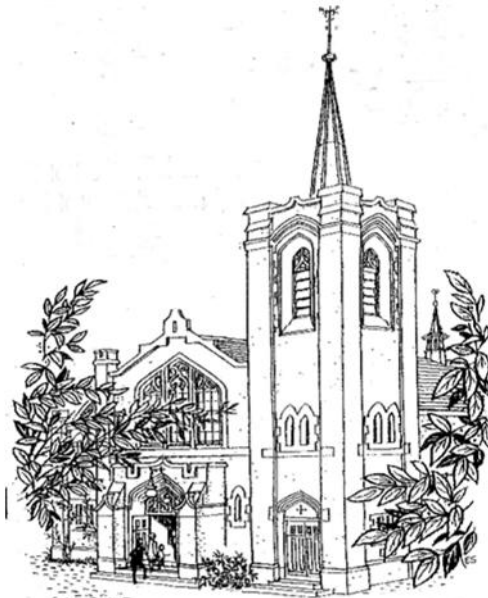


# **The Drive Methodist Church**

## **Newsletter**

**January 2024**



**Eastern Avenue Ilford IG13PP**

**Minister Rev. Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni**

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

**[www.drive-methodist.church](http://www.drive-methodist.church)**

## **The Drive Methodist Church Mission Statement**

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.

To 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.

## **Welcome to 2024**

Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come. All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also. Our message is that God was making the whole human race his friends through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins, and he has given us the message which tells how he makes them his friends.

Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends! Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5.17

### **The Good News:**

**Out with the old, in with the new.**

**Christ is here to lead us into a brand new year, where we can start fresh with a brand new, positive mindset.**

## **A Prayer for Peace and Safety**

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single  
peace:

let the design of thy great love  
lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows:  
and give peace to thy Church,  
peace among nations,  
peace in our dwellings,  
and peace in our hearts:  
through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## **HOMELESS IN REDBRIDGE**

Call us on 0208 708 4002 if you are homeless now and have nowhere to stay tonight. This is a landline telephone number.

Email us if you do not have a phone. We can arrange an emergency face to face interview at Lynton House in Ilford if needed.

We will check to see if you are eligible for emergency accommodation. Emergency accommodation could be a room in hostel or self-contained flat.

**This accommodation might not be in the borough of Redbridge.**

**Redbridge has a housing policy for those who are vulnerable**

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

We are saddened that our dear brave friend Josie Jiggins died at home on 19th December. We pray for Josies family and friends.



Our thoughts and prayers remain with Ndoda Stephen Maroti and his family.

Colin, Jenny and Martin remain in our prayers with our Nativity Service dedicated to our friend Sandra who is very missed.

**Hello**, to all our friends who are unable to attend church.  
May the Lord bless you and keep you.



Congratulations to Thea, Tim and Aleena on their recent graduations.

### **Birthday wishes are sent to:**

Jo and Funmi for 31st December

Phelo for 5th January

Mathew Foster for 9th January



## Nativity

Thank you to everyone who was involved in our Nativity and Toy Service. It was wonderful to hear the story of Jesus' birth, with some modern twists!

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful New Year.

Jo

## An Observation

I just love how our Nativity production has taken place over the past few years. Always there is the initial enthusiasm but this wanes quite quickly with the pressure of work and education on the leaders and young people.

Allocating roles.....fairly flexible, unless you are Emily .

Emily is Mary OK!

Rehearsals....what rehearsals?

Suddenly its Nativity Sunday and this wonderful meaningful story unfolds beautifully. Well done everyone.

Note: Production directors, Jo and Michelle might not agree with my observations!!!

Lorraine

## BIBLE READING GROUP



### There are two meetings in January

We will meet on Friday 5th January at 11.00am where we will discuss 1 Corinthians ch. 1-4.

And also on Friday 26th January at 11.00am where we will discuss 1 Corinthians ch. 5-8.

Both meetings will be at Jan and Johns and on both occasions the discussions will be followed by refreshments.

All Welcome, Jan and John

Calling All Readers!



A big thank you to all those who very kindly read our Bible lessons each week. Our list of readers has unfortunately decreased recently for a variety of reasons. I appreciate that some people may not be comfortable with standing at the front of the church and reading, but if this is something you are able and happy to do then let me know and I will be very pleased to add your name to the list.

Thank you

Diane Foster

## Christmas at The Drive



Walking into church during the Christmas period is such a delight for all the senses. The expertly dressed Christmas trees, the Nativity scene in the foyer, the beautiful flower arrangements and decorated candle stands, the advent ring and readings, that starts our advent journey, and of course the Carol service with "sweet singing in the choir" accompanied by the resounding organ and delicious mince pies in the Parlour. These have all been made possible, and thoughtfully arranged, by many of our church family. Thank you to you all.

**Jo**

I'm sure I speak for the flower arranging team when I say it is such a pleasure and privilege to decorate our church with flowers at any time, but especially special for Christmas,

Initially the Advent ring is prepared in time for the start of Advent, using mainly greenery gathered from the church gardens. Anne often brings lunch or something yummy and we take the chance of a catch up chat.

Planning generally starts with discussing the donations and dedications we receive and what is requested. We then take a look through our boxes and sort out the gold and other shiny stuff. Next we go in search of appropriate fresh flowers which are prepared and conditioned to extend their life in the displays, which are made ready in time for the morning of the Candlelit Carol Service.

If we are lucky, Andrew arrives to practice the Christmas music.....perfect!

Anne, Janet, Ruth & Lorraine



## A BLESSING FOR A HOPEFUL BEGINNING

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and the princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
then the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,  
to heal those broken in spirit,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the oppressed,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among all peoples,  
to make a little music with the heart.

And to radiate the Light of Christ,  
every day, in every way,  
in all that we do and in all that we say.

Then the work of Christmas begins.

Howard Thurman

## **JOSIE JIGGINS**



Josie's funeral will be held at  
Forest Park Crematorium in  
Hainault at 11.am on 15th January

This will be followed by a  
gathering at Josies home.

Flowers are welcome or donations  
to Francis Hospice or PDSA

### **Tributes to Josie**

I'm so sad that I have to say 'goodbye' to my dear friend  
Josie, who I have known for what seems like forever.

I first met her well over 40 years ago when my children and I  
returned to live in Redbridge and came back to the Church.

She approached me about helping in the Church crèche  
which she organised and we spent many hours putting the  
world to rights while looking after the little ones. Our  
friendship continued as our lives progressed with me  
travelling to visit my children after they moved abroad and by  
that time, she had slowed down and life was a lot  
quieter.

Through it all, she was always really interested about where I  
had been and what I had been doing. Our in-depth chats  
continued over tea at her home and progressed to us  
debating various news items. Politics, snooker (with special  
affection for local boy, Ronnie O'Sullivan, who she knew as a  
child), no subject was off limits and she had an opinion on  
everything.

During one of those visits and while I was doing my handicraft, she said “I really envy you doing that, I used to love knitting but I can’t follow a pattern these days” to which I said “if you want to knit, why don’t you knit squares which I could make into a blanket”. She said OK and, before she had time to think about it, I supplied her with wool and needles. We agreed on a size and she turned into a woman possessed, a virtual knitting machine! She chose the wool, the design and between us, we created a lovely blanket which she ultimately gave to Priya’s Mum, Christine as a house-warming present.

The squares which kept appearing by the hundreds turned into baby blankets for Sandra Runeckles to take to the special baby unit at Newham General Hospital where she worked as a midwife.

Josie was ageless and full of fun, loved her family and meeting new people, would never say a bad word about anyone (unless he was a politician!!) and cared about everyone. She was especially proud of the young ones at church who she thought of as her babies from their time in her crèche.

Life had become a struggle since she broke her leg a couple of years ago. However, she bravely confronted her fear of hospitals by agreeing to surgery and rehab in order to return to her own home and, with the fantastic support of her son, Colin, who arranged everything, is where she remained until she left us.

During one of our most recent chats, I asked her about her favourite song which she surprised me by saying was John Lennon’s “Imagine”. When I asked her why, she said that the words were what she prayed for every night. Words like:

*‘Imagine all the people living life in peace - nothing to kill or die for - no need for greed or hunger’*

Josie is now at peace and I'm so grateful to have been her friend and will be carrying on her prayer for a kinder, more caring world.

Ruth Joyce

( Ruth, who was a Church Pastoral Worker for Josie, carried out her role with the utmost compassion and caring, Thank you Ruth. LB)



### My Tribute to Josie

I first met Josie almost 42 years ago when in her position as Church Cradle Roll Secretary she made a visit to my house. I was fairly new to The Drive Church then and due to the untimely passing of my mum, the baptism of my son had to be re - scheduled.

When Josie came to visit her kindness and compassion were of great comfort to me. She understood the demands of parenthood and with her Christian values and beliefs she was the 'face' of our church and a reminder that our church family were always there for us. Josie was never intrusive but always re- assuring and kind.

When my daughter was born four years later, at her baptism Josie presented us with the Baptismal Candle and continued to visit us at home and the children got to know her well as they joined the Junior church. Josie was always 'there' for us and as they grew older she was always interested in where the path of life was taking them.

In recent years it was my turn to visit Josie as she had a fall. This led to her making the decision to accept support from family and care services, in order to stay in her own home. During the last 18 months I never heard Josie complain at all and through that time her resilience and fortitude was a credit to the incredible lady that she was.

Janet and I enjoyed our visits to Josie, we had a mutual agreement that an hour would be just right but as there were always lots of topics to talk about, we sometimes stayed over the hour but Josie never seemed to mind!

Thank you dear Josie for all your friendship and love.  
Anne Dellow and Family.



## **Josie**

Josie was the baptismal secretary at The Drive for many years. When I had my daughter, Lorna, Josie came round to our house and brought a little book explaining the baptism of a child. She was so kind and friendly and had travelled some way on the bus to get there. She did the same for my two sons too. At their christenings Josie presented them with their baptismal candles and said the familiar blessing.

Josie sent cards and good wishes to them as they grew into young adults. She always asked after them and was pleased to hear how they were getting on.

Josie was the one who asked me to join the Junior Church and crèche rota, and, as the saying goes, the rest is history.

In later years Josie would sit in the back row at church, on the comfy chairs with her friends, and enjoy the Sunday morning service with them. I was always grateful for the way Josie looked after my dad, after my mum had died.

She would always ensure that he had his hymn book, cough sweets and hankie to hand, saying, "We've got to keep going, Frank. That's all we can do, isn't it?"

Josie was such a kind, dear lady, who looked after my children, and many others, over many years as the crèche leader.

Our church family has been truly blessed to have had such a wonderful lady who nurtured and cared for young children and their families.

May you rest in peace dear Josie.

Jo Wright

*Josie has been a dear friend to my family ever since I can remember. Not only did she care for my children in the church creche, but she also visited my daughter Kelly when her children were born and baptised at The Drive.*

*In recent years when Josie was unable to get to church we chatted often on the phone. Josies history and attitudes were similar to my mums as they were about the same age and both strong, brave, wise women with the ability to talk intelligently on just about any subject.*

*Josie enjoyed the newsletter and valued the input from those who shared their experiences, prayers and adventures as it kept her in touch with the lives of those she knew.*

*Like many of our long standing elderly folk, who are no longer with us, Josies presence remains a strong influence in our church and the history of its people.*

*Rest in peace dear Josie.*

*Lorraine, Peter and family*

## **A memory written by Josie in 2021**

Memories from Josie Jiggins Josie's involvement with helping the young people in the church started a long time before she came to The Drive. I used to attend Cranbrook Park Church in The Drive which is no longer there now. I think it is where Whitfield Court is now. A lady in the Sunday School who ran the 3–5-year-old group was standing down so I agreed to take it on and I really enjoyed that. Sometime after I moved to The Drive Methodist, I agreed to help out in the church crèche for a number of years and Ruth was one of my many volunteers. I remember looking after twin girls for quite a while. One was always very good and the other one always cried.

In addition to this, I became the Cradle Roll Secretary at The Drive. This meant that when a new baby arrived, I would visit the family at home to take an interest in them and as Cradle Roll secretary I would present the parents with a Baptismal Candle at the Christening where during the service, I would have to say 6 words. I always found it incredibly daunting when it was time to speak. I used to visit the parents after the Christening and I remember visiting Priya when Rochelle was tiny which was delightful. I enjoyed my involvement with the children but was happy to hand over the role to Janet Wragg when the time came.





*A raindrop landing on your cheek is a  
kiss from someone who lives in  
heaven and is watching over you.'*

Josie Jiggins



One of my fondest memories of Josie was when Louise and Matthew were little and Josie used to look after them in the crèche. At that time the choir used to sit on the right hand side of the church and to get to the stalls we walked through the parlour where the crèche was. As soon as Josie saw the door open and the choir start to enter she would purposely attract Matthew's attention and keep him entertained whilst we walked through. She knew that if Matthew caught a glimpse of me, he would not want to stay!

It was with great sadness to hear that Josie had passed away. She was such a gentle, caring lady and will be greatly missed.

Diane

# **Church Covenant Service and Communion**

7th January 11.15am

## **No Ordinary Promise**

An opportunity to start the New Year remembering God's promises to us and how we might respond.

### **What is a Covenant?**

What God offers is a loving relationship. The Covenant is not a contract in which God and human beings agree to provide particular goods and services for each other! It is not something that we have to do to create a relationship with God. God has freely and graciously already made it possible.

Rather, the Covenant is the means of grace by which we accept the relationship and then seek to sustain it. It is therefore not so much about getting in to a relationship with God as it is about staying in it. It is not about acquiring a relationship with God, but living within the loving relationship that God has already offered us.

God's gracious offer to us is therefore simultaneously a challenge. If God is committed to us, are we prepared to accept that as reality and commit ourselves in return to God? Even if we do choose to accept it, how can we manage to live out our commitment adequately, frail and human as we are?

The Covenant Renewal Service, or simply called the Covenant Service, was adapted by John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, for the purpose of the renewal of the Christian believer's covenant with God.



*How about the music and wonderful singing from our choir and chorale over the Christmas period, wasn't it just wonderful?*

*Thank you to Andrew and to all who sang.*

*We are so fortunate to have our WhatsApp Prayer Team who provide us with a morning prayer to start our day. Some even continue to provide this spiritual service when they are away on holiday.*

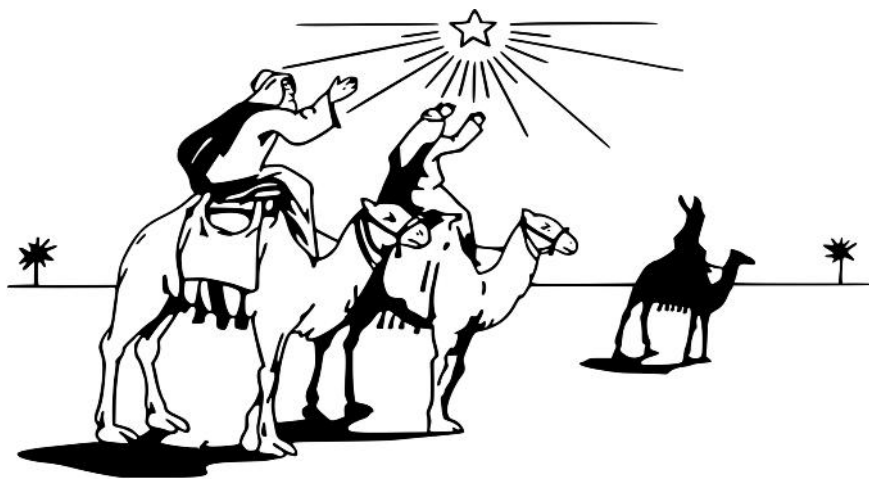
*Thank you to you all.*

*Thanks also to all who have filled up our Food Bank Box. Please be aware that the bank cannot accept out of date or partly used items.*

*Do continue to bring along an item each week to keep our box topped up.*

**The feast of the Epiphany**, marked on 6 January, has become associated in the West with the arrival of three “wise men” – the magi – in Bethlehem (left, in a mosaic from the church of Saint Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna). It’s a story that only the gospel writer Matthew tells (Matthew 2: 1-12).

However, Epiphany originally commemorated Jesus’ baptism (e.g. Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22) and the occasion on which he miraculously turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana (John 2: 1-12). Other events associated with Epiphany were the presentation of Jesus at the temple (see Marking Candlemas) and the actual birth of Jesus itself. The visit of the Magi was in fact a later addition to the celebration.



The word “epiphany” comes from a Greek word meaning “manifestation”. We’re talking here about a manifestation (or manifestations) of God. In Hebrew tradition, one of the most memorable epiphanies was Moses’ experience of God in a burning bush (Exodus 3:2). In these stories from the gospels, we are being told that all we need to know about God is present in the person and actions of Jesus.

First, that the magi “from the East” are Gentiles. They come from out with the Jewish tradition and do not know of the scriptural prophecies concerning the location of the Messiah’s birth (Matthew 2: 2-6). Already, at this very early stage in the story of Jesus, we are invited to understand that God’s love reaches beyond traditional boundaries to people who are not part of our own community.

Secondly, if our understanding of Epiphany includes not only the conclusion of the wise men’s two-year trek to a stable in Bethlehem but also the baptism of Jesus and his first miracle at Cana, then perhaps we are reminded that Epiphany is not the end of a journey; it’s only the beginning.

Methodist Church

**This is a copy of the recent Reflection read by Jeremy Foster.**

Based on a reflection by Raj Nadella – Associate Professor of New Testament Studies (Columbia Theological Seminary)

Just imagine an angel showing up at your home or workplace entirely unexpectedly and making a life-altering announcement. Luke tells two such stories in a short section of the Bible and juxtaposes them. Since the story of angel Gabriel announcing the birth of Jesus to Mary comes on the heels of the account of Zechariah's own encounter with an Angel, it is hard not to compare the two stories.

Mary and Zechariah respond to the angel's announcements in vastly different ways. Unlike Zechariah, Mary's final response to Gabriel's announcement was one of complete affirmation. Mary's response of "may it happen to me as you have said" is similar to Jesus' prayer on the Mount of Olives before his death when he says "your will, not mine". It is a declaration of trust in God even as Mary, and later Jesus, were going into the unknown.

But initially, when angel Gabriel showed up at Mary's door and announced that she was "highly favoured and that the Lord was with her", her response was very different. Luke tells us that she was "greatly troubled" by the unanticipated visitor and the announcement that seemed to come out of nowhere.

In describing Zechariah's reaction to the angel, Luke says that "he was alarmed and felt afraid" and he challenged the angel saying "How shall I know if this is so. I am an old man and my wife is old also?" His disbelief resulted in him becoming unable to speak. Mary though had every reason to be "deeply troubled" by a stranger showing up at her door and making a grand but vague announcement. She was certainly in a much more delicate situation than Zechariah who had status as a Priest in the Temple. Mary was among the most powerless in society: young, female and poor. The stakes were indeed very high for Mary. One wrong move could ruin her personal and family reputation and jeopardise her entire life.

In the end, Mary's story stands out for the impressive transformation from her initial response of being "deeply troubled" to a query about how this might be possible, to a final affirmation of the announcement. The story also stands out for what really brought about this transformation in Mary's response to the angel and helped her embrace the announcement.

When Mary seemed deeply troubled, Gabriel first sought to reassure her and convince her to embrace her vital role as mother to be by presenting her with seven significant pronouncements. These are: "You are highly favoured. The Lord is with you. You will give birth to a son. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever. His kingdom will never end."

Gabriel's suggestion that God will give him the throne of David is a reference to our Samuel reading where the Lord declares to David that a royal line will be established for him with the words "I will make one of your sons king and will make sure his dynasty continues for ever". Gabriel highlights that Jesus would be in the line of royals descended from David.

The angel also uses the title "the Son of God," which was a multi layered and highly political title. Whilst "Son of God" was a theological term that called attention to Jesus' relationship with God as the beloved son, one that would be formally announced later at the baptism by the voice from heaven; the term "Son of God" was also a political title as it was a term used in the Roman Empire to refer to Augustus Caesar, the adoptive son of Julius Caesar.

Gabriel made the seven pronouncements to Mary in a matter of minutes. But there was a long history in those titles, and they should have made Mary absolutely joyful. Interestingly, despite their significance none of those seven pronouncements really reassured her or helped her get over her anxiety - she still had questions about it.

"I am a virgin - how can this be?" Mary asks. In language similar to the transfiguration story, angel Gabriel responds saying "the holy spirit will come on you and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God". It is a strong assurance, including the promise that her offspring will be called Son of God. But apparently, even that doesn't do it for Mary either.



In the end, it was the news that Elizabeth had also conceived in a miraculous manner, despite her advanced age that convinced Mary to accept the announcement. She asked no additional questions after that. It was the assurance that another woman, someone she knew well, would walk with her during this uncertain journey that convinced Mary. Indeed Elizabeth likely understood Mary's predicament more than anyone else, and it was the prospect of a shared experience that mattered to Mary more than any of those grand promises from Gabriel.

Whilst Zechariah, a priest and a person of privilege, loses his ability to speak because of his unwillingness to believe the angel's proclamation about John's birth, Mary in contrast, a person of low social and economic status, is celebrated and exalted given her positive response of "I am the Lord's servant" to Gabriel's announcement. Mary ponders, asks thoughtful questions, and responds in a mature manner. Mary was not a leader like Zechariah but emerges as one during the course of this story. While Zechariah is silenced because of his response, Mary gets to sing about the coming mission of Jesus.

For people at the margins facing difficult situations, what matters most is someone who will share in their experience, stand with them, and walk with them. That's also the story of the incarnation in our Bible readings. Not simple assurances that God cares for us but the fact that God will share in the human experience and journey with us in our everyday lives.

**New Year BUFFET**  
**13th January AT 12.30**  
**IN THE**  
**CHURCH PARLOUR £5**



IF YOU ARE COMING ALONG  
PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME  
TO THE LIST AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF FOOD WASTE, SO ONLY ADD  
YOUR NAME IF YOU ARE SURE TO BE THERE.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A FRIEND ALONG.

### **THE DRIVE FILM SHOW**

***will take place at 2.30pm following the lunch.***

***The film will be GOD IS NOT DEAD 2.***

***There will as usual be a break for refreshments.***

***There is not a charge but a small donation will be  
Welcome.***

***Please contact Brian Grinham for further details.***

## SAFEGUARDING

Does E2EE pose a danger to my child? E2EE is being introduced by social media companies to enhance privacy for their users – but if this is done without putting the necessary child safety measures in place, it could pose a risk.

At the moment, social media companies scan their platforms to find and report child sexual abuse material (such as images, videos, and grooming conversations) to law enforcement, so that abusers are arrested, and children are protected.

If E2EE is rolled out widely without necessary child safety measures, social media companies will no longer be able to find and report child sexual abuse material in the same way. It will make it harder for social media companies and law enforcement to detect child sex abusers who are looking to manipulate, groom, and sexually abuse potential victims. Crucially, it will mean that social media companies will be unable to detect and prevent the spread of images and videos of child sexual abuse within encrypted messaging services.

Always be aware of your child's activity on their devices. Make a safety agreement that you openly talk about their use.

Explain why this is necessary.

Copies of Government Guidelines are available at the back of the church.

## HELPLINES

### SAMARITANS

Available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts. [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) **116 123** (free to call from within the UK and Ireland), 24 hours Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

### MIND

Mind offers advice, support and information to people experiencing a mental health difficulty and their family and friends. Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm (except bank holidays). [www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk) **InfoLine: 0300 123 3393 to call, or text 86463** Email [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)

### PAPYRUS UK

PAPYRUS is the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. They support young people under 35 who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, as well as people concerned about someone else. Their HopelineUK service is open 9am - midnight every day of the year (including weekends and bank holidays). [www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org) **Helpline: 0800 068 4141** Email: [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org)

### YOUNGMINDS

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

Parents helpline: 0808 802 5544 (Mon-Fri from 9.30am - 4pm, excluding bank holidays)

### CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY (CALM)

A helpline for people in the UK who are down or have hit a wall for any reason, who need to talk or find information and support.

[thecalmzone.net](http://thecalmzone.net) Helpline: 0800 58 58 58

[thecalmzone.net/help/webchat/](http://thecalmzone.net/help/webchat/) 5pm—midnight, every day of the year

### BROOK YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICE

Information, support and signposting service for young people under 25 on sexual health. Local services available via text message offering free contraception, pregnancy testing, counselling.

[brook.org.uk](http://brook.org.uk)

## **CHILDLINE**

Emotional support for children and young people on issues relating to child abuse, bullying etc. **0800 1111**

## **FORCED MARRIAGES**

Enter Forced Marriages into search bar at top of site - Service provided by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to protect young people from forced marriages abroad. Service offers help to young people in these circumstances to help get them back to the UK.

**020 7008 0151** [gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage](http://gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage)

## **NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION 0808 800 5000**

email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

For anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse.

## **FREEPHONE 24 HR NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE**

**0808 2000 247** [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/)

Run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge, this is a national service for women experiencing domestic violence, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf.

## **NATIONAL LGBT DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE**

**0800 999 5428** [galop.org.uk/get-help/helplines/](http://galop.org.uk/get-help/helplines/)

Emotional, practical support for LGBT people experiencing domestic abuse.

## **AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS**

Helpline providing support for families and friends of problem drinkers, whether the person is still drinking or not. **0800 0086 811**  
[www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk)

## **CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY** <https://capuk.org/>

Free help getting out of debt, budgeting and making your money go further

## **AGE UK ADVICE 0800 678 1602** [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)

Information and advice for older people

## **A Prayer for the month of January from Oli.**

Great and beyond measure is Your faithfulness.'

How great is His faithfulness.

Here you are, the Lord has carried you and brought you  
through this year.

We have so much to be thankful for.

The same faithfulness that brought you this far will carry  
you tomorrow and through the rest of this new year.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for Your great faithfulness  
towards me. I truly do have so much to be thankful for.  
You have been a merciful God and a faithful, loving and  
kind Father to me. In Your faithfulness You have carried  
me and in Your faithfulness You will continue to sustain  
me.

Amen.

## **CHURCH DIARY FOR JANUARY 2024**

**31st Dec** at 11.15am Sunday Worship

Led by Sharon Grundy

**5th Jan** at 11.00am Bible Study (further details inside)

**7th Jan** at 11.15am **Covenant Service and Communion**

Led by Rev. Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni

**13th Jan** at 12.30pm Saturday Lunch followed by Film Show  
at 2.30pm (see inside for further details)

**14th Jan** at 11.15am Sunday Worship

led by Robert Debrah

**21st Jan** at 11.15am **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

led by Janet Tweedale

**26th Jan** at 11.00am Bible Study (further details inside)

**28th Jan** at 11.15am Sunday Worship

led by Lynn Packer

## **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:** Roxanne Lashley  
secretary@drive-methodist.church

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

**Pastoral Secretary** Lorraine Bendon  
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