punctured bike tyre? There's no need to throw these things away, we can tackle many small repairs at home. Join the repair conversation at our next Tune in on Tuesday 12 October, as we celebrate International Repair Day.

Producing new items has a carbon cost. Everything from the energy used in making an item to shipping it to our shops. By repairing instead of buying new we can lower our carbon emissions and save ourselves money.

Did you know that there are companies and services local to Redbridge that can help you bring a new lease of life to much loved belongings? From tailors to dry cleaners, cobblers to IT repair technicians. We'd love to share local information and skills at our next 'Tune in Tuesday' so come along and bring your ideas!

Interested?

See www.redbridge.gov.uk/our streets/

News from your Church Stewards

Thanks to the editor this is going to be a regular item, giving you news, information and hopefully an insight into what it's like to be a steward.

Team of Stewards

Our small team is Diane, Hilary, Oli, Sheela and myself, with Brian and Liz and Oli fulfilling the role of Communion Stewards. There have been many of you doing a brilliant job as door, book or vestry stewards - thank you very much and please continue - we can't do it without you!

Volunteer Duty Rota

Please do let us know when you're able to help out or be added to the rota. We're grateful to everyone who puts their name forward and it makes a difference. For the current quarter we didn't have as many offers as usual and so we do not have anyone on book duty or to be on the Eastern Avenue door. Due to this, we're asking the main door steward to open the Eastern Avenue door and it would be lovely if we all can look out for anyone coming in that door and maybe give a friendly wave.

All you need to be on the door or book duty, is to be able to greet people and extend a welcome. That's it. We want

everyone who joins us for worship to feel welcome and you could be part of helping that happen. Please do let any of us stewards know if you can help or want to find out more.

Info from the circuit

We will be hosting a circuit remembrance service at 2.30pm on 14th November, for all those we lost during the past 18 months.

Now that we are in church again, the conversation about the future of the circuit has resumed, looking at both the number of churches we have and how our requirements for ministers can be met. We will keep you updated and we'll all have the opportunity to share our ideas and thoughts about this.

'Til next time,

Michelle



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Second World War Service and Sacrifice – Lilian Bader (1918- 2015)

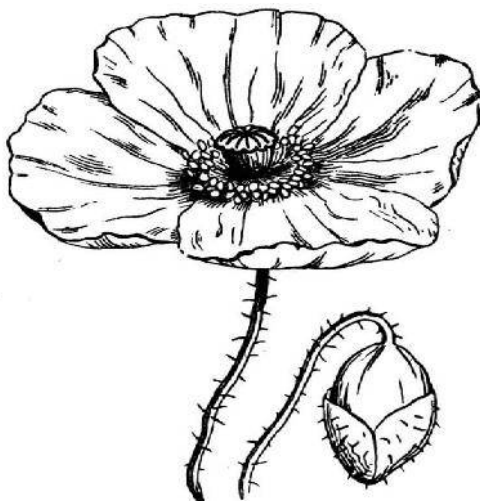
Born in Liverpool, her father was Marcus Bailey who served in the First World War. Lilian was orphaned in 1927 and was raised in a convent where she lived until she was 20, until she found employment in domestic service. When the Second World War broke out, she joined the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI) at Catterick Camp, Yorkshire.

The NAAFI was created to run the recreational establishments of the British Armed Forces and to sell goods to the service personnel and their families. However, when it was discovered that her father was of Caribbean heritage, she was asked to leave.

Lillian returned to domestic service until she discovered the RAF was accepting black recruits, and in March 1941 Lillian became one of the first Black British women to serve in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). Lillian's brother James Bailey a merchant seaman was killed in action before in December 1941, Lillian became a Leading Aircraftwoman and then soon gained the rank of Acting Corporal. Lillian met Ramsay Bader in 1943 and was discharged from the WAAF in 1944 after becoming pregnant.

She and Ramsay were to have two sons. Lillian would go on to gain a degree from London University and became a teacher. In 1989 she published her memoir,

Together – Lillian Bader: Wartime Memoirs of a WAAF 1939-1944.





**Detective Sergeant
Norwell Roberts
QPM
(retired)**

Norwell was 9 years old when he and his widowed mother came to England from Anguilla in the Caribbean in the 1950s. Part of the Windrush generation, they settled in Camden, north London. Norwell's grandfather and three uncles had all served in their local police forces in the West Indies, but it wasn't until Norwell saw a poster calling for more police officers in London, that he decided to apply.

In 1967, 21-year-old Norwell Roberts became the first black officer to join the Metropolitan Police Force since the Second World War. Asked if he felt he was a pioneer, Norwell says his focus was simply on getting the job done.

They made it tough but no one said life was going to be an easy ride. Unfortunately, my detractors would be disappointed as the more they kicked against me the more determined I was to succeed. I was made of sterner stuff, and if I am honest, on reflection I surprised myself."

As the only black officer in the Met, Norwell received a great deal of publicity, but was still subjected to racism and prejudice both inside and outside of work. He recalls ‘the worse I was treated, the stronger it made me.’ Norwell believed that Britain needed a police force that was representative of the country’s multi-racial society. Not wanting to disappoint those who supported him, Norwell rose through the ranks and in the 1980s joined CID, becoming Britain’s first black undercover officer. Then in 1996, Norwell was awarded the Queen’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service, of which he says ‘I felt extremely proud and that everything I had been through had been worth it.’ In 1997, after 30 years of service, Norwell retired.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

As the nation’s largest Armed Forces charity, the Royal British Legion (RBL) is dedicated to ensuring that all those who served and sacrificed, and who continue to do so, in defence of our freedoms and way of life, from both Britain and the Commonwealth, are remembered.

In our acts of Remembrance, the RBL remembers,

) The sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from Britain and the Commonwealth.

) Pays tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services.

) Acknowledges the innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

) The story of Black British and Black African and Caribbean service and sacrifice is one that we are keen to share, a story of men and women who have done so much in defence of Britain and in protecting all our citizens.

Remembrance Day is Thursday 11th November

Remembrance Sunday the second Sunday in



November, the Sunday

nearest to 11 November.

This year it falls on 14 November.

Prayerful Words

“I have a dream”, a man once said,
“where all is perfect peace;
where men and women, black and white,
stand hand in hand, and all unite
in freedom and in love.”

But in this world of bitter strife
the dream can often fade;
reality seems dark as night,
we catch but glimpses of the light
Christ sheds on humankind.

Fierce persecution, war, and hate
are raging everywhere;
God calls us now to pay the price
through struggles and through sacrifice
of standing for the right.

So dream the dreams and sing the songs,
but never be content:
for thoughts and words don't ease the pain:
unless there's action, all is vain;
faith proves itself in deeds.

Lord, give us vision, make us strong,
help us to do your will;
don't let us rest until we see
your love throughout humanity
uniting us in peace.

Pamela J Pettitt

Church Notices...Ooops!

A song fest was held at the Methodist Church on Wednesday.

Any church member over 18 is welcome on our new lay ministry programme. It requires minimal training and time: just six weekly classes of about 200 hours each Tuesday night.

Remember the Church Jumble Sale. We have a gent's three-speed bicycle, also two ladies for sale, in good running order.

smile :)

Helplines and Support

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provides free debt help and local community groups across the UK.

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.

0300 500 0914 .

Victim Support_ 08 08 16 89 111 is here to help and support anyone affected by crime. 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

Samaritans now has a free telephone number.

116123 24 hrs. email and you will receive a response within 24 hours by contacting us on jo@samaritans.org

Childline_ You can talk to us about anything. 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**

Call Age UK Redbridge, Barking and Havering

020 8220 6000

Lets Sing KUMBAYA MY LORD

Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Kumbaya my Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord. kumbava

Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya
Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya
Someone's singing Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord. kumbavah

Someone's crying Lord, kumbaya
Someone's crying Lord, kumbaya
Someone's crying Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord. kumbava

Someone's praying Lord, kumbaya
Someone's praying Lord, kumbaya
Someone's praying Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord. kumbava

Oh Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya
Oh Lord, kumbaya

Emanuel Diakhate / Gontse Diakhate / - Dp / Sandi Anton Strmljan

OCTOBER Diary

Sunday 3rd 11:15 am

Morning Service including Holy Communion led by Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

Sunday 10th 11.15am

Morning Service led by Mrs Lynn Packer

Thursday 14th October 2-4 or 6 –8

Circuit stewards gathering online

Friday 15th 10.30am—12

Bible Study - Gardeners Café Valentines Park

Sunday 17th 11.15am

Morning Service led by Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

Friday 22nd 10.30am –12

Bible Study - Gardeners Café Valentines Park

Sunday 24th 11.15am

Morning Service led by Mr Kenneth Agyekum

Thursday 28th 7.15pm-7.45pm

Prayer Meeting

Friday 29th 10.30am –12

Bible Study –Gardeners Café Valentines Park

Sunday 31st 11.15am

Morning Service led by Rev'd Mmasape Zihle.