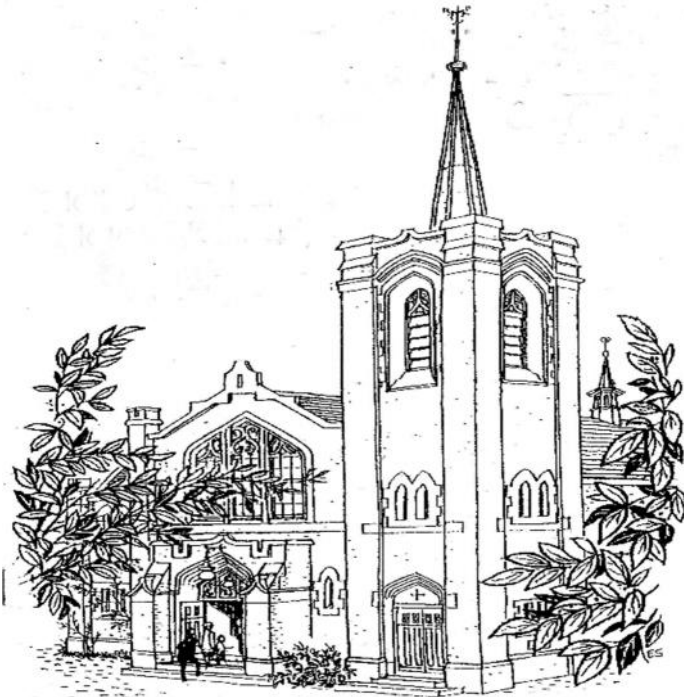


The Drive Methodist Church

Eastern Avenue, Ilford IG13pp

Newsletter

February 2022



Minister: Revd. Mmasape Zihle

Email: Mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk

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.

A Covenant with God

Methodists hold an annual Covenant Service, at which we celebrate all that God has done for us, and affirm that we give our lives and choices to God.

Most churches hold the service in the New Year, but some hold them in September, at the beginning of the Methodist year. As is usual for The Drive, it was held in January

The traditional Covenant prayer makes it very clear that this affirmation is a serious one that embraces the whole of our life, in all its parts. Most people find it quite tough to say, and really mean it. But the prayer is so central to the Christian life that other Churches have also adopted it.

In our culture we tend to prize our ability to make decisions and choose our own path in life. It can feel very hard to give that up. But this prayer is like a love poem. It is about surrendering to God in love and joy.

A Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to what you will,

rank me with whom you will;

put me to doing,

put me to suffering;

let me be employed for you,

or laid aside for you,

exalted for you,

or brought low for you;

let me be full,

let me be empty,

let me have all things,

let me have nothing:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things

to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

you are mine and I am yours. So be it.

And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.'

The Methodist Covenant Prayer

A Prayer for Tonga

The President and Vice President have expressed their concern over the situation in Tonga caused by a volcanic eruption on Saturday and subsequent tsunami. They ask the Methodist people to pray for those affected.

Loving God, we stand in awe at the power of creation seen in volcano and tsunami, recognising the smallness and weakness of our own existence. Yet you tell us that each person is special and important to you, and in that confidence we hold before you the people of Tonga as they deal with the aftermath of the volcanic eruption.

We are still waiting for details, but you know the feelings and needs of each person there, and we pray that you would grant calm and courage to those directly involved, and the strengthening of bonds as people support each other.

Especially we ask for wisdom for national and community leaders as they look for a way ahead, and for religious leaders, including President Finau Ahio and ministers of our Methodist Partner, The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, as they try to offer spiritual and emotional support.

We pray also for the peace of your presence for all those around the world waiting for news of family and friends, wanting to believe that the reports so far of little damage and no loss of life are true, but fearful of different news when the situation becomes clear.

We give thanks for the moves within the Pacific and the wider international community to provide support for Tonga, and pray that there will soon be opportunity to allow appropriate relief to be channelled quickly, especially the provision of clean drinking water. And although now everything is dismal and grey from volcanic ash, may the people of Tonga be able to hold on to the hope of the return of colour and joy to their land.

Sheila Norris - Acting Partnership Co-ordinator for Asia-Pacific

*A young **Queen Elizabeth II** along with Prince Phillip, visited Tonga during her extensive Commonwealth tour towards the end of 1953 and she made Queen Salote of Tonga a Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO).*

Church Family News

It was with sadness that we learned of the sudden death of our friend Peter Sharp who was taken ill on 20th January while at home. More specific information is at present not available. We remember Peter's family and friends in our prayers, particularly his caring, special friend Susan Ruckes, who looked after Peter's well being with such dedication.

Details of Peters funeral will be announced at church and circulated on The Drive Together WhatsApp group.

I remember Peter as a kind and gentle man, who when able was always willing to help where he could. He had a special fondness for 'his little church' and missed attending regularly when his health deteriorated. LB

+++++

We remember and pray for all who are poorly or unable to leave their homes. if you know of anyone who needs prayer and support, do please let one of the Church Steward Team know.

Frank is comfortably settled in his new care home, although his health remains fragile.

Sandra R has undergone further chemotherapy and is recovering at home.

Last week, **Marlene** reported that **Danny** remained in hospital as he was waiting for his health and capacity to be assessed. Marlene is being supported by her family.

We offer prayers for **Michelle and Thea** and their family who were recently bereaved, when their sister in law/auntie died after a short but serious illness.

Happy Birthday to Janet Wragg who celebrates her birthday on 6th February.



Future Dates for Lenten Worship

- ♦ 2nd March 8pm Ash Wednesday Service
- ♦ 14th April 8pm Maundy Thursday Service
- ♦ 15th April 10,30am Good Friday Service
- ♦ 16th April Messy Church/ Craft and Easter Egg Hunt
- ♦ 17th April 11.15am Easter Day Celebration.



My Tribute to Peter Sharp

I have known Peter for a long time and I am sure he would not mind if I called him a 'Cheeky Chappy', because apart from him being the kindest and most caring man he also had a great sense of humour.

His greetings were legendary and brought a varied response from the recipient. I for one will always recall the laughter we shared on many a Sunday morning. Peter found a warm welcome and friendship when he came to the Drive Church and he often told me how much it meant to him to have made such kind friends. He had a special friendship with Susan, Liz and Corrine and was so appreciative of their help and support especially when his health became a concern.

I will always be thankful to Peter for his unwavering support for 'Raysin Hope'. Having known Ray he wanted to do whatever he could to support people who were diagnosed with brain tumours. He decided that he would sell the vegetables from his allotment and donate the proceeds to our cause. At times the slugs got the better of him and he would call me and say, "Oh Anne, the slugs have got my veg again." But without fail Peter would donate in spite of the slugs. I sent him a few words about his vegetables and he was so pleased

with the poem, but very honest because when I told him I could send him some more, he said, " No thanks Anne." I still smile at that memory.

Since Peter has been unable to get to church we kept in touch by phone and occasional note and always shared laughter and honesty.

He was one of the nicest people I have met, who just wanted to love and be loved. God bless you Peter for Heaven will be livelier for your presence.

Anne Dellow



Growing Dreams

Now Peter is a kindly chap,
Who had a dream one day
That he would grow some vegetables
And give them all away.
It took a while to get a plot
But when he bought a shovel He gave it all he got!
He battled with the elements
And slugs and snails to boot.
Then God smiled on his efforts
And seeds began to root.
Soon he gathered rhubarb,
Beans and lettuce too
Then he had a great idea
And said 'I know what to do'
When good folk want my produce
And give a bob or two
Ill give it straight to 'Raysin Hope'
for everything they do!

Anne Dellow

April 2007

(Raysin Hope is the support group Anne developed to help those whose lives are affected by brain tumours)

Jo's tribute to Peter Sharp

I can't remember a time when Peter wasn't at The Drive Methodist Church. He was always keen to be on the duty rota and he liked to sit at the back of the church ensuring everyone had a hymn book.

My dad, Frank, and Peter were particularly good friends. Before the start of the service, they would chat together and put the world to rights. My dad used to ask, "How are you, Peter?" and he would reply "I'm alright, it's the rest of them that's the problem!" That would always put a smile on my dad's face.

Peter was a keen gardener and would often phone up and ask myself or Andy for advice about certain plants or vegetables. Andy enjoyed talking to Peter about their shared love of growing fruit and vegetables. Peter would bring his tasty produce to church, and it would adorn the Harvest displays.

Sue was Peter's dear friend, and when it was her birthday, he would want to make sure that she had a lovely gift. This often-entailed Sue covering her ears while Peter told me what he thought she might like.

During the lock down Peter would phone to see how we all were, particularly asking after my dad. He told me that Sue, Liz and her two sons, Ishmael and Jackson, had brought him support and joy during a time of isolation and he very much appreciated their love and kindness.

Peter was a good soul; he had a caring heart, and he enriched our fellowship here at The Drive.

We shall miss Peter dearly.

Chinese New Year 1st February 2022

Water Tiger

2022 is a **“Water Tiger”** year. As well as the circle of animals there is also a cycle of five elements—wood, fire, earth, metal and water—which together creates a 60 year cycle.

So 2022's year of the water tiger hasn't happened for 60 years.

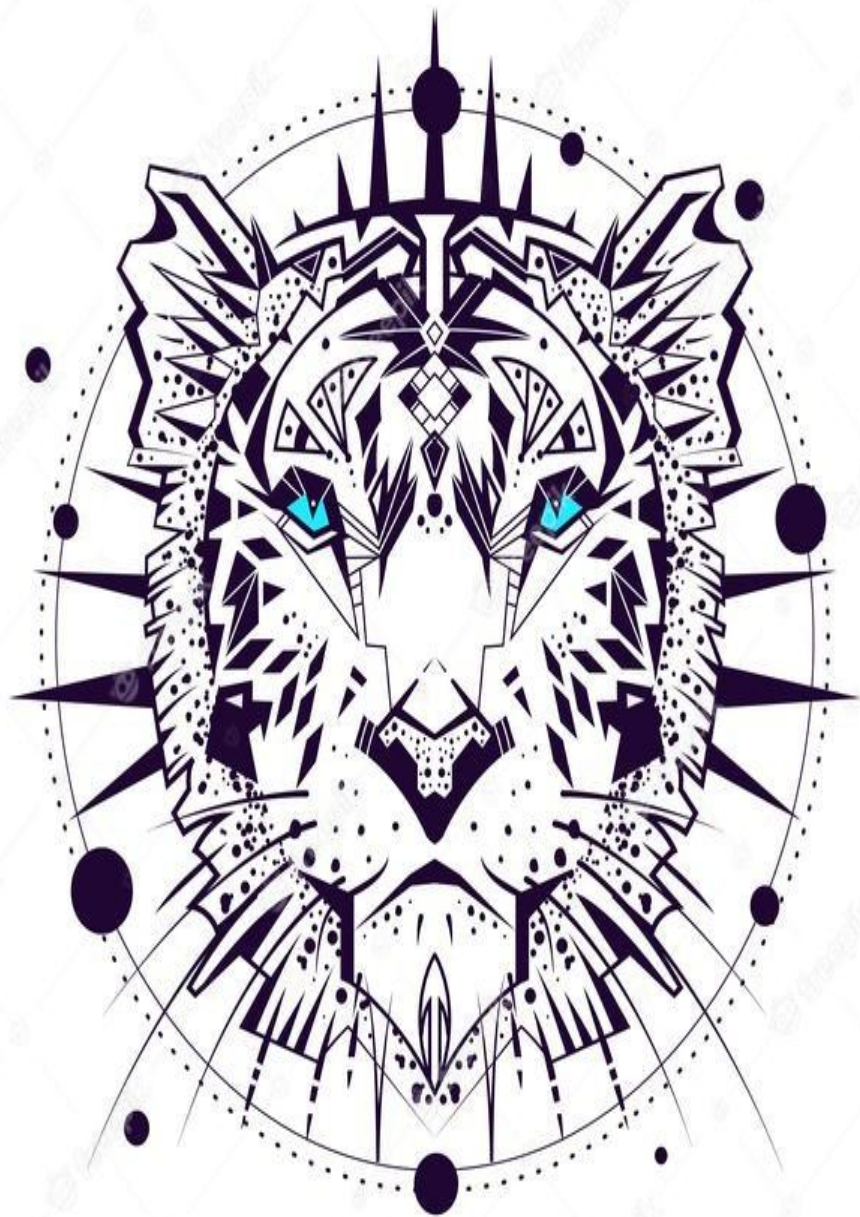
One of the most beloved of the 12 Chinese zodiac signs, the tiger signifies fortune and confidence.

Known for their **fiery passion, daring, and fearlessness**, Tigers are universally respected and revered for their courage by both friends and foes. ...

Tigers seem to be the epitome of contradictions because their personality is so dynamic. They can go from being fiery and fearless to calm and emotional in a blink of an eye.



The Chinese Water Tiger



This item is from Gemma Seabrook, Fostering Officer with Redbridge. Gemma often sends information to raise awareness for the never ending need for foster carers.

New Year, New Challenge

I will save more money.

I will eat more healthily.

Why not make a new year's resolution which will change a life? Over 200 children are unable to stay with their families in Redbridge each year and need a secure, stable and nurturing home.

If you have a place in your heart and home and are considering fostering, please email

fostering@redbridge.gov.uk or call us on 020 8708 6068.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Gemma Seabrook

**Recruitment, Engagement and Development Officer –
Fostering**



Oyez Oyez ! News from your Senior Steward

Notes from the Church Life Meeting 23.01.2022

Around 17 of us met on Sunday to attend the Church Life Committee. It was after the service and we agreed that this seems to be a good time to have future meetings too, so the next meeting will be 22nd May.

The Church Life Committee is a place where we can think about events or services we want to see happen in our church through the year and review past events.

and we got through a lot in the meeting and I thought it might be useful to give you a flavour of that. I'm also hoping I get this right as Hilary hasn't yet had time to produce the minutes!

Andrew said he is looking at developing music at The Drive and may be able to offer The Chorale practice space with the choir or on a Saturday - please watch this space!

Having enjoyed services together during the Christmas period, we are now looking forward to sharing in-person Easter services and events including hosting a circuit Ash Wednesday service and our annual Easter Egg Hunt which is not just for the children!

In thinking about events, Janet Wragg requested a celebratory service and perhaps a tea to mark the Queen's Jubilee. We're also thinking about our Anniversary Service, BBQ and scheduling Harvest Celebrations. TDY (The Drive Youth) are keen to put us on the social media 'map' by developing an Instagram and / or Facebook page. This suggestion will go to the

the next Church Council meeting to be agreed.

Please put 20th February in your diary; we will have our first 'Own Arrangement' of the year, an All Age Worship service where we can think together about some of the themes raised at the recent Church Future Story Day (CFSD).

For some who participated in the CFSD, these discussions are not new as there have been many previous conversations about the future of the circuit. Yet at the very least it does seem to raise important and interesting questions for us as Christians and Methodists. How can we evangelise and share the Good News about Jesus? How is our worship and can we improve it? How can we grow our church? How could we serve the community?

Perhaps focussing on these questions will be both useful for us as a church and show us the way forward as a circuit.

Michelle

Thanks Michelle, there is certainly much to think about. LB

Answers to anagram quiz on page 30

*tart tatin, cheesecake, madeira cake, mille-feuille
Panetonne, chocolate cake, petits fours*

Brian's Musings

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal;

nothing on earth can help a man with the wrong mental attitude."

Thomas Jefferson

.....or the woman!

"The old believe everything.

The middle-aged suspect everything.

The young know everything."

Oscar Wilde.



Bible Reading Group

When: Friday 18th February at 11.am.

Where: 104 Wanstead Lane.

Topic: Corinthians, chapters 12, 13 and 14.

Jan and John are looking forward to welcome all who are interested.

Vision Day. BDI Circuit

The following notes are those of James Pickin, who is the Learning & Development Coordinator for the London Region of the Methodist Church. James coordinated the Zoom conversation regarding the future of our circuit churches–Vision Day.

Initial thoughts

- Share faith/church growth/evangelism - Strategy for growth for years to come, how can we grow congregations, focus on mission, could we expand the circuit, could we be proactive about this?
- Pastoral care for members and wider community/ Pastoral outreach.
- Communication of what we do, good website, leafleting in the community.
- Addressing loneliness.
- Young people and youth – coming to services, circuit youth club, leadership forum, youth service in the circuit, not to make this feel too separate from wider church life.
- Spiritual life – growth in this.
- Different people have different gifts – discovering these and enabling people to use them/

- Christian and Methodist presence in the community, knowing our community and changing demographic.
- Ecumenicalism
- Welcoming outlook
- Unification – bringing the circuit together, focus on circuit services, using circuit teams from events, Prayer – bring circuit together to pray together (could include praise and worship time)
- practicalities about transport etc to other churches. Use of standing orders (finances), service times and what works.
- Amount of resources to resource the work, how can churches support one another .
- Building relationships and knowing others, getting to know new and existing members to deepen relationships, people using premises- we can build relationships with them.
- Continue the process to reach conclusions.
- Not be afraid to talk and preach on finances
- Define the role of ministers and lay people. All can play our part.

- Worship – adapt and change our ways of worship, praise and worship session (possibly including youth), more modern songs into services, is 1 hour too short?

Refined thoughts

- Growth – spiritual life, worship, prayer, pastoral care
- Growth – Evangelism and community outreach
- Welcoming communication – for ourselves and the community, everyone is informed and no one is left out.
- Talents and resources – using and enabling these.
- Youth work – wider invitation and integration, circuit events and services, growth of youth churches, longevity of planning, youth work (school's project)
- Cohesive circuit – resources, communication, structures in the methodist church, continuity in the circuit, streamlining the circuit, arriving as a place where the circuit is the main thing, could circuit service be a place of planning and idea sharing as well.

Resourcing

1. How does our staffing best support our priorities?

- Difficult at the moment – varying levels of support.
- How can we help the minister with their workload?
- Ministers key role in steering the church in its spiritual life
- Gifts of ministers should be used to the best effect
- Making sure that things get communicated out effectively
- Volunteers – how can we increase the involvement of lay people
- Can we breakdown roles into smaller chunks?
- Look to sharing jobs across the circuit

2. How does our property best support our priorities?

- We have got 10 churches – these are a great resource in places to do things.
- Not enough people in our churches to manage the properties
- Possibility of a facilities management team which could alleviate the burden from others to do more.
- Some of the rules from Methodist HQ mean it can be difficult to do volunteering
- Property is a drain on the resources rather than an asset
- Noticeboards – how can we find out about local events?
- What can we do to make ourselves visible?
- Is there a way we could have a group of people who are doing good in churches to turn things around.

- Is there a way we could have a group of people who are doing good in churches to turn things around.
Identify people to take on mantle to start this work.

3. How do our churches best live out our priorities?

- Trying best efforts to do as much as we can do to live out priorities but this is becoming harder and harder.
- We do need to have more people volunteering and for this to be communicating .
- Knowing who is living in the areas – every church and area is different.
- Youth work should be looked on a family work – everyone has to be involved in this.

4. How will we communicate out priorities effectively?

- Good system of communication – website needs to be on point. Being enthusiastic about what we're doing is a best form of communication.
- How are people kept informed and have skills for this?
- People who might be interested to learn as a circuit thing – a training session about communication.
 - People would look on the website to find a local church.
- Getting things down in good time – taking into consideration volunteers timings.
- How can we be aware of people who can't access this?
- Staying in contact with young people who have gone to university.
- Making use of community forums

General points

- We need to be focused and we need to be practical.
- We need to understand that there is a shortage of resources.
- Reducing the number of churches that are opened on a Sunday would help to share resources.
- Growing the number of people – we would need to grow the vitality of our worship. An element of trial and error and see what works .
- Under financial pressures, we can't support all ministers and manses and therefore we can't continue to sustain it.
- Reduce the number of churches and improve attractiveness of our churches.
- The Drive Methodist church hosts a History Course during the week. This helps address loneliness and is oversubscribed. What could we do in the week to help do something similar with pastoral support available? Something that might be a friendship evangelism – something that bridges the gap
- Identify areas of excellence and expertise to help to use resources across the circuit. Could we use the people with experience to help places that are struggling?
- What we are doing is not sustainable – we need to reduce our churches.
- We need to approach people for volunteers and expect people to come.

INTERESTED? Next Vision Day conversation will be on 26th March. Time and venue TBC

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021/2022

Place for All

**Order from : www.methodistpublishing.org.uk
or phone: 0845 017 8220**

No one was excluded from Jesus' table and eating with him was a sign of the kingdom of heaven and an invitation to meet God and to be transformed. We recognise that we do not always offer such generous welcome or listen to the voices on the margins.

Through prayers in A Place for All, we pray to become a more inclusive and diverse Church, creating communities of greater respect and compassion.

Dial-a-Prayer



FREEPHONE numbers for prayers, reflections and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to a pastoral message from the President and Vice President: 0808 281 2695

Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Prayer updated every Thursday, Presidential message updated every Monday, Methodist Podcast updated fortnightly on Thursday.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

How do you think we should celebrate this amazing achievement at The Drive?

What are your ideas?

What skills do you have?

What can you do?

How can you help?



70 70 70 70 70 70 70 70

Thy Kingdom Come

On May 26th - June 5th 2022, join the global wave of prayer calling Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ.

This year, Thy Kingdom Come corresponds with the extended bank holiday weekend for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To mark the occasion, we are encouraging all Methodist churches to get involved with street parties in their community, and to pray before, during and after the event. *See Methodist website for more information and ideas.*

Lets Sing



*Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart
Teach me to move in the power of Your Spirit
Teach me to walk in the light of Your presence
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart
Teach me to love with Your heart of compassion
Teach me to trust in the word of Your promise
Teach me to hope in the day of Your coming
Teach me to dance to the beat of Your heart*

You wrote the rhythm of life
Created heaven and earth
In You is joy without measure
So, like a child in Your sight
I dance to see Your delight
For I was made for Your pleasure, Pleasure

Let all my movements express
A heart that loves to say 'yes'
A will that leaps to obey You
Let all my energy blaze
To see the joy in Your face
Let my whole being praise You
Praise You

Graham Kendrick and Steve Thompson

Music at The Drive

We are most fortunate to have so much wonderful live music in our church and this is thanks to the dedication of Andrew, the members of the choir and the chorale who give their time and energy to share their talents and give us so much pleasure.

Thank you to you all.



The Drive Prayer Team

Every morning when I wake there is a prayer on The Drive Together WhatsApp, setting me up for the day ahead.

These prayers are sought and uploaded by the prayer team.

Thank you Mmasape, Collins, Brian, Jan and John and Bambo for the thoughts and prayers you offer to the WhatsApp group.

ANAGRAM QUIZ

Can you work out what these sweet treats are?

A tint treat

See ace heck

A mack dearie

Elm lie flu lie

Open at ten

He tackle cocoa

Press outfit

Answers at bottom of page 17

DID YOU KNOW?

10% of the worlds population is left-handed.

It is said that men are more likely to be left-handed than women. Various studies have also suggested that the handedness of a person can be determined from the time they spend in the mother's womb. Some studies also suggest that one's heritage may also play a role in determining if someone will be left or right-handed.

Birds require gravity to swallow.

Birds cannot chew their food and instead swallow their prey whole. The oesophagus of a bird is wide enough to swallow larger meals. They depend on gravity to push their food down the oesophagus and then later be propelled into their stomachs.

The Hawaiian alphabet contains only 13 letters.

The Hawaiian alphabet contains a total of five vowels that are both long and short. It also contains a total of eight consonants. Hawaii's alphabet represents all the basic sounds and phonemes in their language.

Koalas sleep 18 hours a day.

Koalas normally sleep for 18-22 hours a day. The reason for this is so that they have enough energy to digest the food that they eat properly.

You share your birthday with 19 million people.

On average, a person will share a birthday with 19 million other people from a population of over 7 billion. If you were born on the least common day of the year, you would still share the same birthday as 18 million people.

The human tongue heals the fastest compared to all body parts.

This is due to the rich supply of blood that circulates the tongue. It may also be because the mouth is constantly replenishing your taste buds.

The Aztecs invented popcorn.

Originally, they used this as an ornament and was used in headdresses. This ornament would be used as a way to praise their god Tlaloc, the god of maize and fertility.

A Prayer

Here are my thoughts, Lord, here is my mind.

Here are my deeds, Lord, help me unwind.

Here is my strength, Lord, here is my will.

Here is my life, Lord, help me be still.

Here is my heart, Lord, here is my hope.

Here is my love, Lord, help me to cope.

Here is my time, Lord, here is my might.

Here I am yours, Lord, bless me tonight.

David Adam (b1936)

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](https://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

Samaritans now has a free telephone number.

11612324 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**

February Diary

Sunday 6th 11:15 am

including Holy Communion

led by Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

Sunday 13th 11.15am

Morning Service led by Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

Thursday 18th Bible Study 11.am

104 Wanstead Lane

Sunday 20th 11.15am

Morning Service - Own Arrangement

Sunday 27th 11.15am

Morning Service led by Collins Frimpong- Manso