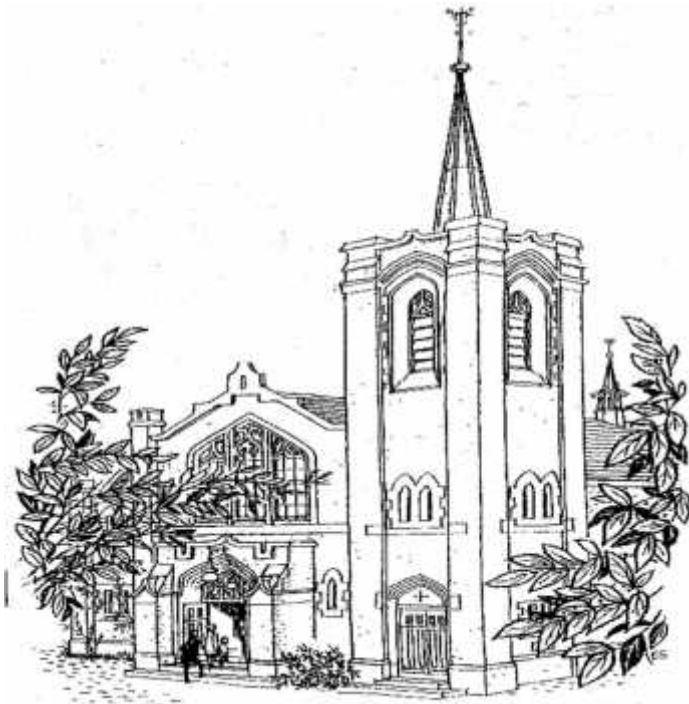


THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH

EASTERN AVENUE ILFORD IG 13PP

NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2023



Minister Rev. Mmasape Zihle

Email: mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk

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.

New President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference elected for 2024/25

The Methodist Conference has elected the Revd Helen Cameron to serve as President and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey to serve as Vice-President, starting their year of office when the Representative Session of the Methodist Conference in Leeds in June 2024.

The Revd Helen Cameron is currently the Chair of the Northampton District, Moderator of the Free Churches Group and President of Churches Together in England. Helen represented the FCG at the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen, reading prayers during the service and was also present at the Coronation of King Charles. Helen has worked extensively with survivors of sexual abuse and co-wrote the study guide Reflect and Respond with members of the Methodist Survivors Advisory Group.

Mrs Carolyn Godfrey is the District Safeguarding Officer covering both the Darlington and Newcastle Districts and a local preacher. She has a background in pastoral care and child protection within the education system helping to support children with additional needs and families facing complex issues. Her experience in her safeguarding role, education and lifelong engagement with the Methodist church have given her a drive to understand and challenge the use and misuse of power.

We send our blessings and best wishes to Helen and Carolyn as they begin their service . LB

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



We are concerned to know that the **Gabbidon family** were recently bereaved following the death of Amy's brother. We send our prayers to Amy and all members of her family.

Whilst compiling this newsletter, **Sandra Runeckles** has been home for a short while after a lengthy stay in hospital and has now returned to hospital. We offer our prayers for Sandra, Colin, Jenny and Martin and hope that Sandra is soon home once again.

Audrey Taylor has had treatment on her knee which has given her some relief.

Sending love to **Thea** who has had a stressful week, moving out of her house and having to sort out things that other housemates left there. Chin Up Thea

While it is too soon to know of any exam/results news from our young people, we hope they are taking some well earned time to rest and relax after all their efforts.

HELLO to all our friends who are unable to worship with us regularly at church.

LET US PRAY

Dear God,

as we start this day,

help us remember that we belong to You.

*Keep our feet from stumbling and our minds from
wandering into distractions that could steal precious time
and energy from the most important things*

You have designed for me.

We are proud to be Your children, Lord.

We so grateful that You died for us,

rising again on Your own new morning.

*Every day is now filled with the wonder of Your love, the
freedom of Your Spirit, and the joy of knowing You.*

Amen.

Rochelle

Birthdays and

Celebrations.



Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday

Michelle Garner on 3rd, Lindsey Higgins on 4th,
Elizabeth Mandlate on 9th and Tim Wright on
29th.

‘HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL’

Anne and Ian Warden will be coming to London shortly and are hoping to meet up with some church friends for lunch at Zizi in Westfield Stratford. If you are interested please give Ian a call as he will need to make a booking.

Prayers for the summer months from Oli



July Blessings

*May your faith in God bring
Peace, Hope and Love to your heart
And everlasting Joy to your soul.*

*May you find reasons to smile
and rejoice every precious moment.*

*May the blessings of the Lord shine upon
you today and every day of this new
month and always*



Welcome August

*May God turn your can not's into can's,
your confusion into clarity,
your burdens into blessings
and your stress into peace.*

Bible Reading Group



JULY

Friday 28th July at 11:00 am at Jan and John's. We will discuss Hosea chapters 9-14 followed by refreshments.

AUGUST

The August meeting will be moved to September 8th as many will be on holiday in August.

SEPTEMBER

Bible Reading Group will meet on September 8th (instead of August) at 11:00 at Jan and John's. Discussion book to be arranged in July. As always, discussion to be followed by refreshments.

Jan and John.

Fancy a Coffee and a Chat?

Come along to the Gardeners café in Valentines Park at 11.am, where you are sure to find a few church friends who will be pleased to see you.

Refugee Week took place from 19– 25th June and on this 25th anniversary COMPASSION was the chosen theme.

“Our task must be to free ourselves – by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.”- Albert Einstein

Why compassion?

The last few years have been challenging for all of us. We are still adjusting to new realities post-lockdown as well as responding to new crises. In the UK, dangerous anti-migration government rhetoric continues, along with inhumane conditions for asylum seekers.

But, none of these things happen in isolation. We know how interconnected our world is: how something seemingly “far away” impacts everyone. All of this makes us even more aware of the need to widen our circles of compassion.

Within our own experiences are all the tools we need to be compassionate, not just to ourselves and those in our immediate circle but to all our human neighbours and our one shared home, planet earth.

We remember the women, children and men whose lives were lost when the boat they were on sank in the Mediterranean. We pray for their families, their friends and all who knew and loved them.

Grange Hill Methodist Church now acts as a Distribution Centre for the Redbridge Food Bank. People who have been referred to Foodbank by a 'Referral Agency' and have a voucher will receive an Emergency Food Box.

The number of volunteers has been increasing but we are always looking for more as we are now running a Café alongside the Foodbank. Open on Saturdays 10am-12noon .

You can contact

***Redbridge Foodbank: 020 518 0056
info@redbridgefoodbank.org.***

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.

If you are struggling or in financial crisis.....*Please call a free national helpline, **Help through Hardship**, to talk confidentially with a trained Citizens Advice adviser:*

0808 2082138 open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

LETS SING!

YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY

And be led forth with peace.

And the mountains and the hills

Shall break forth before you.

There'll be shouts of joy,

And the trees of the field

Shall clap, shall clap their hands.

And the trees of the fields

shall clap their hands,

And the trees of the fields

shall clap their hands,

And the trees of the fields

shall clap their hands,

And you'll go out with joy.

Steffi Geiser Rubin & Stuart Dauermann 1975



NHS 75 years— 5th July

Treating over a million people a day in England, the NHS touches all of our lives. When it was founded in 1948, the NHS was the first universal health system to be available to all, free at the point of delivery. Today, 9 in 10 people agree that healthcare should be free of charge, more than four in five agree that care should be available to everyone, and that the NHS makes them most proud to be British.

This is because, since 1948, the NHS has always evolved and adapted to meet the needs of each successive generation.

From Britain's first kidney transplant in 1960, to Europe's first liver transplant in 1968.

From the world's first CT scan on a patient in 1971, revolutionising the way doctors examine the body, to the world's first test-tube baby born in 1978.

Large-scale vaccination programmes protected children from whooping cough, measles and tuberculosis, and in 1999 the meningitis C vaccine was offered nationally in a world first.

The NHS has delivered huge medical advances, including the world's first liver, heart and lung transplant in 1987, pioneering new treatments, such as bionic eyes and, in more recent times, the world's first rapid whole genome sequencing service for seriously ill babies and children.

We will be celebrating this milestone by showcasing the best of the NHS and encouraging as many of you as possible to join us with NHS 75 activities.

The NHS plays an important role in all our lives.

As the service turns 75, we are reminding people about the many ways they can help and support the NHS:

Join the NHS team

Volunteer at your local NHS organisation

Give blood

Join the NHS Organ Donor Register

Support NHS charities

Join the NHS 1000 miles challenge

Get involved in research projects

Light up blue for NHS75!

To help mark the 75th anniversary of the NHS, we're encouraging as many buildings, historic monuments and other high profile sites across the country to 'light up' blue on the evening of 5 July.

Many monuments and public buildings will be lit in blue light.

Will you show your support and put a blue light in your window?

WINDRUSH 75

This year marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948. The ship's 500 mostly Jamaican passengers are seen by some as a symbol of modern multicultural Britain. They were young people courageous in responding to the invitation to help in the rebuilding of Britain after the second world war, resilient in the face of an indifferent welcome typified by signs saying 'no Irish, no blacks, no dogs'. They were faithful in pursuing their hopes and dreams for a brighter future. Two thousand of us will gather in Westminster Abbey on 22 June later this year to give thanks to God and to honour the Windrush Generation.

Theologian Dr David Muir sees similarities between the life of the Windrush Generation in Britain and a letter to Jewish exiles in Babylon written many years ago by an Old Testament Prophet. In their vulnerable state, they received from Jeremiah a message of hope and instruction to play their part in the society; settle down, buy properties, marry, have children, and pray for the peace of the country in which they were captives, because as it prospered they too prospered.

Today the Windrush generation's contribution is evidenced in our society: in religion and belief, food and music, sports and literature, transport and the health service – as they sing the Lords song in a strange land.

God of the exile, thank you for the contributions of the Windrush generation to British life and culture. Thank you for those who bore the heat of explicit racism, refusing to bow to its demeaning demands, but lived out their conviction that all are made in the image and likeness of God, and that the humanity of none should be denied.

Amen.

REDBRIDGE NEWS

OUR STREETS

On two wonderfully sunny days last month, the Our Streets team held fantastic community planting days. At Ken Aston Square and Seven Kings Station, nearly 200 residents of all ages helped to plant over 500 beautiful flowers, brightening up the neighbourhood and attracting those all-important pollinators to the area.

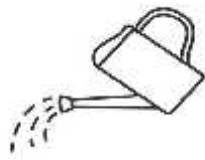
Community friendships blossomed, with more than half of those surveyed at the events saying they had met other local people they would stay in touch with and that they'd love to join in with future events.

Community gardening is one of several eco-projects under the borough's Our Streets Strategy, which focuses on social action and working with local communities to keep Redbridge's street scene green, clean, safe, and attractive.

Watch this space for details of our next community gardening days. If you can't wait to get started why not look at adopting your own areas for community gardening



We have an impressive green fingered community in Redbridge and often get asked about ways local people can be involved in community gardening. Helping weed and water local planters is a great way to start, especially on hot days when flowers might be in need of an extra drink.



Community Gardens

Do you live near a bare or unloved bit of land? Do you have an idea about how your community can bring it to life? Why not get together with family, friends and neighbours to start planting on your street or in your local neighbourhood? Complete the community garden form below to apply to adopt a community garden.

Community Gardening in Redbridge Parks

Redbridge has a huge range of parks and open spaces to work in, which means that there are plenty of opportunities within the borough to get involved with many different activities, visit the Vision website for more information about getting involved in Redbridge parks.

Contact:

www.redbridge.gov.uk/our-streets/spruce-up-your-neighbourhood

A concert from the
VALENTINE SINGERS

A-ROVING – Songs of Travel

Missa Sancti Jacobi *A Pilgrim Mass* – Robert John
Read

A-courting *A cycle of traditional folk songs* – Chris-
topher Brown

Traditional songs and sacred music from Spain and
Italy

Saturday 8 July at 8:00pm

at St Andrew's Church, The Drive, Ilford IG1 3PE
£13 (£7 students/benefit holders) (buy in advance –
£15/£9 on the door!)

Free admission for under 16s!

phone 01277 364772 or visit our website
valentinesingers.org
or see Andrew Taylor

val-



Safeguarding Foundation Module

The Drive will be hosting this training on 28th June 12-3pm and 1st July 1-4pm.

Interested? Email Lorraine at

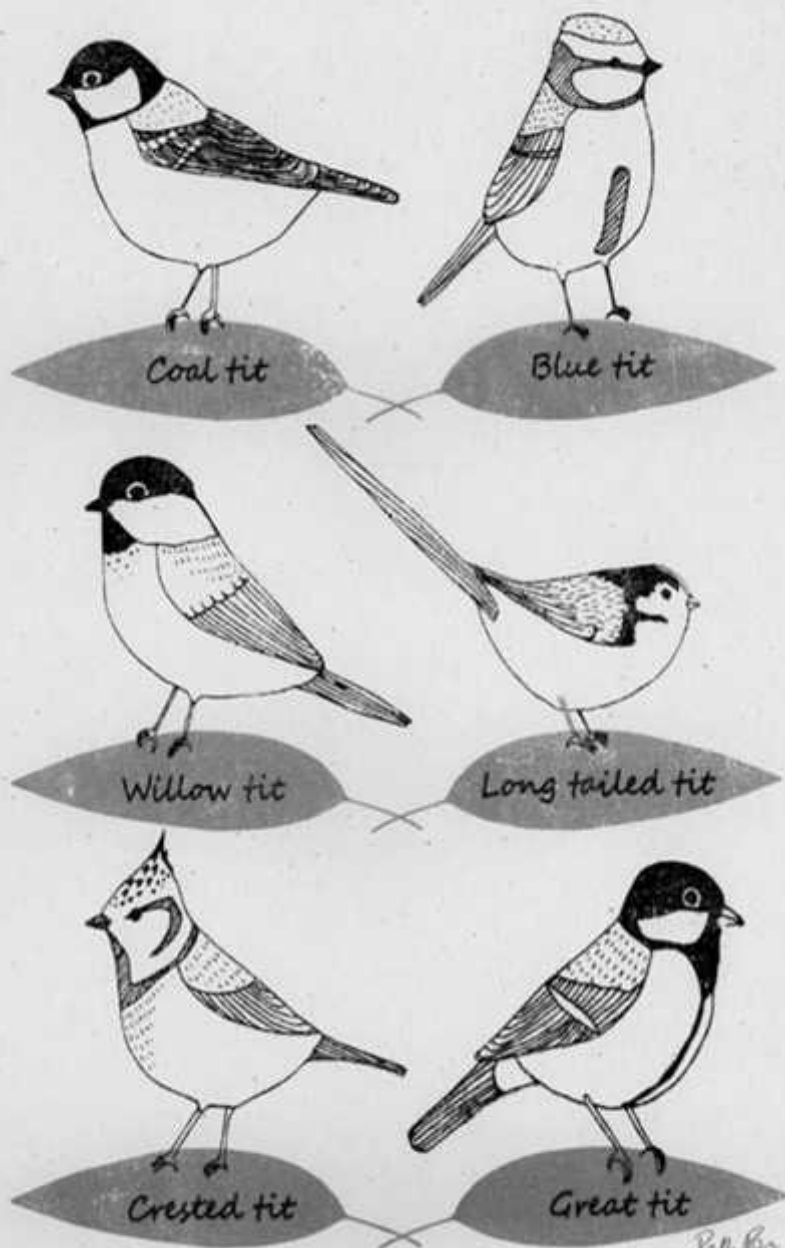
safeguarding@drive-methodist.church

Changes to booking Safeguarding Training

Welcome to the safeguarding training page. Here you will find information on various safeguarding training and events available throughout the District. Please note that all training registration will now be accessible on this page and no longer through Eventbrite.

Training information will continue to be advertised via the Weekly Update where necessary, but please do remember to check this page on a regular basis to see what events are have available.

For those undertaking the Advanced Training, the next Online Gathered Sessions will be on 20th July and 24th August 7-9pm



Evening Prayer with the Choir

You are invited to join the choir on Tuesday 4th July for a service of Evening Prayer. 8pm in the church, followed by refreshments

The perfect way to round off our Church Anniversary celebrations.

Andrew

Trip to Herne Bay

Ilford Methodist Church are arranging a coach trip to Herne Bay for 12th August. Anyone interested should contact Mrs Lorna Brown on 07939 927794 or lornadawn5@aol.com



Made in His Image

I've just sewn on a shirt button. No big news! When I think of the process though, there was quite a lot involved. First I noticed the button when I emptied the washing machine, then I went through the clothes to see what it had come off. I left the button in a small container where I knew I would be able to find it. After taking the dry clothes off the line I put the shirt where I would find that! I needed to examine how the button had been sewn on in the first place, so it wouldn't look odd when done. Two holes or four, stitched in bars – horizontally or vertically – or with threads crossing? The tiny holes in the fabric showed me where to place the button correctly. What colour thread, and how much, so it would look just like the others? Then a quick look over the rest to see if any were loose before one got lost

How many seemingly mundane things do we do on a daily basis? We don't often appreciate the knowledge, skills, observation and experience required for such tasks.

When God created man ("in our image, in our likeness" Genesis 1) He set us to rule over all the earth and every living creature. He also equipped us for every skill needed to do so.

We are constantly hearing about how much we need to do to rescue a dying planet, but, sadly, with little or no regard for its Creator. How about we turn to the Creator in thanks for all He has already done, and for guidance to carry out His will?

We are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14), and that includes our ingenuity. The next time someone calls you amazing, awesome or a genius don’t just brush them off, explain why you are!

God bless,

Rosemary J

Sue Ruckes heard Rosemary talk about the shirt button and thought it should be shared. Thanks Rosemary and Sue.LB



*I will praise Thee,
for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are Thy works,
and that my soul knoweth right well.*

Seven Kings Thanksgiving Service

When I attended Seven Kings Methodist Church for the first time on 11th June, I found that it looked very similar to our own church, even down to the colour of the carpet on the dais! I was reliably told by Susan that the same architect fashioned both churches. I think there were 6 of us representing the Drive and we were joined by Mmasape and Andrew, who played the organ and piano.

The service was very well attended; on what could have been a sombre occasion it was lovely to see the church so full and hear all the voices raised in song. There was a sense of fellowship, which was deepened by us taking communion together.

We had orders of service to follow and heard from a number of people - some of whom were present while others couldn't be with us in person - who wanted to express their gratitude for the life of the church and their place in it. We heard from our own Brian Grinham whose mother and father met when they both worshipped at Seven Kings.

Our ministers Dino, Mmasape and Andy took part in the service as well as our District Chair Revd Nigel Cowgill, reminding us that though the doors to Seven Kings Church building may close, this will not end or undo the work done in bringing people to Christ at that location. It was both moving and fitting to hear prayers read out from the door, aisle, piano and altar, remembering and giving thanks for all who played a part in service at Seven Kings for more than 100 years.

After the service there were refreshments, including 2 very large and beautiful cakes made by Vilnet Slack and showing pictures of how the church looked through the years. It really was a very special service and if you were unable to get there, you can watch it on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/live/dfmdOJuoSag?feature=share>

Michelle

Time for Tea...!

Mmasape has family to a summer garden tea on the 8th July from 2.30 - 4.30 at the manse -



invited the church member garden tea on the 2.30 - 4.30 at the

46 Lyndhurst Gardens in Barking.

Any offers of baked goodies welcome.

Common British Birds

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JACKDAW
 ROBIN
 GREENFINCH
 STARLING
 PIED WAGTAIL
 PIGEON
 MAGPIE
 GREAT TIT
 ROOK
 LONG TAILED TIT
 THRUSH
 BLACKBIRD
 BLUE TIT
 GOLDFINCH
 SPARROW
 CROW

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/36032/>

CIRCUIT NEWS from Michelle

Revd Kido is now on sabbatical and we hope he and his family enjoy this time. Our Superintendent Dino and Elizabeth have a farewell service on 9th July, 4pm at Barking Methodist, he is retiring and returning to Mozambique. Dino leaves us after 13 years in the circuit, around 9 of which were with us at the Drive; please put this date in your diary.

When Dino leaves, we will have 3 ministers including Deacon Andy Packer; Mmasape and Kido will share the Superintendent role for the next year and there will be a service of 'welcome' on Sunday 10th September, 4pm at Goodmayes.

To help facilitate the smooth running of the circuit with three ministers, six of the churches in the circuit have been paired up and hold United services. The churches involved have found greater connection with each other and been able to learn from their sister church. Ways of allowing all churches to be involved in united services are still being investigated.

Sadly, both Kido and Mmasape will be leaving the Circuit in 2024. We will be entering into the stationing process, hoping to find two ministers; I will let you know more about this process as it unfolds.

There has been a lot of change in the circuit in the past few years and we still have some challenges to come. However, at the Annual meeting it felt as though we were prepared to rise to the challenge and to make the most of the year ahead, to continue growing and shaping our church and circuit.

Michelle

News from the Religious Education Resources Project

Dear Friends,

Now that we are coming to the end of the Methodist year here is an update on the work of the Project to date.

Over this year I have been into our local schools to take 25 lessons and 2 assemblies for the whole school. There have also been some large Zoom sessions with a number of classes together. There have been 11 visits by school parties to our Circuit churches and I am still taking new bookings up to the end of term. The work this year reflects a change in demand from schools as they reassess their priorities after lockdown.

Although demand for lessons on Christian topics has been less than in other years, church visits have increased as schools focus more on the essential elements of the RE curriculum.

I have lost many contacts this year as school staff have left and I have had to rebuild new relationships with schools. This year I have dealt with several last minute cancellations and lots of new teaching staff who have not had contact with us before. It has therefore been a challenging year.

There have however been some encouraging opportunities including the new church visit initiative for special needs and disabilities children, giving them a chance to experience church in a calm peaceful environment.

I will reflect more on these changes over the summer and what they may mean for the work of the RERP.

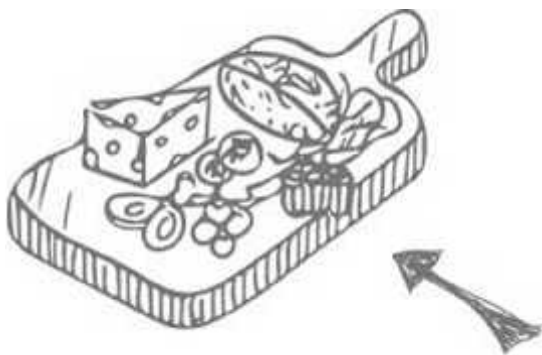
God bless

Carol Dawson (key Schools Worker Religious Ed Resources Project)

THE SATURDAY

LUNCH

Homemade Quiche
and salad £4



Our next lunch will
be on 12th August at
the usual time of 12.30pm

We look forward to seeing you.

Don't forget to put your name and meal of choice on
the form at the back of the church.

What happened to July's lunch you might ask?

Well, as there is the church Anniversary Picnic at The
Rodings on 2nd July, we thought you might enjoy
that instead.



We would like your lunch ideas for future lunches.

Michelle's on the Run again!

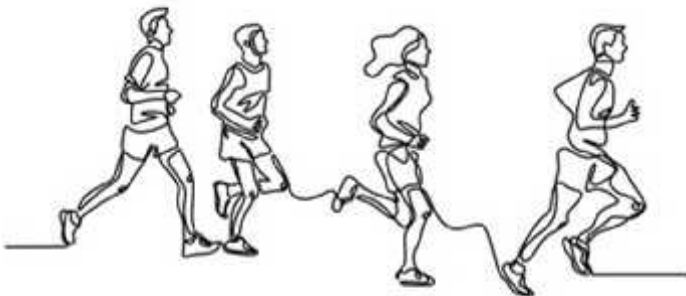
Hi church family,

I am participating in CANCER RESEARCH RACE FOR LIFE this year.

Any donation will be gratefully received. Please give online or let me know if you would prefer to give something in person. Thank you.

Cancer is happening right now, which is why I'm taking part in a Race for Life to raise money and save lives.

1 in 2 people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. Every single pound you donate makes a difference to Cancer Research UK's groundbreaking work. <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/michelles-team-2222>





FILMS AT THE DRIVE

We are proposing to start showing films again on 9th September at 2.30 pm in the Church Parlour.

As usual there will be no charge, but a donation towards expenses would be appreciated. We have a comfort break about half way through when tea/ coffee and biscuits will be available.

The film to be shown is
“The Case for Christ”

CARERS UK

Information advice and support for people who are looking after a friend or family member.

Advice line: 0808 808 7777

Disability Rights UK Information and advice on a wide range of issues for disabled people.

Disabled Students Helpline: 0800 328 5050

Personal Budgets Helpline: 0300 555 152

24-hour National Domestic Violence A national service for women experiencing domestic violence or others calling on their behalf.

Helpline: 0808 2000 247

Refuge - Help for Teenage Girls

Information and advice on violence against teenage girls and young women.

Helpline: 0808 2000 247 Advice line: 0808 801 0660

Men's advice line Free advice and support for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse .

Helpline: 0808 801 0327

AL-ANON Helpline: 020 7403 0888 (10am-10pm) For families affected by alcohol abuse

Samaritans. To talk about anything that is upsetting you, you can contact Samaritans 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You can call 116 123 (free from any phone), email jo@samaritans.org

SANeline. If you're experiencing a mental health problem or supporting someone else, you can call **SANeline on 0300 304 7000** (4.30pm–10.30pm every day).

ChildLine

Free confidential service to help young people under 19 with any issue they are going through.

Helpline: 0800 1111

Family Lives (previously known as Parent line)

Offers information, advice, guidance and support on any aspect of parenting and family life, including bullying.

Helpline: 0808 800 2222

The Mix

The Mix's Crisis Messenger text service 24/7 and open to anyone aged 25 or under living in the UK. If you're in crisis and need to talk, text **THEMIX to 85258**.

Webchat and Helpline service for free and confidential information and help on a wide range of issues for 13 to 25 year olds. All issues.

CHURCH DIARY FOR July 2023



1st@1pm-4pm Safeguarding Foundation training
(see inside for details)

2nd @11.15am Sunday Morning Worship
Church Anniversary — led by Jan Pearson
followed by a church picnic at The Roding's (details inside)

9th@11.15am Sunday Morning Worship— with HC
Led by Rev. Mmasape Zihle.
4pm—Farewell Service for Rev Bernadino at Barking Church

16th@11.15am Sunday Morning Worship—led by
Dr Anthony Russell.

23rd@11.15am Sunday Morning Worship—led by
Matthew Walton –Thorne

28th @ 11.00am Bible Reading Group
(see inside for details)

30th @11.15am Sunday Morning Worship
led by Rev. Mmasape Zihle

CHURCH DIARY FOR August 2023



6th @11.15am Sunday Morning Worship —
led by Sharon Grundy

13th @11.15am Sunday Morning Worship— with HC
Led by Rev. Mmasape Zihle.

20th @11.15am Sunday Morning Worship—
led by Foluso Famoyin Egbo

27th @11.15am Sunday Morning Worship—
led by Florence Amoah

No Bible Reading Group for August
(see inside for details)

Services every Sunday at 11.15am

Communion Services as announced

Senior Church Stewards: Michelle Garner, Diane Foster
stewards@drive-methodist.church

Property Steward Bookings Jeremy Foster
bookings@drive-methodist.church

Church Council Secretary: Priya Inbakumar
secretary@drive-methodist.church

Music @ The Drive Andrew Taylor
music@drive-methodist.church

Pastoral Secretary pastoral@drive-methodist.church

Flower Rota Secretary Anne Dellow

The Drive Youth Jo Wright
junior-church@drive-methodist.church

Safeguarding @The Drive Lorraine Bendon
safeguarding@drive-methodist.church

JMA Secretary: Diane Foster
jma@drive-methodist.church

Newsletter Editor: Lorraine Bendon
newsletter@drive-methodist.church

Pre School: Kay Whiddon
Pre-school@drive-methodist.church

Term time only: Mon – Fri 9.15am -12pm, 1pm-3pm