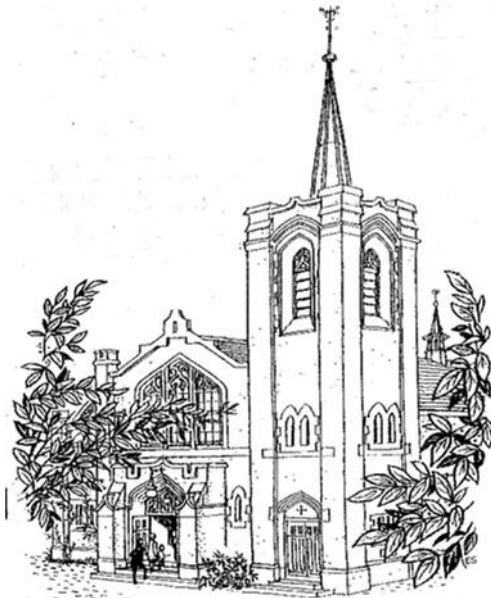


The Drive Methodist Church

Newsletter

February 2024



Eastern Avenue Ilford IG13PP

Minister Rev. Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni

Email: mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk

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.

Message from Reverend Kido

Dear friends,

Greetings to you wherever you are. 2024 has stuck its tongue out at us. With weather ranging from soggy wet to freezing cold, and with one day utterly different from every other, we seem set for a year of ups and downs, ins and outs, a real omelette of a year. And this may be true as we anticipate so many small and big changes in the life of our circuit and our churches this year.

At the beginning of this another year, I hope and pray we will all have good health, and that those of us who are lonely or grieving will find companionship. I hope none among us are heartbroken in this year. I hope we will attract the curious and the longing into our worship, and have the generosity to greet them. I hope our children flourish, and we are more able to nurture them and their parents. I hope we find easy ways of doing church life that do not keep us all indoors with meetings, and do make us leap out of bed when Sunday comes.

February is the month of love – St Valentine plays his part in all of that. It's also the turning point between winter and spring.

This is the season when the trees are being pollarded getting ready for new growth and development. No doubt, soon they will be bursting into colour. And I think there's a lot we can learn from this season, a time to get ready for new things that God will inspire to bring and set our minds with positive anticipation of the coming seasons.

This year, Lent starts early, as early as on Valentine's Day, and let me share a funny story about this season: "I'm giving up negativity for Lent. We'll see how long that lasts."

I think this joke tells us how easy it is (and how difficult it is to avoid) to dwell on the negativity in life. In recent weeks, in our circuit staff meetings we shared how important it is to hold onto positivity, a positive mind and a glimpse of God and His work in us, within all the challenges we often face in our daily endeavour to follow Jesus and serve his church. And this is what we will affirm once again at the **Circuit Ash Wednesday Service this year which will be held at Ilford at 7pm**; the sign of ashes on our forehead, the negative symbol often related to our mortality and sins, when they gain the shape of a cross, become something forever positive, the love of Christ. At the heart of this season, there is Christ who chose love no matter what the world threw at him. That love was for everyone, no matter what. That love is stronger than fear.

That love is stronger than fear. That love awakens and revives. That love encourages us to dwell on and tune more deeply into what Jesus has restored in us by giving up his life for us on the cross, the image of God's perfect love in us.

We will end this season as we invite all our churches to come together for evening sessions at 7.30pm during Holy Week (from Monday to Thursday) on 'sensing the passion of Christ' led by Mmasape. There will be no weekly study sessions during Lent in anticipation of the weekly study sessions on Acts from Easter to Pentecost. More details on these will be published nearer the time.

So friends, as we embrace another beginning of this blessed season in our tradition, let us embrace this gentle and loving nudge over Lent, the sign of Christ, who is our redeemer and Saviour. Christ, who brings his perfect love to us has power and grace enough to drive our own fear/worry or negative thinking and gives us courage and strength to still follow him on his way to the cross, encouraging us to carry our own, and Christ will continue to journey with us until the work of his love is accomplished in our lives.

The Lord bless you and bless you kindly,

Kido

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our thoughts and prayers continue to hold families in our church who have been bereaved in recent months.



It was with sadness that we have bid farewell to our friends Josie Jiggins and Peter Mitchell and send our condolences to their families and friends.

A warm hello to all who are no longer able to make their way to church.

Our thoughts are with all who are feeling sad and lonely and we pray that they feel held in Gods love and are able to seek the help and support they need.

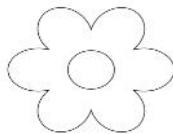
Peter Mitchells Funeral will be held at Forest Park Crematorium in Hainault on 2nd Feb at 1pm.

A reception will follow at Hainault Golf Club. All are welcome.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO JANET WRAGG.

Have a happy day Janet



News of Matthew

Many of you will know that our son, Matthew, is an officer in the Royal Navy. For the past year he has been on a course at HMS Collingwood.

We were pleased and very proud to learn that he had successfully completed the course and has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

On 9th February he will join HMS Diamond which is currently on deployment in the Red Sea.

Diane and Jeremy

Many congratulations Diane and Jeremy and of course to Matthew to whom we wish much success LB



BIBLE READING GROUP

The Bible Reading Group will meet on Friday February 23 at 11:00 at Jan and John's. We will continue with 1 Corinthians followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

My Tribute to Peter Mitchell

Peter attended the Drive Church all his life, he and his brother Malcom came along to the services with their mother Louise, a lovely lady whom I visited after she moved into her flat.

I remember Betty Griffiths telling me that Peter was in her Sunday School class as a little boy. She told me he was a quiet boy and very kind. Many years later when I started to attend the Drive, I recall Peter being one of the Junior Church leaders and eventually when my son was a teenager, Peter taught Michael.

Some years later when Peter finished teaching he took up his seat again in the main church. A quiet man but kind and friendly, very polite and quite independent, as I was to discover when I happened to move near to his home in Barkingside.

I used to deliver the church newsletter to him but as he lived upstairs he would talk to me through the intercom. I met him in our local store one day and he told me he had not been well but politely said, "I can manage, thank you Anne."

Following Covid, when church services resumed, Peter never returned to the church but was always pleased to receive the newsletter and keep up with news of the church family.

He was always glad to receive phone calls from church friends who had known him for a long time. Liz Amah was also his work colleague as Peter was her manager for Spring board Housing for many years and has fond memories of him.

About a year ago I became Peters Pastoral worker and we continued to have a brief chat either on the phone or via the intercom. I spoke to him about a week before he passed away and he told me that he would like me to visit him, sadly this was not to be, as I understand from Malcom that Peter became poorly the following week. Peter was one of life's gentlemen.

God bless him and may he rest in peace.

Anne Dellow

+ + + + +

I too remember Peter as a kind and quiet man who taught my children in what was then known as our Sunday School. He never complained about them, so I assume he had a great deal of patience. Peter had not been able to attend church for several years due to ill health but we kept in contact with him, which he appreciated. **Lorraine**

A Message from Josie's son Colin

Dear All

Firstly I would like to say a huge Thankyou for such a lovely turnout for mums funeral. It was very heart-warming to see so many of her friends there. Although it was a very sad day, my hopes for her send off were more than I could have imagined.

She wanted a small, intimate, no fuss, under the radar quiet send off with no gathering afterwards. 'typically mum' didn't want to be a bother.

Just for once I could not grant that wish and she got exactly what I planned. 'I'm sure she will get me back for that one day'

The service itself was beautiful and centered around one word; LOVE- everything mum stood for, and was known for. Wonderful words from Ruth about mums life at church, an emotional reading from Anne, a seamless service led by Mmasape, and the fabulous organist Andrew. The chapel was full of warmth love and friendship.

As a legacy to Mum, it is my intention to visit on a Sunday every now and then to see all her very special friends in a place that meant so much to her for so many years.

Having cared for dad for 3 years and then mum for 10, I have a great feeling of emptiness and feel quite lost.

Mum said to me, 'please do not be sad as you have given me a long and happy life in my own home', and I was lucky enough to honour her final wish to pass peacefully at home.

She wanted me to start a new life, without being responsible for her and being on call 24/7. This, I will do in time, but she will always be with me.

It wasn't a duty, it was a privilege to have so much time with her and we did most certainly have a very special relationship. She was my Mum

'Let us Love someone or something a little more today than we did the day before'

So once again I thank everyone for attending and for your love and prayers.

Colin

Thank you Colin. Your Mum will indeed be remembered as a special friend to many. LB

Cranbrook Park Church and Josie

There are probably only a few of us left now who remember the old Cranbrook Park Church that stood on the site of what is now Whitfield Court further down The Drive. This was the church where I grew up and first became involved in Property matters. Interestingly, the very last service held in the church was my paternal grandmother's funeral in 1973.

Cranbrook Park merged with what was then Eastern Avenue Church to become The Drive Methodist Church. It was very sad when Cranbrook Park closed and there were some merger pains in the first few years. However, we were fortunate that Rev Peter Hudson was appointed as our minister. He was instrumental in bringing the two societies together by encouraging ex Cranbrook Park folk to become involved. Amongst many others, my father was soon appointed Treasurer, my mother found herself running the At Home and Women's Fellowship groups and I was co-opted onto the Property Committee.

So why have I started to reminisce about events of 50 years ago? It is because of Josie's recent passing. As far as I am aware she and I were the last two Cranbrook Park folk who transferred to The Drive. And sadly it is now only me.

Jeremy

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.

THANK YOU

FOR KEEPING OUR FOODBANK BOX TOPPED UP.

Your donations are taken regularly to the foodbank in Ilford, where they are pleased to accept your offerings.

Please remember that they are unable to accept items of food that have been opened or out of date. These cant be used and are disposed of.



St Valentine Patron Saint of Beekeepers! Did you know that St Valentine is patron saint of beekeepers—charged with ensuring the sweetness of honey and the protection of beekeepers?

So who was he?

Valentine's Day is named after St Valentine, most widely known as the patron saint of lovers – but what do we actually know about him?

First of all, there was probably more than one Saint Valentine – the history books tell us there was anywhere between 3 and 12 others in fact! This is possibly because the name 'Valentinus' (from the Latin word for worthy, strong or powerful) was a popular name between 200 and 800AD when our Valentines lived. Apparently, there was even a Pope Valentine, but he only lasted for around 40 days!

It seems likely that 'the' St Valentine was a Roman Priest and physician who lived until about 270AD, when he was killed during the persecution of Christians by Emperor Claudius II Gothicus.

Why is he associated with love?

The Roman Empire was still flourishing in St Valentine's lifetime. Legends say the Emperor at the time banned marriages because he thought single men made better soldiers. Valentine didn't think this was fair and started to marry couples secretly. Unfortunately, he was found out and thrown in Jail. Whilst in jail, awaiting his execution, he began to convert his jailers to Christianity. To prove his faith, the head-jailer asked Valentine to heal his blind daughter. Miraculously, Valentine prayed with his hands over the Jailer's daughter's eyes and her sight was returned! However, they still killed him and after his execution, a letter was found in his cell, addressed to the jailer's daughter—it was signed "your Valentine".

And what about the beekeeper stuff?

Again, little is known about why St Valentine is also the Patron of beekeepers, but it seems likely due to the associations of fertility, love, beekeeping and springtime – and it makes for a lovely story that St Valentine is Patron Saint of Beekeepers anyway!

Did you know? There are more than 40 named 'epilepsy saints' including John the Baptist who was known to heal people from spasms or seizures. The only other illness with as much saintly association was the plague.

The debate that surrounds St. Valentine and epilepsy is not just about who he was or why he is connected to the condition, but also whether or not he is beneficial to people with epilepsy.

Throughout history St. Valentine was called upon by thousands of people with epilepsy, mainly Christians. Stories would have spread and enhanced his reputation for curing people and increased the amount of people turning to him for help. If the connection lasted throughout the ages, it may explain why he became such an important patron.

There's still a lot about epilepsy that we don't fully understand. It's possible that in ancient times, when even less was known about the causes and possible treatments for epilepsy, that people would turn to a figure of hope like St. Valentine when they could not rely on the latest developments in science, genomics and neurology that we do today.



VALENTINE SINGERS CONCERT



On Saturday 16 March, the Valentine Singers (one of the choirs I belong to) will be singing Bob Chilcott's St John Passion in our church. This is a setting of the Passion story from St

John's gospel, from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Crucifixion. Soloists take the roles of the Evangelist (narrator), Jesus and other characters, while the choir represents the crowd and also sings some longer meditations reflecting on the events of the story. There are also five hymns which the audience can sing, mostly familiar words but with new tunes by Bob Chilcott.

I encourage you to come along and join us for this concert – the music is very tuneful and accessible, and at around an hour in length, nowhere near as long as J S Bach's great settings of the same Passion story! Although this is a concert and not a church service, I'm sure many of the audience will find deeper meaning in the words and music, coming as it does two weeks before Easter. I know many will also appreciate the opportunity to join in with the hymn singing.

Do look out for publicity around the church with details of ticket prices, or speak to me if you want to know more.

Andrew Taylor

Looking forward to this.LB

SINGING THE FAITH – THE TWELFTH YEAR

GIVE ME JOY IN MY STATS, KEEP ME COUNTING

We first used our Methodist hymnal *Singing the Faith* on Sunday 15th January 2012. Since then I have kept a note of the hymns and songs used (from now on, I'll just refer to them as "songs"). Here are the song stats for 2023.

Included in these figures are the songs we have been using since September in the new Worship Song slot at the start of services, but not included are the 10 songs chosen by preachers that are not in STF, and any songs the choir has sung alone. During 2023 we sang 177 different songs from STF, which is 7 more than were used in 2022. These were the most frequently used songs:

7 times 465 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

6 times 503 Love divine, all loves excelling

5 times 59 Lord, the light of your love is shining (Shine, Jesus, shine)

4 times 51 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father

446 I will offer up my life in spirit and truth

544 As the deer pants for the water

545 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

693 Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair



A further 14 songs were chosen three times, 37 twice and the remaining 118 just once. Of the total 177 songs used, 16 were completely new to us.

465 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah tops the list for the first time.

443 Come, let us sing of a wonderful love, having come from nowhere to the top slot in 2022, has slipped right back down the charts, being chosen only once in 2023.

446 I will offer up my life, chosen 4 times in 2023, hadn't been sung since 2016.

Taking the twelve years we have been using StF overall, we have now used 493 of the 790 songs available (not including the Canticles and Psalms section), which works out at 62 percent. Two of the songs still in the overall top 10 -

663 I, the Lord of sea and sky and **611 Brother, sister, let me serve you** - were only chosen once in 2023.

12 songs have been used at least once every year since 2012 (counting the COVID years 2020/2021 as one year).

The top two songs in the first twelve years of StF overall have been in the top two slots since the start:

52 times 94 To God be the glory, great things he has done

47 times 20 Be still, for the presence of the Lord

Only in the first year (2012) were the positions reversed. They remain far ahead of the competition!

Our new time for worship songs at the start of each service gives us the opportunity to introduce even more songs that have yet to be sung. Let's see how close we can get to two thirds of the book sung by the end of the year!

Andrew Taylor

Oh well done Andrew for keeping such detailed notes of what is Top of The Pops at The Drive. It's always interesting to see if our personal favourites are in the TopTen. LB



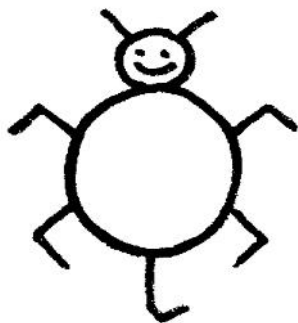
SATURDAY LUNCH

10TH FEBRUARY AT 12.30PM

**COME AND JOIN US FOR GOOD
FOOD AND GOOD COMPANY.**

The February Lunch will be Homemade Soup with a cheese or ham roll. £4

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church.



FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE AND TEA
(and raffle)

SATURDAY 13th April 2024

THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL

2.30 PM for 3.00 PM START

TICKETS:

ADULTS £5; CHILDREN (under 16) £2.50

from DIANE FOSTER
07903 560534

jma@drive-methodist.church

*An afternoon of fellowship, food and fun
for all the family to support the work of
Junior Mission for All*

Watch out - there's a BEETLE about!!

An invitation to all

To Mr Jeremy Foster and all the members of The Drive Methodist Church.

Dear Jeremy and friends,

This is a cordial invitation for all to join with us in our Sri Lankan Independence Commemoration Celebrations on the 3rd February 2024!

Sri Lanka re-gained its independence from colonial rule on the 4th February 1948, and this year we celebrate our 76th independence commemoration. Accordingly, we at the Muthuhara UK children's society will be having our celebrations on Saturday the 3rd February 2024 at the Main Hall of The Drive Methodist Church, from 4.30pm onwards. The children are getting ready for a colourful concert for this event.

The children of Muthuhara would like to invite the members of The Drive Methodist Church for the event.

We hope to see you at the event.

Kind regards,

Sam

On behalf of the Organiser Mrs Muditha Munasinghe and the Muthuhara Parents Circle

Treasurers Notes

I hope you have seen Jeremy's report on Property & Finance Matters which highlights the exceptional costs which our church has incurred this financial year. Our church is fortunate to have both a good income from lettings and the generous financial support of the congregation. Despite the current pressures on many people's incomes, our freewill offerings remain healthy.

Many people now support the church through the convenience of a regular standing order payment. If anyone would like to set up a standing order please speak with me and I can give you the bank details. Inevitably our donations are often made in round amounts eg £10 per week. Unfortunately our costs are not fixed to round amounts and continue to rise incrementally. As Treasurer I really don't mind counting odd amounts. So if you are able to add an extra 50p or £1 to your giving that will be very welcome.

Another way to maximise the value of your giving is through the Gift Aid scheme which allows the Church to reclaim the tax on any freewill offerings made. Last year the church claimed over £6500 from the Inland Revenue under this scheme. Provided you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid your offering. Please have a word with me if you have not completed a Gift Aid form and would like to.

Thank you for all your financial support for our church.

John Higgins

Property & Finance Matters

Every year the Finance & Property Committee prepare a budget of our expected income and expenditure. This includes a plan for the general maintenance and servicing necessary to run the premises. The Committee met last week and reviewed the figures for the first four months of the financial year against the budget. I am pleased to report that our freewill offerings and rental income are tracking close to budget and most of our costs, including those for general maintenance, are within plan.

However, it is much harder to forecast the major unexpected breakdowns and in the last few months we have had some exceptional costs. We had a breakdown in the heating system just before Christmas. Although we were able to keep the system running in the short term, the problem required investigation and new parts. The final cost was £2500. We then had a problem with the fire alarm in the Church building and we took the opportunity to upgrade the system, but at a cost of £900.

Having thought everything was finally sorted, the pump on the heating system, which was not replaced when the new boilers were fitted, failed. The cost to replace the pump was nearly £3000. And then the alarm panel in the Hall developed a fault. The panel is 20 years old and obsolete so we needed to have a new panel fitted at a cost of £1300. In addition there have been some urgent repairs required to a frequently used path and some unexpected electrical work.

All of this additional work has cost circa £10,000 and we will have to take money out of our reserves to cover what will inevitably be a deficit in our accounts this financial year. That said, the church must remain fully compliant with all H&S requirements and our buildings cannot function without heating. An unplanned spend of £10,000 is of course unwelcome, but these are exceptional costs to replace capital items that will last 10 or 20 years. And that is exactly what our reserves are for.

Jeremy Foster

DATA PROTECTION TRAINING 21ST FEB 2-4.30pm

It might be a month away, but don't delay in getting yourself signed up to attend our data protection training session. Led but the District's very own Data Protection Resource Group, the session will cover topics like why we need data protection, what the data protection checklist is and a run down of the jargon we need to get our heads around.

This training will be held online. Please register via the WEEKLY UPDATE and the Zoom link will be sent to you by return email.

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ADVANCED SAFEGUARDING TRAINING CENTRAL HALL , 27th FEB 10.00am—3.30pm

Apply via the Weekly Update and a zoom link will be sent to you by return email

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Biblical Justice for Transforming the World online x 4 weeks 7th March 7-9pm

'How and why should Christians respond to a world crying out for justice? What does 'justice' mean in Scripture and how does it relate to 'the gospel'? What do biblically-inspired insights on justice require of us today?'

This course, by Wesley House Cambridge and Tearfund, is designed for those working in social justice ministry and for anyone seeking to relate their faith more effectively to public life. For more info and to book see Weekly Update.

LENT CIRCUIT SERVICES

Ash Wednesday Service

14th February 7pm Ilford Lane Methodist Church

Holy Week 25th—28th March

Sensing the Passion

*Monday—‘**SIGHT**’ Barkingside MC at 7.30 pm*

*Tuesday—‘**HEARING**’ The Drive MC at 7.30pm*

*Wednesday—‘**TOUCH**’ Goodmayes MC at 7.30pm*

*Thursday—‘**TASTE**’ The Drive MC at 7.30pm*

Remembering the Holocaust

When words are spent and grief destroys
compassion, or fear of war throws shadows like a
cross,

God melt our hearts and fire imagination,
that we might sense the pain within each loss.

This loss can blind our eyes and freeze our feeling,
can numb for us the pain of holocaust,
for memory fades, to leave just words revealing
a horror far beyond all human cost.

God open in our present generation,
a depth of human empathy to feel
humanity that bridges every nation,
that only love and hope and grace can seal.

Andrew Pratt 2023

A Message from King Charles

'As you gather for the UK ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024, I offer each of you a heartfelt welcome to this very special and moving commemoration.

This week, people from across the United Kingdom and the world are coming together to remember the six million Jewish men, women, and children who were murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of other people killed under Nazi persecution, and those killed in other genocides such as in Rwanda, Srebrenica, and Cambodia.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 is the Fragility of Freedom, a stark reminder to us all how freedom can so easily be lost when it is taken for granted, and how crucial it is, therefore, to learn from those who bear witness to the horrors of the Holocaust and all genocides. Tragically, we live in a world where violence and acts of unspeakable cruelty are still perpetrated against people for no other reason than their religion, their race or their beliefs. In recommitting ourselves to remembering the horrors of the past, we take an important step in creating a safer, freer world today and for future generations.

For us in the United Kingdom, Holocaust Memorial Day offers a valuable opportunity for the richly diverse communities of this nation to come together and recommit to building a society free from antisemitism, persecution and hatred. This steadfast commitment is at the heart of everything the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust does. It is why its vital work in ensuring that people across the country are able to pay fitting tribute to those who were murdered and to honour those who survived, remains as important as ever before.'

CHARLES R

Lets Sing!

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.

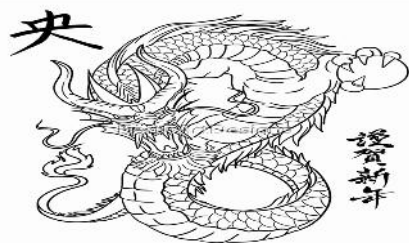
There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

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.

Stuart Townsend 2021

Chinese New Year 10th February

What is the Chinese New Year 2024 Animal? —



Wood Dragon

Chinese New Year 2024 is a Year of the Dragon, more

specifically, Wood Dragon, starting from February 10th, 2024, and lasting until January 28th, 2025.

Recent/upcoming years of the Dragon are 2024, 2012, 2000, and 1988. If you were born in one of the above years, then you are a Dragon.

The 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac are Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig.

In Chinese culture, the Dragon holds a significant place as an auspicious and extraordinary creature, unparalleled in talent and excellence. It symbolizes power, nobility, honor, luck, and success. 2024 is forecasted to bring about opportunities, changes, and challenges.

If you're seeking a shift in your current lives, this year might offer a favourable chance.

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 **116 123** (free to call from within the UK and Ireland), 24 hours Email: 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 **InfoLine: 0300 123 3393 to call, or text 86463** Email 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 **Helpline: 0800 068 4141** Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org

YOUNGMINDS

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 Helpline: 0800 58 58 58

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

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

NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION 0808 800 5000

email help@nspcc.org.uk 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/

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/

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

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

Information and advice for older people

A Blessing

May the light of your
eternal Word,

our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ,

lead us in holiness and
guide us to glory;

we ask this in His name.

Amen

CHURCH DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2024

4th Feb at 11.15am Sunday Worship with HC

Led by Rev. Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni

10th Feb at 12.30pm Saturday Lunch

(further details inside)

11th Feb at 11.15am Sunday Worship Social Justice

Sunday Led by Robert Debrah

14th Feb at 7pm Circuit Ash Wednesday Service

Iford Lane Methodist Church

18th Feb at 11.15am Sunday Worship

Led by Asare –Menyah

23rd Feb at 11.00am Bible Study

(further details inside)

25th Feb at 11.15am Sunday Worship, 1st Sunday in Lent

Led by N Debrah

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