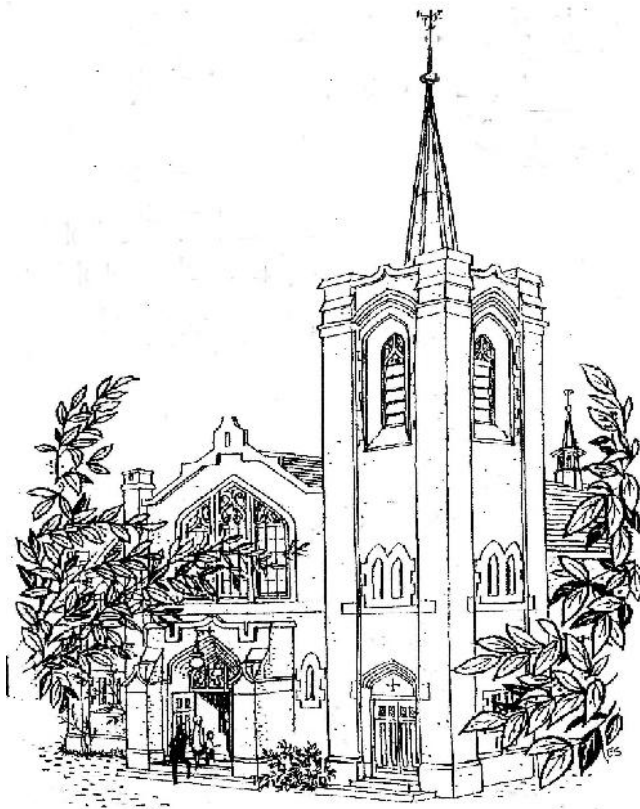


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

October 2019



Minister: Revd 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.

Our Minister writes:

"So, what's the story?"

"What's the story in Balamory, wouldn't you like to know?" These are words to a song in a children's tv program. I found myself singing them every time I reflect on or think about the theme The President and Vice President of The Conference have chosen for this connexional year, ie. "So, What's the story?"

The charge is that we take time to tell our story, tell Christ's story and also to listen to others' stories. This is what I have begun doing over the last few weeks. Listening to the story of who are the people called Methodist here at The Drive; what are the challenges and what cause for joy and celebration do we have? One of the stories I have heard is of love for the church, the people in it and of the property we have. This is a cause for celebration. The challenge that comes alongside the celebration is the resourcing with willing and able people who will carry forward the love and work that goes in keeping our fellowship alive and ensures that the gifts we have continue to serve and enable the growth of God's kingdom.

As brothers and sisters we are called to watch over each other in love (1 Thessalonians 3:12). This means recognising when those who have been carrying the light or the banner for us grow weary and those who are following and feeling strong step up and ensure the torch or banner doesn't fall. Therefore it is important in hearing this story that as a church we begin to think about succession planning. This means that we identify or we volunteer ourselves to shadow those who hold offices in the church with the view of learning the role so that we can step up as the need arises. This will include encouraging even our young people to take active part in learning the ropes. It is also about encouraging good gifts in

each other, upholding good practice and calling out bad and divisive behaviour. Watching over one another in love is about being honest, sensitive and God centred for the flowering of our fellowship.

Another story is that of how we grow in our diversity. The conference has tasked districts, circuits and churches to engage with the marriage and relationships report. We are to honestly and with respect talk to each other about our understanding of marriage and also engage with the changing or divergent relationships we have with each other and others. I implore you to begin the conversation and to attend the organised sessions in our churches and within the district; so that when decisions are taken we are assured of our voices being included and heard.*

I pray that as we do this we may know how high, wide and vast is the love of God in Jesus for us.

Blessings
Mmasape

*(*See page 10 for details of Conversation Day – Ed.)*



We ask for God's blessing on all those we have concerns for at this time and remember them in our prayers.

We were very sad to hear that Will Gibbs, a former member at The Drive, died last Sunday. Please remember Will's family in your prayers.

Birthday Greetings to:

Josiah Treloar who will 6 in October,
Yetunde Fadojutimi who will be 16 in October
and Lamarion Gordon who will be 13 in October.



The Wright's tennis news

Some of you will be aware that David and his doubles partner went through two rounds of qualifications before winning a wild card into the Murray Cup tournament. They travelled to Glasgow and found out that their first match was against Jamie Murray and his doubles partner!

It was televised and they were mini celebrities for 48 hours. They got 6 games in the match and had an amazing experience.

As they left the court after the match they were stopped for autographs!! An event that David and his partner will remember for a long time.

Jo Wright

Anniversary

On a personal note, Jeremy and I will be celebrating our 35th wedding anniversary today (29th September). We will be spending the weekend in Horning, Norfolk so will not be at our harvest festival service. However, we will still be marking harvest by attending the service and lunch at Thurne Methodist Church. This is a small chapel in the Norfolk Broads circuit which we regularly attend whenever we are in Norfolk. It has a small membership but the people are very friendly and are always pleased to see us. I will take our greetings to them.

Diane Foster

TDY News

TDY have raised £442.04 for Dementia UK this year. A wonderful achievement. There are still more fundraisers planned, so watch this space.

Dementia UK has sent a letter of thanks and you can see it on the noticeboard by the main door.

Thank you to TDY and to everyone who has helped organised and sponsor events and of course everyone who has been good enough to give their money to support people and their families who are living with dementia.

It is very much appreciated.

Youth circuit get together

We are lucky enough to have a wonderful group of young people here at The Drive. It would be great if we could meet and share with other young people in our circuit, so we are hopefully going to host a fun and fellowship afternoon. The date has yet to be confirmed, but it is part of our vision at The Drive to once again enjoy youth circuit events.

Jo Wright

(see page 7 for details of Table Top sale on 5th October – Ed.)

Thanks from Dino

Dino enjoyed his day at Brands Hatch – he writes:

“Enjoyed it very much. Thanks to everyone at The Drive for the lovely surprise”.



Circuit Meeting - 10th September 2019

- An application has been made for a probationer Minister to replace Revd Angela Potheary who will be leaving the circuit next September. We will not hear anything until end of January.
- The Management Team for Grange Hill is now authorised to act on all matters.
- The District are to run a Safeguarding Training on 28th March 2020. Local Preachers / those working with young people /etc. should apply. However only 30 places available and the location is not yet known.
- Circuit Events – Advent Service 1st December 2019 at Goodmayes.

From notes taken by John Higgins.

Got something new or used to sell? Then come along to the

TABLE TOP SALE

advertised in local press and Facebook

Raising Funds for DEMENTIA UK

Chosen Charity of The Drive Youth

**On Saturday 5th October 10am – 2pm
The Drive Methodist Church Hall Table Hire:
£5 medium or £7 large**

All tables must be booked in advance

Refreshments available

Property Committee Work Morning – 19th October

The Property Committee is organising a work morning for Saturday 19th October. All the usual jobs will need doing such as tidying the garden & grounds and general interior cleaning. Your help will be most welcome. We start around 10am and finish before lunch.

Jeremy Foster

Church Prayer Meeting - 24th October

For all who struggle to find their identity in a world that tries, often without success, to find a suitable box in which to fit them, grant them courage to become the people you want them to be, not constrained by this world's wisdom but allowed to grow and become themselves in your Spirit's power. Amen

Please join us if you can for our October prayer meeting in the Minister's vestry on Thursday 24th October from 7:15pm to 7:45pm.

Bible Reading Group – 25th October

Bible Reading Group will meet at 104 Wanstead Lane on Friday 25th October from 10:30am to 11:30am followed by refreshments. We will be discussing Acts chapters 1 to 5. All welcome.



Advanced notices

Film show at The Drive – 16th November

We will be showing "The Christmas Miracle" (tbc) on Saturday 16th November in the church or parlour at 2.30pm. There will be a comfort break at a suitable place during the film with tea/coffee and biscuits.

There is no charge for attending but donations would be welcome to cover overheads.

Brian Grinham

Action for Children Slides Evening - 30th November

The Slides Evening will be on Saturday 30th November starting at 6 for 6.30pm in the Church Parlour. This is always an enjoyable evening and it would be great to welcome some new attendees in addition to the regulars.

This year we will be having a presentation from Colin and Pauline Rodway on their safari and Jeremy's brother Nick on his trip to China. If you would like to present some slides please let us know.

During the interval we will break for our usual buffet supper. There is no charge for admission and you are welcome to just turn up on the evening but it would be helpful to let us know for catering purposes. If you would like a lift to and from the Church, again please let us know.

A collection for the work of Action for Children in their 150th anniversary year will be made.

Diane and Jeremy Foster

Marriage and Relationships Consultation - District Conversation Day – 30th November



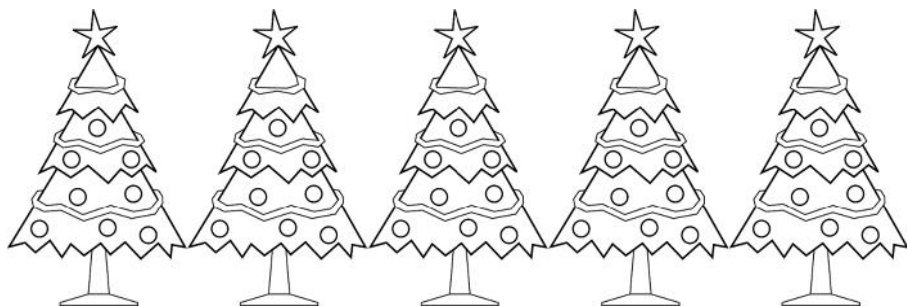
At the 2019 Methodist Conference, the Marriage and Relationships Task Group presented a report, *God in Love Unites Us*, with recommendations on various issues surrounding relationships in general and marriage in particular. As a result of these recommendations, the 2019 - 2020 connexional year represents an opportunity for the Methodist Church, and its people, to reflect and prayerfully consider the recommendations with a view to a final decision being made at the 2020 Methodist Conference.

The London District is holding three district conversation days, one of which will be held at Barking Methodist Church on Saturday 30th November from 10.00am. To register your attendance please visit: www.methodistlondon.org.uk/marriageandrelationships where you can also find a range of resources produced by The Methodist Church to help facilitate discussions and considerations.

(I have printed a copy of the full report and study guide which are on the table at the back of the church. Please feel free to take to read but return them to church. Thank you – Ed).

'Woven' - London District Conference 2020 – EARLY BIRD BOOKING AVAILABLE UNTIL 29TH NOVEMBER

The London District Weekend Conference 2020 focuses on equipping you to confidently share God's story and your story. It will be held at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire from Friday 10th – Sunday 12th July 2020. For full details and ticket prices please visit: www.methodistlondon.org.uk/wovenconference



**The Drive Methodist Church
Christmas Tree Festival
14th and 21st December**

Please put our 2019 Christmas Tree Festival in your diary! It will be held on Saturdays 14th and 21st December in the church with entertainment and refreshments. All offers of help gratefully received. Please ask Lorriane Bendon or Michelle Garner for more details.



Diary

October

Sat	5 th	10.00am- 2.00pm	TDY Dementia UK Table Top Sale in the church hall see page 7
Sun	6th	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Mmasape Zihle
Sun	13th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Members of the congregation
Fri	18 th	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sat	19 th	10.00am	Property Committee work morning see page 8
Sun	20th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Tabitha Jumbe
Thur	24 th	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting Minister's vestry, see page 8
Fri	25 th	10.30am	Bible Reading Group 104 Wanstead Lane, see page 8
Sun	27th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Nelly Debrah

November

Sun	3rd	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Mmasape Zihle
Thur	7 th	8.00pm	Church Council meeting in the Parlour

***(Last date for items for the November newsletter:
Sunday 20th October)***