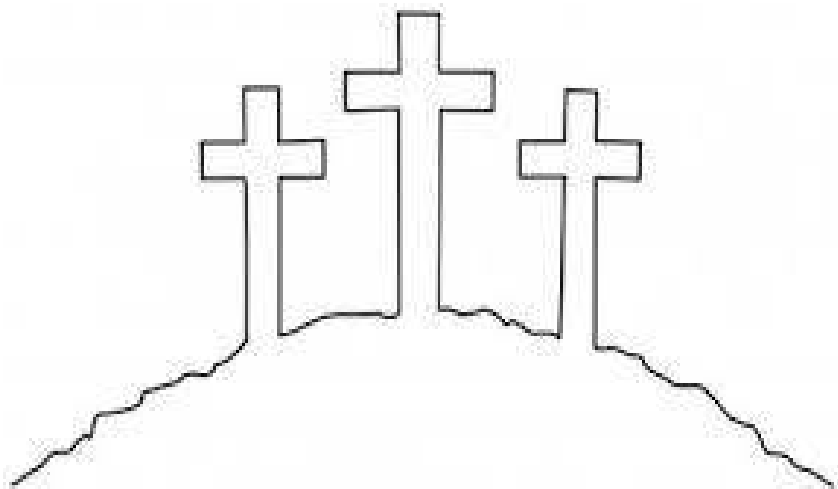


# **The Drive Methodist Church**

**Eastern Avenue Ilford IG13PP**

## **Newsletter**

# **APRIL 2022**



**Minister: Revd. Mmasape Zihle**

**Email: [mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk](mailto:mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk)**

**[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 Easter Message**

### **Christ's death and resurrection was for all of humankind**

In the story of creation, we read: "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (Gen 1.27 NIV), yet the treatment of people (mankind) in this world does not reflect the equality given to all people at creation. Also, it does not reflect the equality of Christ's sacrifice on the cross: "And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

At this Easter season may we, who have been redeemed by the death and resurrection of Christ rise to a newness of life with him with new attitudes and outlook towards all people. In Jesus there is no colour bar; all are equally valued and loved. We therefore as a church of Christ cannot afford to condone the treatment of people facing humanitarian crisis differently. Need is need, it does not choose race. Suffering is the same no matter where you come from and the response to need and suffering means not to choose to offer more to some.

Over the last few months in our circuit, we have been and are continuing to review how to best utilise the resources we have (churches, money, ministerial staff and volunteers) to best serve the community and to share the gospel message. This requires careful and honest consideration of where good stewardship is not practiced and where pruning needs to

happen so that new healthy growth may be encouraged. So, as we look forward to the annual reminder of hope springing forth from the cross as Christ is risen on Easter Day, may we look forward with the same renewed hope to a fresh sprinkling of life within our churches in the BDI circuit.

May our giving, caring and serving both in and out of church be reflective of the “other”- centred love of Christ which sought to challenge power and to bring the marginalised into the centre of community as he healed and restored all to wholeness be they Jew or gentile.

We are called to love all and to challenge the seats of power whenever they sow separation and inequality amongst people. The call to support refugees still stands, be they from east, west, south or north. It is about humanity and not race, therefore let us love all as “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son (to die once for all for the whole world), so that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3.16)

Wishing you a blessed Easter overflowing with the joy of renewed hope for a better world in which we are a part in bringing forth.

Happy Easter

***Mmasape***

## **A Statement from The Methodist Peace Fellowship**

### **Peace Together**

#### **To the People called Methodist,**

**The invasion of Ukraine calls us to step up.** As people that want to promote peace as a way of life, we cannot ignore events between Russia and Ukraine. The invasion of a country, the suppression of its people and the annihilation of its culture is contrary to the Gospel imperative for all to have 'life in all its fullness'. We may feel helpless and powerless but we need to find ways to counter the narrative of aggression and to support by prayer and practical action the people of Ukraine. We cannot sit back, we need to step up.

**The invasion of Ukraine also calls us to step back.** As people who see peace not simply as absence of war, but as the shalom of struggle within all human relationships, we need to be mindful of the bigger picture. Offering hospitality to Ukrainian refugees is paramount, but we must not forget the needs and stories of other refugees from other countries. Whilst we want to support Ukrainians at this particular time we need to be alert to any tendency to privilege White Europeans when we offer hospitality. Compassion is always unconditional never selective.

**The invasion of Ukraine calls us to step forward.** We are surrounded by rhetoric, so we need to strive for truth. We need to be careful that we are not simply inhabiting the echo chamber of our own prejudices. Situations like this are complex and nuanced. We need to be mindful of hatred at every turn, not least towards the people of Russia.

Whilst we are criticising oppressive and aggressive actions, we must not demonise a whole nation because of the actions of a despot. We must always step forward to challenge vitriol, even when it is directed to people whom the conflict styles as 'enemies' .

**The Methodist Peace Fellowship is calling all Methodists, all people of faith, all humanity to take steps of prophetic action in the face of the current invasion of Ukraine.** We are compelled to step up, to step back and to step forward, with courage, insight and wisdom, mindful that all are loved equally in the light of God's love.

*Please support the work of the Methodist Peace Fellowship and the Fellowship of Reconciliation and join us for prayers for Ukraine on zoom on Friday evenings at 7.30 pm: registration details at [www.for.org.uk/ukraine](http://www.for.org.uk/ukraine)*

Yours Sincerely

**Barbara Glasson ,President The Methodist Peace Fellowship**      [www.mpf.org.uk](http://www.mpf.org.uk)

## PRAY FOR UKRAINE

**Loving God**, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

**We weep** for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

**We weep** for those cowering in basements.

**We weep** for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

**We weep** for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

**We are amazed** at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

**We pray** for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

**We pray** for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

**We pray** for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

**May the** Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

**May we**, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

**Amen**



## *CHURCH FAMILY NEWS*

**Doreen Barclay** is now at home and receiving treatment which, if successful may allow her to come back to church. Fingers crossed Doreen.

**Brian and Kathleen** Brian reports that his recent cataract operations were successful. He and Kathleen continue to receive treatment. Although weary, they are pleased with the recent sunshine.

**Mmasape** We remember Mmasape and her family here in the UK and in South Africa following the recent death of her dear Mum Rebecka who rests in peace with her Lord. Mmasape has travelled to South Africa to attend the funeral.

**Danny Henry** We remember our friend Danny who died on 15th March after a long illness. Danny had been lovingly cared for at home by Marlene and their family. Our sincere condolences to them all. **Danny's funeral Service will take place at The Drive on 14th April at 10.00am**

**Frank Sayers** remains very fragile and is in Gentian ward recovering from pneumonia and unfortunately has also contracted Covid..

*Please pray for those in our church family who are unwell, confused or have been bereaved. Pray also for those who take a caring role in their lives. LB*





**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**



*Belated HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES to Brian,  
Amy, Lorna, David, Mmasape, Iris, Andrew, Imanri and Tun-  
rayo*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL**



*March was certainly a busy month for birthdays. Best wishes  
to you all for the year ahead. LB*

*It was one of those MARCH days when  
the sun shines HOT and the wind blows  
COLD*

*When it is SUMMER in the light and  
WINTER in the shade*

*Charles Dickens*

**Here Susan has included her thanks and shared the Eulogy and a poem for Peters funeral service.**

Susan Ruckes wishes to thank everybody for their letters, cards, phone calls and messages after the death of Peter Sharp on 21st January 2022.

Thanks to all who attended the funeral and those who weren't able to be there but sent messages of support.

Thanks to Mmasape for leading the service at Forest Park Crematorium, so soon after hearing about the death of her mother in South Africa.

Thanks to Andrew for the beautiful organ music before and during the service. I hope we shall hear some of it again at The Drive.

Thanks to Lorraine for the lovely floral tribute from Peters friends at The Drive. We have been able to look at this and the floral flag tribute of St George outside The Drive entrance of the church. Peters neighbours in Dagenham gave the St George flag as he used to have a flag and bunting out on St Georges Day and take them pieces of cake.

*Peter always spoke of your friendship with such fondness  
Susan and we all witnessed your care and dedication to him.  
We will miss his presence. LB*



## Gods Garden

God looked around his garden  
And found an empty place  
And then he looked down on earth  
And saw your tired face  
He put his arms around you  
And lifted you to rest  
Gods garden must be beautiful  
He always takes the best  
He knew that you were suffering  
He knew you were in pain  
He knew that you would never  
Get well on earth again  
He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hill hills were hard to climb  
So he closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered Peace be Thine.  
It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you didn't go alone  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home

## **Eulogy to Peter**

### **from his friend and neighbour Chris Robinson**

Peter was known to a lot of people as a character. Some say a cheeky chappie who was very passionate about things.

He took great pride in his garden, cultivating whatever fruit and veg he could grow. On a sunny day, I would look out of my window and see him in his garden carrying out preparation and planting.

His car, he regarded as part of the family and would be deeply upset about any knocks , scratches or dents. Whatever happened. It was always someone else's fault!

As his health declined he decided it was best not to drive any more, and was no longer able to be at his DIY carpentry to keep the fence in order and anything else he could manage.

He was a great lover of his telly and watched a lot of old TV dramas, such as Last of the Summer wine, Keeping Up Appearances, Jonathan Creek and many more. He would forget the volume was up loud and had to be asked to kindly turn it down.

He was never short of phone calls, so much so when he was preparing a meal in the kitchen, he would answer the phone and some time later find that a cat who had let itself in was tucking into the meal he had been preparing!

He would take his daily exercise in the banjo, walking to and from as many times as he could manage with what some of us referred to as his 'wheelie thing'. Sitting on his 'wheelie thing', he might be asked 'hello Peter, how are you?' and he would say 'I'm alright, it's the others'.

Chris Robinson

## **OYEZ! OYEZ! News from your Senior Stewards**

### Help with Food Bank Donations

It's been great when you have brought in donations for the local foodbank but they have sometimes been waiting for someone to be free to deliver them. We'd like someone to take on getting any donations to where they need to be. Could that be you? We would be very grateful! Please talk to Lorraine and myself to find out more.

### Membership

In her services you'll probably have heard Mmasape invite all to become members of the Methodist church. Everyone who attends The Drive is an important part of our church and very welcome! But I thought it might be useful to explain what we're talking about, as membership isn't a term used by other churches.

Membership' is a left-over from the time when Methodism was a society within the Church of England but now its a way of making a commitment to a particular Methodist church and of that church making a commitment to you. Similar to Confirmation, membership is also a way of declaring or acknowledging growth and development in faith so we prepare for it and you'll have seen information about membership classes in the last newsletter. However, if you've been confirmed elsewhere you can simply be welcomed into membership.

There's much more we could talk about and I'm sure you may have some questions, so let's have a chat after the next church lunch on 2nd April. You could even chat with some of the members you'll be sitting with!

Til next time,

**Michelle & Diane**



**YOUTH CLUB &  
ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

**Sunday APRIL 10TH**

**5.30PM—7.30PM**

**GOODMAYES Methodist Church**

**games craft  
refreshments**

**All are welcome**



## **To the Dark Place bring a Candle**

To the dark place bring a candle,  
to the cold place bring a flame,  
in the night of our despairing  
light and warmth shall come again;  
for the candle in the darkness  
is the light that shines the way,  
and the flame that burns within us  
is the hope that brings the day.

To the helpless and bewildered,  
to the victims of the gun,  
bring the suffering, dying Jesus,  
bring God's broken, murdered Son;  
he who brings no easy answer  
to the heart that will not mend  
suffers in us and beside us  
and is with us to the end.

To the ones whose love lies buried  
'neath the mud and fading flowers,  
bring the calm that rests the weary  
in the darkest of all hours;  
he, who in the tomb lay broken  
travels with us through our night,  
by his word of love once spoken  
brings the candle-glow of light.

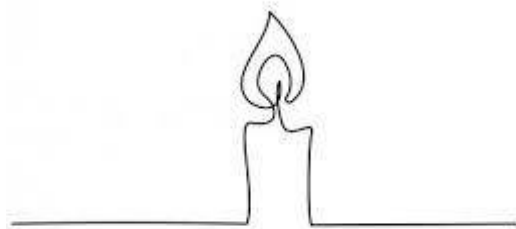


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is the light that shines the way,  
and the flame that burns within us  
is the hope that brings the day.

To the helpless and bewildered,  
to the lonely and confused  
bring the suffering, dying Jesus,  
broken, murdered and abused;  
he who brings no easy answer  
to the heart that will not mend  
suffers in us and beside us  
and is with us to the end.

*Richard Lucas Methodist church*

*Sung to the tune of Scarlett Ribbons*



## **Dedication in Memory of ROY BRUNNEN**

Saturday 16th April 1pm The Drive Church

Janet would like to invite her church family and friends to join her in the Vestibule of the church for the dedication of the new 'Welcome' sign which is in memory of her husband Roy, who was a devoted member of the Drive Church and a senior steward for many years.

To follow - Refreshments and a light buffet will be served in the church parlour.



### **LENTEN SATURDAY LUNCH**

Bread, Cheese and Homemade Soup

12.30pm 2nd April

As a change and in keeping with Lent, we are inviting you to share a simple lunch.

There will be no charge, although a small donation will be most welcome.

If you would like to come along, please add your name to the list on the rota noticeboard or let Ruth or Lorraine know by 30th March.



Jeremy would like to thank all who came along for the work morning last week. Lots of tidying and essential jobs were completed.



## **The Bible Reading Group**

will meet on Friday 29th April at 11:00 at Jan and John's. We will discuss the book of Jonah. Followed by refreshments.



## **Brian's Musings.....**

If you don't like something.....change it.  
If you can't change it.....change your attitude.  
Don't complain.

*Maya Angelou*

*Three good essentials to happiness in this life are:  
Something to do, something to love and something to hope for.*

*Joseph Addison*

Ruth offers this poem:

## DUSTING

A house becomes a home when you can write 'I love you', on the furniture. I cant tell you how many countless hours I have spent cleaning. I used to spend at least eight hours every weekend making sure things were just perfect, in case someone comes over.



Then I realised that no one ever came over. They were all out living life and having fun! Now when people visit, I find no need

to explain the condition of my home as they are more interested in hearing about the things I have been doing while I was away living life and having fun. If you haven't figured this out yet, then heed this advice.

Life is short, enjoy it.

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better

to paint a picture or write a letter,

Bake a cake or plant a seed, ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,

With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,

Music to hear, and books to read,

Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,  
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain.  
This day will not come round again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not kind.  
And when you go - and go you must -  
You yourself will make more dust!

Share this with the wonderful people in your life  
Its not what you gather, but what you scatter, that tells what  
kind of life you have lived.



## **Mothers**

For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully  
made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.

**Psalm 139 13 –14**

The mother is everything - she is our  
consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery, and our  
strength in weakness. She is the source of love,  
mercy, sympathy, and forgiveness. He who loses  
his mother loses a pure soul who blesses and guards  
him constantly.

**Kahil Gibran**



## **Lent and Easter Services**

**Maundy Thursday 14th April**  
7.30pm

Circuit Service at The Drive

**Good Friday 15th April 10.30am**

**Easter Sunday 17th April 11.00am**

Arrive at the earlier time to sing praises outside the church.

Don't forget to bring some flowers to dress the cross.

## **LENTEN SATURDAY LUNCH**

Bread, Cheese and Homemade Soup

12.30pm 2nd April

As a change and in keeping with Lent, we are inviting you to share a simple lunch.

There will be no charge, although a small donation will be most welcome.

If you would like to come along, please add your name to the list on the rota noticeboard or let Ruth or Lorraine know by 30th March.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Curious about Membership, want to know more?

Stay and have a chat with Michelle after the Saturday Lunch

## **OLD and TIRED**

**Do you have the interest and skills to repair books? Our pew bibles are looking a bit fragile and need some simple repairs. If you can help, please speak to one of the church stewards.**



## **MAUNDAY THURSDAY**

Maundy Thursday is part of the Christian celebration of Easter. The word Maundy comes from the latin, '*mandatum*', or 'command' which refers to the instructions Jesus gave his disciples on the night of His Last Supper with them; that people should love one another. He then washed the feet of his disciples as an act of kindness.

This period ('The Triduum') is one big celebration, remembering the last supper, the crucifixion and the death of Jesus, and the Resurrection to new life.

In many countries the day is known as Holy Thursday and is a public holiday. It is always on the last Thursday before Easter.



## A MEMORABLE VISIT

On 23<sup>rd</sup> February I received an email via the Church website from Richard Waple, who lives in America and is researching his family history, saying that his parents were married at our church in 1948 and Eric R Waple, his father, was present at the Stone laying ceremony for the building of the Sunday School block of the Church, in 1931.

Richard worked for Lloyds Bank and was sent to Chicago in 1975, for 2 years, but was kept there until retirement, and it was there he met and married his wife, Kathleen.

Through emails, I learned that Richard and his wife were coming to England and wanted to know if would be possible to see the Church. He was also interested in finding his parents grave and wondered if we had a cemetery at the Church. Evidently his grandfather had purchased a plot at Barkingside Cemetery, and I was able to find out who was buried in that plot and let him know. I was also able to obtain a plan so that he could find the plot easily.

Richard and Kathleen arrived in the UK and we arranged to meet at the Church on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. They came to Redbridge Station at about 9.30 and had a walk around the area to Highlands School, where Richard and his father went to school, Windermere Gardens, where some of the family had lived, and then met me at 12.30 at the Church.

As the Pre-School were at Lunch, Kay very kindly let us see the Hall block and the garden behind the Cranbrook room before we went into the Church. As we came out of the Hall, Richard looked across at the houses opposite and said "205 The Drive. That's where I used to live"

In the Church, they saw the list of preachers and the name Rev'd Mmasape Zihle, and asked "Where does he come from?" I explained that "She" came from South Africa. They were fascinated by the stained-glass windows. As I said, they are from the Chicago area of Illinois, USA, and two of the windows have Illinois addresses on them.

Myra Thomas came from Park Ridge, Illinois, and she was Sunday School Teacher to Sir Sydney Robinson, JP, when he lived in the USA for a time. Another window is in memory of Rev'd William Henry Holmes, Minister of the Hemenway Methodist Church in Evanston, Illinois, which was a church that Sir Sydney Robinson attended whilst in the area. Kathleen got very excited when she saw this window as Evanston was her birth town!

All four of the stained-glass windows in the Church were given by Sir Sydney Robinson. Until Myra Thomas passed away, I believe I am right in saying that the Thomas Family were very generous and sent money to the Church on many occasions, and one of those gifts was used to purchase the Choir Gowns that we now wear.

When we finished at the Church, we went the New Fairlop Oak for a light lunch to which I was treated! After lunch we made our way to Barkingside Cemetery where Richard was able to see the grave of his grandmother whilst Kathleen and I sat in the car.

The last port of call was Bancrofts School where I believe Richard's father was a pupil. Unfortunately, we arrived there as the pupils were coming out and it was not possible for Richard to gain entry to see if there were any records referring to him. Again, Kathleen and I sat in the car until Richard returned when I drove them back to Redbridge Station so that they could return to their lodgings.

Richard and Kathleen are a charming couple with whom I got on very well. It was a real pleasure to meet them and, as they come to the UK most years have said that would like to come to a service at the Church one year when they are here.

Brian Grinham.

Thank you Brian for your kindness. What an interesting day. I will be taking a fresh look at the stained glass.LB

# COME AND SING HANDEL'S MESSIAH

(selected choruses)

GOOD FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL

The Drive Methodist Church, Ilford IG1 3PW

4:00pm Registration

4:30-6:30pm Choral Rehearsal

7:30pm Public Performance

£10 for registering singers (includes hire of score if required)

Audience free – retiring collection

An annual fundraiser for Bahay Ng Pag Asa –  
the House of Hope

Orphanage and Outreach Centre, Santiago City,  
Philippines

Reg. Charity 1112167

email [nickiekenning@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nickiekenning@yahoo.co.uk)

or see Andrew Taylor for more details

I recommend this entertaining evening and for a most worthy cause LB



**Please sponsor an Easter Egg!**

It's wonderful that we can celebrate Easter again.

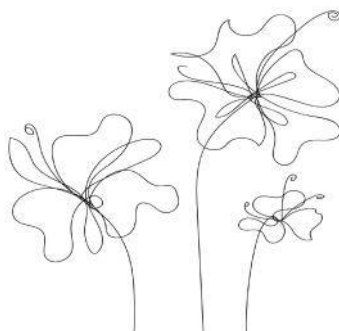
We are asking that you please sponsor an Easter Egg, that will be hidden at our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

All donations gratefully received.

During March, there will be a tree in the vestibule for you to hang your Easter messages on and a donation box for you to place your money in.

Thank you in advance.

**Jo and team TDY**



# **Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday 16th April**

**The Drive Methodist Church Hall**

**10.30am—12.30pm**

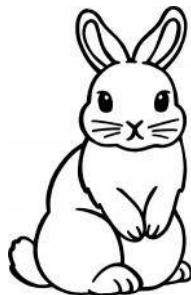
All are welcome to join in the fun

Lots of craft activities

Hot cross buns and refreshments.

Children £1.50 - adults are free

Parents/carers must accompany  
their children, at all times during  
the morning.



*You may recall from John's article in the March edition; the extensive damage caused to his flat by Storm Eunice. Here, John gives an update:*

Following on from the 5<sup>th</sup> March, the mop up operation still continues.

My flat is uninhabitable and completely bare. Dehumidifiers and fans are working 24 hours a day to dry out the walls and ceilings.

The roofers came in on 7<sup>th</sup> March. They spent the week removing what was left of the original roof covering and laying a new water proof membrane, which wasn't 100% successful as we found out when it next rained.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March the new insulation boards arrived, which took most of the week to install and seal. After that they will lay the final roof covering.

Builders have been booked to come into my flat and strip all the walls and ceilings. It then remains to be seen whether any of the ceilings need to be taken down and replaced.

I can well sympathise with the Ukrainian refugees who are being offered a room in a family home. To be displaced and have to rely on the charity of others is both humbling and gratifying.

*John, We do hope you will be back in your home very soon.*

*LB*

## ALL ABOUT

### HOT CROSS BUNS



*This is the season at which all good Christians devour hot cross buns for breakfast, under the comfortable impression that a religious duty is being performed.'*

So stated the magazine *Figaro* in London in 1836. Despite the enduring popularity of the hot cross bun — Tesco alone sell 70 million by the end of Easter weekend — it's doubtful that any person today savouring a toasted and buttered one at breakfast, teatime or at any other time for that matter much considers the godliness of their action.

Traditionally eaten on Good Friday to commemorate the Crucifixion, hot cross buns found an enemy in Elizabeth I, who, in 1592, finding too much Popery in their popularity, banned their consumption except on specific holidays. The embargo was eventually lifted and, by the 1700s, sweet, spicy, fruity buns were sold on the streets of towns and cities with the familiar cry of 'one a penny, two a penny' (a penny bought you a large bun or two small ones).

They were first recorded in the 1773 *Poor Robin's Almanack*, which seems rather late considering that, in the 14th century, a monk in St Albans is said to have distributed them among the needy.

Looking even further back, some have claimed that loaves marked with a cross found at Herculaneum are the original precursors to hot cross buns. It's technically possible that this was a commemorative act – Christ had been nailed to the cross half a century earlier after all, and some claim that there were Christians in Pompeii by AD79 – but it's likely they were incised in this way to make them easier to break apart.

Whatever the truth of it, we know for certain that crossed buns were eaten by the Saxons to honour Eostre, celebrated in April, whose name, according to the Venerable Bede, is the origin of the word Easter. For Eostre, goddess of the dawn and fertility, the cross symbolised the four quarters of the Moon. As was often the case, a Christian tradition was stamped on top of a pagan festival, turning Eostre's feast into a celebration of Christ. And so the cross atop the bun came to stand for not only the Crucifixion, but also the intersection of the Earth (horizontal) with Heaven (vertical) – the human and the divine.

Later enthusiasts included, unsurprisingly, Samuel Pepys, who enjoyed a hearty 'Lenten supper' of buns washed down with ale, and Dr Johnson, who, on Good Friday in 1783, sensibly breakfasted on 'tea without milk, and... a cross bun to prevent faintness'.



Whether Dr Johnson concerned himself with the pious nature of his repast, or with the myriad superstitions surrounding the sticky confections, is unknown.

These included the practice of sharing a bun to ensure lasting friendship ('Half for you and half for me,/Between us two shall goodwill be'), taking a bun to sea to prevent shipwreck and, most common of all, hanging a bun in the kitchen for a year to bring luck (and, hopefully, not too many flies), hence:

*Good Friday comes this month the old woman  
runs  
With one or two a-penny hot cross buns,  
Whose virtue is, if you believe what's said,  
They'll not grow mouldy like the common bread.*

There exists, in Essex, a hot cross bun that was baked more than 200 years ago, in 1807, and another in London is dated 1821, giving credence to the belief that a bun baked on Good Friday doesn't decay, although Lord (or perhaps Eostre) knows why.



*I have a very clear memory of my dad cycling to the bakers on Good Friday morning to buy Hot Cross Buns. They were in a white paper bag, warm sticky and beautifully glazed and shiny. We ate and enjoyed the delicious buns and waited until the next Good Friday, when we could enjoy them again and that's why they were so special. LB*



Lets Sing

## *In Christ Alone*

*In Christ alone my hope is found;*

*He is my light, my strength, my song;*

*This cornerstone, this solid ground,*

*Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.*

*What heights of love, what depths of peace,*

*When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!*

*My comforter, my all in all—*

*Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,*

*Fullness of God in helpless babe!*

*This gift of love and righteousness,*

*Scorned by the ones He came to save.*

*Till on that cross as Jesus died,*

*The wrath of God was satisfied;*

*For every sin on Him was laid—*

*Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then bursting forth in glorious day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory,*

*Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine—  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death—  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.*

*No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home—  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

*Andrew Rinaldi*

## **EASTER QUIZ**

**1.) When Jesus died, which of the following things did NOT happen?**

there was an earthquake

the veil of the temple was torn

the dead came to life

there was a flood that covered the earth

**2.) Who asked Pilate for Jesus' corpse and put it in his own tomb?**

Paul

Joseph of Arimathea

Mary Magdalene

Zebedee

**3.) What was placed in front of the door of the tomb to close it?**

a wall

a stone

a fence

a blanket

**4.) On what day was Jesus' resurrection?**

the tenth day

the third day

the same day as his crucifixion

the fourteenth day

**5.) What moved the object in front of the tomb door?**

the object moved itself

an angel

the earthquake

the 12 Apostles

**6.) Who did not see the empty tomb?**

Peter

John the Beloved

Joseph

Mary Magdalene

**7.) What was found in the tomb?**

a vase full of water

a sparrow

a growing lily

Jesus' burial clothes

**8.) Who did Mary Magdalene think Jesus was when she first saw Him after He had risen?**

the gardener

a shepherd

Pontius Pilate

one of the Twelve Apostles

**9.) Which of these things did Jesus NOT say to Mary?**

"Blessed art thou among women"

"Go to my brethren"

"Mary"

"Touch me not"

**10.) Which of the Twelve Apostles did not believe that Jesus was risen?**

John the Beloved

Simon Peter

Andrew

Thomas

Answers page 43

## **SAFEGUARDING at THE DRIVE**

Do you hold a role in the life of The Drive Church?

Are you a keyholder?

Do you have a current DBS check?

If so, it is a requirement of The Methodist Church that you take part in Safeguarding Foundation Level training.

This will be held on 23rd April 10.30am—12.30pm at The Drive.

Alternatively, you can complete this training online and I will provide you with details.

If you have recently taken part in Foundation or Advanced Level Training online, please let me know.

Thank you

Lorraine



Hello from the Church Flower Arrangers

With the Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend (2nd—5th June) very much in mind. We intend to make some special arrangements around the church in Jubilee colours.

We will be happy to incorporate any flowers or leaves you have in your gardens and also any dedications you may wish to include.

Best wishes

Janet, Ruth, Anne and Lorraine

**Graham Snelling is the Casework Safeguarding Worker for the Methodist London District. Here is one of his recent weekly articles**

**Bullies never win**

One of my mother's favourite aphorisms was 'bullies never win and cheats never prosper'. Re-assuring words, but challenging to appreciate when faced with the might of Russian armour on the streets of Kyiv. I'm not sure I can add much more to the millions of words already published in the last few days about President Putin's policy towards Ukraine, but the fact that he is acting as a bully seems not to be in dispute.

An article in yesterday's Guardian started with the words 'I have suffered from workplace bullying'. The headline was 'Why priests like me are joining trade unions' and the piece was written by an Anglican clergyman. He went on to describe a range of experiences he had suffered, and commented on the increasing number of C of E clergy joining the faith workers' branch of Unite. He also discussed the isolation felt by many priests when something goes wrong in their ministry and disciplinary or other measures are invoked. Having a supportive trade union seemed to him to be the best means of securing personal support, an idea that was probably anathema to many clergy up to a few years ago.

The Methodist Church has taken a strong stand against bullying behaviour, whoever the alleged perpetrator, publishing advice and guidance and investing in resources that aim to address the issue. The Safeguarding Team have also become more aware in recent years of cases of bullying that may fit the definition of a safeguarding concern but this can lead to some overlap between the various other Church systems designed to tackle things when they go wrong. What's really important though is that these systems work smoothly together to challenge the concerning behaviour and offer restitution and relief to the victim. It's also the case that some people who are the subject of a safeguarding concern will seek support from their trade union if they believe the allegation to be unfair or unfounded, which is another dimension.

The strength of the united response to Russian aggression, that has become evident in the last week, seems to have surprised the Kremlin. So one way of tackling a bully is to be joined up in opposing them. After all, as our training emphasises, safeguarding is all about working in partnership.







## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

## **EASTER QUIZ answers**

1. There was a flood that covered the earth

Matthew 27: 5-53

2. Joseph of Arimathea

Matthew 27: 57-58

3. A Stone

Matthew 27:60

4. The third day

Matthew 27: 63

5. An angel

Matthew 28: 2

6. Joseph

John 20: 1-3

7. Jesus' burial clothes

John 20: 6-7

8. The gardener

John 20:15

9. 'Blessed art thou among women'

John 20: 16-17

10. Thomas

John 20: 24

## An Easter Blessing



May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year  
bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most  
dear.

And may Christ, Our Risen Saviour, always be there by  
your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving  
guide. Lord we lift our hearts to you



## **CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL**

**) SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 12.30PM**

**Lenten Lunch in the Church Parlour**

**) SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 11.15AM**

**Led by: Rev. Mmasape Zihle Including Holy Communion**

**) SATURDAY 9TH APRIL 2pm—3.45pm**

**Community Defibrillator Awareness training. Church Hall**

**) PALM SUNDAY 10TH APRIL 11.15AM**

**Led by: Mrs Jan Pearson**

**) CIRCUIT MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

**14th April 7.30pm .**

**Led by: Rev. Mmasape Zihle**

**) GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 15TH APRIL 10.30AM**

**Led by: Own Arrangement**

**) 15TH APRIL 7.30pm**

**COME & SING HANDEL'S MESSIAH**

**) SATURDAY 16th APRIL 10.00am—12.**

**Easter Egg Hunt/Craft and Activities.**

**) 1pm Dedication to Roy Brunnen**

**) 17TH APRIL EASTER DAY 11.00AM**

**Led by: Collins Frimpong Manso**

**) SUNDAY 24TH APRIL**

**Led by: Rev. Mmasape Zihle**