

**The Drive
Methodist Church**

Newsletter

MAY 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 Mmasape

Dear Church family

It has been is such a joy to continue to serve as minister at The Drive for the last 5 years.

Together we have faithfully worshipped, cared for each other and served the community. All this has been made possible by the unwavering diligence of our office holders and volunteers.

As the church year draws to an end, we will be once again gathering for our Annual Church General Meeting on Sunday 2 June 2024, to confirm appointments of those willing to continue to serve as stewards (church and communion), property committee members, pastoral contacts, church council representatives as well as in many other offices that make up our church life.

I use this opportunity to appeal that we consider where God may be nudging you to serve in the church. Our church is proudly seen across the circuit as both beautiful and efficient, and by working together we can continue to joyfully see this go on.

Yours in Christ

Mmasape

The welcoming culture of our church has seen many new people begin to call The Drive their spiritual home. I truly believe that this is what we read about “loving our neighbours as ourselves”.

As we prepare to also welcome Revd Jacqueline Jones both in the circuit and the church, we wait with renewed excitement for the gifts that she will bring among us.

I hereby once again, appeal to you to consider your calling to the life of the church. Please do not hesitate to speak to the stewards or myself as we prepare for the year ahead.

Yours in Christ, Mmasape

Strengthen my resolve dear Lord as I commit myself to the ministries of this church. Let me be a beacon of your love, guiding and inspiring others through acts of service and guidance. May my humble efforts resonate your infinite grace in this world.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen

YOUNG AT HEART JOKES

Why did the worm cross the ruler?

To become an inch-worm!

What makes some plants better at math than others?

Square roots!

My beautiful bouquet of blooms died, but then they came back to life.

It must have been reincarnation.

How does the sun listen to music?

On the ray-dio!

What facial feature stands out the most during the spring?

Your tu-lips!

Why did the farmer tell spring jokes to his ducks?

Because he wanted to quack them up!

HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA

Church Family News

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sanjay's sister **Swetha** who is very poorly following the birth of her baby Jayden Prince.



Andrew Taylor has been unwell recently and is currently waiting for tests.

Rev Mmasape has been unwell and we pray her treatment will recover her health.

Please remember **Thea** in her role as a Paediatric Nurse in Southampton. We look forward to seeing her again soon.

Anne Dellow has been feeling under par and we wish her well.

Peter Bendon is progressing well as he recovers at home.

Congratulations to Jamelia for passing her probation period in her job.

Birthdays

Ruth is the birthday girl on 11th May

Diane will be marking her 70th Birthday on 20th May by celebrating with family and friends for afternoon tea aboard the Mississippi River Boat at Horning in Norfolk.

Birthday Wishes to all celebrating their birthdays in May.

We remember all our friends in our church and in the Circuit who can no longer attend worship because of difficulties they are experiencing.

We think of you often and hope you are able to access the worship services that are streamed.

Do please let me know if you want any help or would like someone to contact you. God Bless.

BIBLE READING GROUP



The Bible Reading Group will meet on 24th May at Jan and John's at 11:00. Topic is TBA. Followed by refreshments.

All Welcome.

ST ANDREWS CHURCH 100th ANNIVERSARY

An Invitation from St Andrews

Please join with us at St Andrew's Gt Ilford on Saturday 1st June 2024 at 3 pm to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church.

If you are currently a member of the congregation, a friend of the church – neighbours, hall hirers, etc - or have had connections with us in the past, you are most welcome to come to help us to celebrate this milestone in the history of St Andrew's.

The Right Reverend Lynne Cullens, Bishop of Barking, will be preaching and we are also pleased to welcome the recently retired Bishop of Exeter, The Right Reverend Robert Atwell (who was a chorister at St Andrew's), Reverend Canon Rosemary Enever, past Vicar of St Andrew's and Reverend Ken Wylie, a past member of St Andrew's and now Vicar of St Andrew's Church, Hornchurch and Havering Area Dean.

Refreshments will be served in the church hall and we hope that you will be able to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship.

For catering purposes, please contact

***marionpank@outlook.com* if you are able to attend.**

ADDITIONAL CELEBRATIONS

We will also be delighted to see you on Friday evening 31st May 2024 when there will be a Concert in church to begin our celebratory weekend. The Concert will be from 7.30 – 9.00 pm.

The Bravissimo Choir, conducted by Julia Wilson-James, will be performing and amongst other items Duncan Paterson (no introduction needed!) will be playing two organ solos; our Asian Church musicians will be performing on the harmonium and drums. It promises to be a most entertaining evening.

And on Sunday 2nd June we will be holding a joint service of thanksgiving with our Asian Congregation at 12 noon at which our previous Vicar, recently retired Revd Canon Marie Segal, will be preaching.



ASCENSION DAY 9th May

No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man." ~ John 3:13

Forty days from the day He rose from the grave, Jesus ascended into heaven. Here is how Luke described the event:

Therefore, when they [the disciples and the risen Christ] had come together, they asked Him saying,

"Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Now when he had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight..." (Acts 1: 4-9 New King James Version).



LETS SING

Lord, I lift your name on high,

Lord I love to sing your praises;

I'm so glad you're in my life,

I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth

To show the way,

from the earth to the cross

my debt to pay,

from the cross to the grave,

from the grave to the sky:

Lord I lift your name on high.

Rick Founds

April was quite a month for fundraising events at The Drive and here are some of the results.....



Moji ran in the London Marathon for National Autistic Society UK and raised

**an amazing £2,275, most of which was gift aided.
Well done Moji!**



The Easter Egg Hunt and activities was enjoyed by many families.

Thank you, again, to everyone who supported the Easter Egg Hunt. £145.30 was raised for the British Red Cross Disaster Appeal. Jo

BEETLE!

Thank you to everyone who supported our JMA Family Beetle Drive and Tea on 13th April which raised a splendid £258. Special thanks to Jo for her help with preparing the tea and to Jeremy for explaining the rules and keeping everyone in check.

From where we were in the kitchen it sounded to Jo and I

like a lot of fun was being had. We could hear the clatter of dice being thrown, the blowing of Jeremy's whistle followed by loud cheers and groans as yet another roar of 'BEETLE' went up!

Our under 16s winner was Isaiah and the adult winner was Jeremy's sister, Ros. Well done to them!

The money raised for JMA (Junior Mission for All) goes to The Methodist Church World Mission and Mission in Britain Funds helping with projects at home and overseas.

Thank you again

Diane Foster

VOCATIONS SUNDAY -

Sunday 05 May is Vocations Sunday, and this year will celebrate the work of local preachers and worship leaders.

The 2024 service outline for Vocation Sunday can be found on the Methodist Church website.

Redbridge Faith Forum
Multi Faith Walk of Peace 19th May

Our annual Multi-faith Walk of Peace is a gentle stroll through central Ilford that brings together people from many diverse faith communities in Redbridge in a spirit of fellowship and harmony.

As we walk together, visiting the different faith venues, and hearing from each faith about this year's topic FAITH: FINDING PEACE WITHIN, we can appreciate the common precepts we share and we are able to further develop our understanding and respect for each other.

From 12.50 Assemble at the Holocaust Memorial Garden, Valentines Park, Ilford (Cranbrook Rd entrance, IG1 4TG)

Whether or not you are affiliated to a faith community please do join us for either the whole or part of the Walk of Peace. You can join/leave at any point. Refreshments will be served at some faith venues but please bring your own refillable water bottle. you are warmly invited to join us to walk together in a spirit of harmony being welcomed into a range of faith communities.

Please email Saira at faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk to book your free place or contact the office on 0208 708 2445. Advance registration is appreciated to help with arrangements but is not essential.

If you are not a member would like to become one, please email Saira.

Kind regards
SAIRA YAKUB
Project & Finance officer
Redbridge Faith Forum

Have you heard of PAPYRUS?

Suicide is the biggest killer of young people aged 35 and under in the UK. We believe that suicide is preventable.

PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide was founded in 1997 by a group of bereaved parents, who had each lost a child to suicide.

Our founding parents shared core beliefs that suicide is preventable, and that those of us with lived experience of suicide have a valuable and unique contribution to make to the wider conversation around suicide.

In the last few years, the rate of young suicide in the UK has been increasing. We want to support, equip, influence and engage with communities across the UK, through training, awareness raising and policy change, to reduce the number of young suicides and to ENABLE LIFE.

HOPELINE247 is PAPYRUS's

suicide prevention helpline which supports young people, aged 35 and under, experiencing thoughts of suicide. Open from 9am to midnight, every single day of the year, **HOPELINE247** provides a free, confidential call, text and email service, inviting those considering suicide to speak openly about their feelings, in confidence.

0800 068 4141

3 DADS

These 3 men are embarking on a Walk of Hope from Stirling to Norwich to raise awareness of suicide in young people and funds for Papyrus

Firstly, thank you for taking the time to follow our journey.

We are simply 3 Dads taking on a walk in memory of our beautiful daughters. We are so grateful for your support and understand that some of you may want to wish us well over the course of the three and a half weeks.

Our route has been meticulously planned to account for a predetermined number of hours walking each day and also considers the limited daylight time hours we have. This means that we will need to keep moving as much as possible and will be unable to slow down or stop too frequently.

On most days we plan to start walking at 7.30am - we will confirm start times nearer to the days we walk and will post any change of plan as soon as possible.

Thank you for your understanding.

Andy, Mike and Tim - 3 Dads Walking

You can Follow 3 Dads on:

[facebook.com/3DadsWalking](https://www.facebook.com/3DadsWalking)

EQUIPPING FOR EQUALITY

A development day for those passionate about Justice, Dignity and Solidarity - In London, or join us online

Are you passionate about bringing about equality within the church? Want to be resourced and equipped? Are you in EDI group? Thinking of being, or already an EDI officer? Maybe you're on the JDS committee or an EDI lead in any Methodist setting? In a solidarity circle? Want to influence change in the Methodist Church? Join us for this development day either in London, or attend online.

Aims:

-) Equip one another to implement the strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity
-) Share our experiences in EDI roles within the Church
-) Inspire one another to bring transformative change to the Church

We will have opportunities to choose which activities we do.

There will be a chance to:

-) Learn from one another's experiences
-) Improve our cultural literacy
-) Develop our understanding of Equality Impact

Assessments

-) Discuss the implementation of the Inclusive Language Guide
-) Enhance our skills in communications, social media and facilitating online gatherings.

Consider how to support and resource people for the continual personal learning aspect of the mandatory EDI training.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/equipping-for-equality-south-registration-875946287927>

SATURDAY LUNCH

OUR NEXT LUNCH WILL TAKE PLACE ON

11TH MAY AT 12.30PM

IN THE PARLOUR

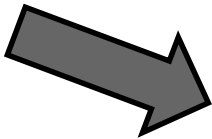
It will be a Ploughman's Buffet with meat, cheese and veggie options. £5



Please add your name to the list at the back of the church or send me a message.

Any profits will be given to The Redbridge Foodbank

Can you spare just 1 item each week to fill our Foodbank Box?



Redbridge—What's Happening?

Fullwell Cross Library will temporarily close from Sunday, 5 May, until Summer 2024. The closure will enable refurbishment works to take place throughout the children's and adult lending libraries.

The library has been awarded £380,000 from the Library Improvement Fund for an ambitious transformation programme for Fullwell Cross Library, the borough's second-largest library.

The funding will support essential library upgrades, including vital repairs, renovations, and an enhanced digital offer.



HAINAULT FOREST 4th May 11.am—4pm

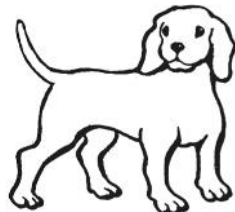
We are calling all dog lovers and families!

Come along to Hainault Forest for a paws-itively fantastic day on Saturday, 4 May, for our very first dog show and family fun day!

Join us for a day filled with a variety of activities, games and classes.

Save the date and secure your spot by booking classes and your dog's place in the show.

To find out more and to book your place -
hainaultforest.org/events



This Has to Stop

Everyone in Redbridge deserves to feel safe. Redbridge are proposing to introduce a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to allow Council and Police officers to enforce against sexualised behaviour that may harass, alarm, or distress people on our streets.

Please complete our public consultation to have your say on the proposed changes. It should take no longer than five minutes to complete.

<https://engage.redbridge.gov.uk/crime-and-public-safety>

COULD YOUR BUSINESS PROVIDE HELP TO SUPPORT OUR CARE LEAVERS?

Striking out into the world on your own for the first time is exciting and daunting for all of us. It's even more difficult for those without supportive families to fall back on or for those who can't stay at home for other reasons.

We are asking local organisations if they can help with:

Work experience placements

Paid work placements

Discount vouchers for local leisure activities, e.g. cinema tickets

Driving lessons

CONTACT—shona.galt@redbridge.gov.uk

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS ONLINE TRAINING

All those holding roles within their church are encouraged to attend this training.

Fri 7th June 10—11.15am

'Unconscious bias refers to a bias that we are unaware of, and which happens outside of our control. It is a bias that happens automatically and is triggered by our brain making quick judgments and assessments of people and situations, influenced by our background, cultural environment and personal experiences.'

Hidden biases have the power to undermine and derail our desire to act justly, and fairly towards other people and lots of areas in our decision making. eg, when it comes to recruitment, promotion, and openness to new sources of ideas. It is possible to be unconsciously biased regarding disability, religion, race, gender, age, social class, and more.

The resources can be found at: [Introduction to Unconscious Bias – for church councils, circuit meetings and other groups - Methodist Church](#)

The online session will include watching the videos and joining in small group conversation/reflection following each of the 3 video clips.

The reading/study material which be sent following booking your place, please select which session you will be attending.

To book, see London Weekly Update

PENTECOST 2024 19th May

The coming of the Holy Spirit

Jesus' followers were gathered together for Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit *"filled the whole house where they were sitting"* (Acts 2:2). *"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them"* (Acts 2:4).



A Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2024

Loving God,

Help us to hear the voices of those enduring extreme poverty.

It is hard to listen to stories of pain.

Show us how compassion for others can bring healing and fullness of life for all.

Help us to understand that we are one through your love, for every human being is loved by you, beyond measure.

Loving God, you call on us to build your kingdom of justice, mercy, and truth.

It isn't a task for the faint-hearted.

When we lose our sense of purpose, fill us with faith. When we doubt or throw up our hands in despair, fill us with hope.

When we pass by our neighbour as though we did not know them,

Fill us with the love that turns us back and takes us to their aid.

In Jesus' name

Amen.

This is Aline's story

Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival.

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.

For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband.

A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation. Her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

'I wandered the streets, asking anyone for a place to sleep. Those who showed me kindness would let me stay for two or three days, but it was difficult. People would insult me and treat me with contempt. They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow.'

Aline Nibogora.

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

'I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me,' says Aline.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans

Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.

With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had finally paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house.

Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. They told Aline that their father had abused them and sent their three young siblings to live with different members of his family.

Aline still hopes that she'll be reunited with her youngest children in time.

Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own plot of land in a remote village in the Kayogoro Commune in Makamba Province. She's baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense.

Now Aline can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She's also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light. Of course, Burundi continues to be one of the toughest places on earth to live. The future is uncertain and challenges wait for families like Aline's around every corner.

When a ferocious storm destroyed Aline's home, almost killing her and her children, she was able to recover by selling the cows she'd been keeping. Now when crisis threatens her family's survival, Aline has options.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

If you have a current DBS check, please make a note of when it needs renewing and contact me.

All Worship Leaders must have a current DBS and Advanced Module Training, renewable every 4 years.

Advanced Training Dates

Advanced Module (Face to Face) | Thursday 30th"

10.30am—3.30pm

Central Hall Westminster

Arrive 9.30am for registration and refreshments.

Book via Eventbrite on methodist.org.uk

God Welcomes All: How faith informs safeguarding' (Study Guide)

God Welcomes All is a four-session study guide containing new short films with activities and questions for discussion and reflection. The study guide is based on the Methodist Church's report on the Theology of Safeguarding 2021 and is accompanied by an 8-page facilitator's guide, a 6-page reader's guide, and a series of short films.

The new study guide encourages all members of the Methodist Church to look at our Christian calling that offers a welcome to all, whilst ensuring that our worship and wider church life is safe for everyone. methodist.org.uk

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 God bless you
and keep you*

*May his face shine
upon you*

*May he lift up his
countenance upon
you*

and give you Peace

CHURCH DIARY FOR May 2024

5th May @ 11.15am Sunday Worship with HC led by
Revd Mmasape—VOCATION SUNDAY

11th May Saturday Lunch 12.30pm

12th May @ 11.15am Sunday Worship led by
Kufeja—CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

19th May @ 11.15am Sunday Worship led by Dea-
con Andy Packer-PENTECOST

24th May 11.00am BIBLE STUDY GROUP

26th May @ 11.15am Sunday Worship led by Mr
Mensah—TRINITY/ALDERSGATE SUNDAY

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