

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

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021/2022



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	Page
Minister's Message	4
Stewards	6
Communion Stewards	7
Treasurer	8
Gift Aid	9
Property	10
Community Activities	11
Safeguarding	11
Pastoral Committee	13
Team TDY	14
JMA	16
Music	17
Bible Reading Group	18
The Drive Newsletter	19
Church website	20
The Drive WhatsApp Group	20
Film show	21
Flowers	21
Church Saturday Lunch	22
Cub Pack	23
The Drive Pre-School	24

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

“BEST OF ALL, GOD IS WITH US”

The above is a Wesley quotation and title to one of his hymns, it is also the Conference Presidential theme of 2020. As I pen this annual letter the above statement rings true. 2020 became a year many wished to either do over or never think about again. It promised so much as a new year and yet as soon as it began we realised a worldwide, global disaster was unfolding. By March there were lockdowns imposed, no unnecessary going out, working from home and no travel.

Life as we knew it changed literally overnight. The worst was the hospitalisations and many deaths due to Covid-19 infections. After the initial shock, as churches we learnt new ways of offering worship virtually. Pastoral care and support was done over the phone and later at distanced door step visits. There were also intermittent lifting of lockdowns and churches would open; mask wearing, sanitising and social distancing became the order of the day. We struggled with not being able to sing and later to sing with masks on. Yet through it all and best of all is that God is with us.

In 2021, as humans do we had adjusted to this new normal. We tested doing those activities that encouraged our fellowship such as Christmas carols, nativity and fish and chips lunches. These were greatly appreciated. In the midst of Covid uncertainty, PCR testing for travel, our world began to open up again. We individually were left to make the decision about the levels of precaution we needed to take and we still do.

As a church we miss those of our members who due to ill health cannot venture out to worship any more.

We mourn the loss of friends who have died and we look forward to a year of new opportunities and challenges that with God on our side we will surmount.

As a circuit, we have recognised the need to take stock of the effectiveness of our mission and ministry with the resources we have – the church buildings, manses, ministerial staff, finances and volunteers. Currently, our circuit has nine churches, one community centre project, four ministers and a hardworking group of volunteers in each church though waiting due to age and unable to get more to join. Some of our buildings are in need of extensive and expensive repairs. Most churches are managing with office holders doubling the offices they hold. Connexional shortages on ministers will impact us when at least two of our ministers' appointments come to an end in 2024. Through a process of consultation and conversation we hope to find a positive way forward of streamlining our mission directive, even if this means closing some of our churches and going down to three ministers. We prayerfully continue this program.

It is my wish that as a church we will extend an open invitation to all who walk through our doors to find a ready space at our fellowship table. We have seen new people join us for worship and some already feeling at home. I am however aware of those who have come a few times but not stayed. May God make us a welcome space for all.

Best wishes

Mmasape

## STEWARDS

First of all thank you to everyone who has contributed to this annual report. Despite the upheaval over the past couple of years, the amount of content shows that we are still a busy and thriving church.

We have now been back at church for almost a whole year and I'm sure we are all eagerly anticipating our first Easter at church in 3 years. We were pleased to have our Harvest display and service and to enjoy our carol service at Christmas. It was marvellous to see The Drive Youth and Music at the Drive swing into action again; to be able to plan and to feel that we will be able to see those plans through.

The church's doors reopened in June 2021 and Diane and I formally took on the Senior Steward role, sharing tasks and duties between us. During the year the stewards have begun re-imagining how we do things and why and there's also been an opportunity for everyone to begin to look at how we can improve on all we are called to do at the Drive. We were grateful to have 2 members come forward to join our team of Stewards and hope others will hear the call too.

Brian has been very helpful in handing over various admin tasks including the track and trace register that we were required to maintain until March 2022. It was strange to suddenly be able to remove the signs linked with this, but further proof that we are moving forward.

Our WhatsApp group is still going strong, with a daily prayer now that services and groups have resumed. We are grateful to our worship leaders, lay preachers and Minister for

continuing to provide us with uplifting, encouraging and thought provoking words to begin our day. It has also been wonderful to keep up to date with news from our church family.

The circuit has led discussions to help us look at how we move into the future and what the configuration of churches and staffing may look like. The discussions are pertinent as currently all our ministers are due to leave in 2023/24. This is ongoing work and it has been gratifying to see so many of you joining the meetings. We hosted a moving Circuit service of Remembrance and have also invited the Circuit to Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services. We look forward to being more involved in the life of the circuit and to the benefits this can bring us all.

We have sadly lost a number of members this year and others have not as yet been able to return. There have been less volunteers available for duties on a Sunday, making it difficult to cover all the tasks. But, like the beautiful bulbs that are now flowering around the church, we look to the future with hope and trust that God will make a way.

Michelle Garner

## COMMUNION STEWARDS

Over the past couple of years our regular Communion Services have been disrupted by Covid. We have, however, been able to hold them for a few months now, but with a difference, instead of our normal bread and wine, we presently use pre-sealed cups of wine with a wafer sealed separately above the wine. It is hoped that we will be able to return to the normal bread and wine before too long, although the sealed unit saves on the washing up!

Since the last report the Church Council has approved my taking over from Liz Amah as Senior Communion Steward. Liz is still a communion steward and helps at many of our services. Other stewards are Hilary, Oli and Ruth who has recently joined our team and will, hopefully, be approved at the next Church Council.

Brian Grinham

## TREASURER

### Income

The freewill offerings for the first 6 months of this financial year are in line with our budget. Many thanks for your continued support.

More of the congregation are choosing to make their freewill offerings electronically. If you wish to set up a standing order please contact me.

Please consider (if you are a UK tax payer) signing up for the gift aid scheme, which enables the Church to reclaim the tax.

### Repairs and Replacements

Due to the restraints placed on us over the past 2 years, some items are now in need of repairs and replacements. This includes replacing the hall windows. These additional costs will take us over budget.

### Rentals

I am happy to say that many of our lettings have returned. As a result, revenue is up and in excess of budget.

### Energy Costs

As you will appreciate our costs for gas and electricity have increased considerably. Unfortunately our fixed tariff expired in January, but we were able to negotiate a new 6 month



fixed tariff. Despite this, costs are running high and we should all try to conserve our energy consumption. As always, we continue to keep a tight rein on our expenditure, to ensure that we have the necessary funds when required.

Your continued support and generosity is much appreciated. .

John Higgins

## GIFT AID

I am pleased to present the Gift Aids Report for the tax year ended 5<sup>th</sup> April 2021. In total, we were able to reclaim a total of £5999 from the taxman. In the previous year that ended on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020, we reclaimed a total of £6215. For the year earlier that ended on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019, we reclaimed a total of £8171.

As you can see, we have been reclaiming a declining amount of Gift Aid refunds each year. This is partly due to the C-19 Pandemic and the resultant church closure. The other reason is the declining church membership. Overall, we received less from our church family in the last tax year as part of the envelope scheme and as church service collections. The more collections we make the higher the Gift Aid refund from the taxman. We, therefore, as a church family needs to do everything possible to increase church attendance by attracting new members and each of us giving a little extra. The easiest way to contribute is to set up a weekly or monthly standing order from your bank account.

Donating through Gift Aid means we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra. If anyone is interested in joining our envelope scheme or learning more about Gift Aid, please feel free to contact me or our treasurer John Higgins.

Thank you  
Joel Inbakumar

## PROPERTY

Given the continued shortfall in our lettings income due to the Covid pandemic the Property Committee decided not to undertake any discretionary expenditure during the last financial year. However, there are many costs that cannot be deferred such as the Health & Safety checks and those essential repairs required to keep the premises operational. As a result, we still needed to spend over £14,000 just to keep our buildings safe and functioning. However, two years on there is now something of a backlog of redecorating work which we are intending to complete this spring.

With the Covid issues easing and our lettings income increasing the Property and Finance Committee have agreed to recommend a programme of investment in our premises to the Church Council. The first two projects are an upgrade to the sound system in the church and the addition of streaming and audio visual capabilities. The second project is to complete the double glazing of the windows in the Hall building. This will reduce the ongoing maintenance requirement and should conserve heat making the Hall more comfortable for all.

As ever, I wish to thank everyone who has supported property matters over the last year including members of the committee and those on the nightly security rota. However, I would particularly like to thank Mike on behalf of the church for all that he does. As well as looking after the website and the duty notification emails, he undertakes the weekly check of the Fire Alarm system and willingly makes himself available to help with repair jobs around the premises and to let contractors in when necessary. Thanks Mike.

Jeremy Foster

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Over the last 12 months and as the Covid pandemic has eased we have seen a slow but steady increase in the community activities taking place on our premises. As well as the Pre School we have been able to welcome the Uniting Friends charity which provides day care services for adults with learning difficulties. In addition, we now have number of fitness classes, two Christian worship groups, the Earl Grey Band, the Workers Education Association and others. As well as ensuring that our premises are put to good use, the income we derive from the lettings is essential to keep the church financially viable. In the year to August 2021 the rental income amounted to approx. £35,000. Whilst this is a substantial sum, we need to generate closer to £50,000 in rental income in order to run and fully maintain our premises. The Property & Finance Committee are hopeful that we can achieve this level of rental income this financial year.

Jeremy Foster

## SAFEGUARDING

I am pleased to be able to report that our safeguarding practice and procedures at The Drive place us in a positive position. This became evident from the comprehensive audit issued in 2021, and remains ongoing as a tool to identify areas of achievement, change and improvement. This document was issued by the Methodist Church to assess where safeguarding support is required. It demonstrates just one example the Methodist Church has taken to improve and promote a safer culture in our churches, having accepted the opportunity to participate in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and has taken careful note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Investigation Report

for the module of Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings.

Since my previous report, we are now following the Safer Recruitment Policy and have job descriptions and procedures for all our valuable volunteer workers across the many roles that exist in church life. In addition, we have a lone working policy, up to date DBS checks and thanks to collaboration with Jeremy Foster, all lettings are aware of the need to have their own Safeguarding policy, DBS checks and an acceptance of the Safeguarding policy of The Drive Methodist Church. I have been able to assist those lettings where necessary.

Safeguarding is a responsibility of us all, so it is a pleasure to be working more closely with our team of Stewards and hope to attend their meetings periodically to keep them updated.

Over the past 2 years, there was a huge disruption to the provision of training, both Foundation and Advanced across the country. It took a while to roll out Zoom programmes, but initially people were not keen to mix with other circuits to complete the training programmes. Many in the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford circuit remain in need of training as the last opportunity occurred in 2017. As I completed the Train the Trainer programme over lockdown, I will be pleased to welcome those from The Drive to a Foundation Module Training on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Following this I will be able to support the provision of training in other churches in the circuit.

Recently Mmasape has set up a safeguarding buddying plan between The Drive and Gants Hill where a new safeguarding officer has been identified. This is a new and interesting element to my role. I am grateful for the support from the church family at The Drive.

Lorraine Bendon

## PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Throughout the past 2 years, the Pastoral Team have kept in touch regarding the care of the church family, although we met face to face only recently with the absence of Ruth Joyce who was on holiday.

Our Pastoral Visitors are: Jo Wright, Hilary Stevens, Susan Ruckes, Brian Grinham, Ruth Joyce, Janet Brunnen and Lorraine Bendon with Reverend Mmasape leading the team. Our intention is to meet 6 monthly although we are in regular contact in between times. The team have managed to keep in regular contact in a variety of ways with those under their care.

Since our last report in 2021, three special people in our church family; Verney Braithwaite, Peter Sharp and Danny Henry have died, and they are very much missed.

Generally, anyone who is a member of The Methodist Church is assigned a Pastoral Visitor who keeps in contact, offering friendship, care and spiritual support. This also applies to individuals within the family if they so wish. However, if you are a regular visitor to the church and would like to be assigned a Pastoral Visitor, please speak to our Minister Reverend Mmasape.

Could you be a Pastoral Visitor? Want to know more? Please speak to one of the team.

Lorraine Bendon

## TEAM TDY

With the covid restrictions easing and the summer sunshine appearing, TDY enjoyed the annual church anniversary get together at the Rodings, in July. It was a "bring and share" picnic and everyone enjoyed being together again out in the fresh air. It was good to see people face to face and catch up each other's news. TDY also enjoyed a picnic in the Valentine's Park where they could eat, laugh, chat, race and enjoy being together again.

Feyi and Rochelle both started university and are studying law. They have both said the work is challenging, but they are enjoying the course.

It was a lovely reunion when Thea, Feyi and Rohit came back for Christmas. Even though some of our young people are studying away, we keep in touch, and they are all still very much part of team TDY.

I had to miss the annual pizza party and Nativity rehearsal, due to having to isolate. Michelle along with a team of wonderful helpers carried on marvellously, and I am grateful to everyone who came and supported at the last minute. The show did go on! Thank you all.

Thank you and well done to Rochelle who wrote our Nativity for 2021, with the help and support of Yetunde, Folake and Lola. It was a joy to celebrate Christ's birth through the telling of the familiar story. It was very poignant too, as this year there was a corona virus narrator (Thalia). I must also mention Emily, who played Mary, and read the part so confidently. Well done to everyone who took part. At the end of this report there is an extract from the Nativity and a poem that Yetunde wrote.

TDY, with the help of Mike Seviour, are designing a more modern look for our website. This will include a link for an Instagram page. They are pulling us forward and giving The Drive a platform to reach more people in our community. Fantastic!

We are going to take part in more all-age worship services with Mmasape and attend circuit events too.

Bambo has registered TDY's interest in attending the Methodist young people's event, 3Generate, which is taking place at the NEC in Birmingham this year.

Mmasape and some of our TDY leadership team attended a zoom meeting with Brian Smith, who is a Methodist youth be reviewing and using over the next year. Thank you Mmasape for introducing us to Brian.

As ever, I am so grateful for the enthusiasm of our young people. They have shown resilience over these last two years, and it is wonderful that we can be with each other once again. They're a brilliant bunch.

We have many young adults in team TDY now, and over the next year they will hopefully be taking on some leadership roles within TDY. It's exciting times!

We also have a fantastic group of current leaders who support and nurture our young people. They prepare sessions for TDY every Sunday and support the various TDY events. A massive thank you to them too. Their time and dedication are very much appreciated.

I also want to thank our organist, Andrew, who encourages TDY with their various musical talents and is always very flexible and adaptable (especially with last minute requests!).

I finish this report with a poem and an extract from our 2021 Nativity:

We tell this story bit by bit,  
Our Nativity story with pandemic twists,  
This story teaches us in so many ways  
How to rely on our Lord for the rest of our days  
"In a time where our usual comforts were taken away from us, we remember how privileged we are and thank God for it. We must remember to pray for people who still live in discomfort and do everything in our power to help."

Amen to that!

Jo Wright

JMA

Over many years The Drive has supported and raised good amounts for JMA (Junior Mission for All). Understandably with the pandemic this has not been possible for the past couple of years. However, I was pleased to learn that Rochelle had been collecting during 2021 and together with donations I was able to pay in £55 towards JMA funds. Thank you Rochelle.

Some of the money raised in the past came from the annual Beetle Drive and Tea. However because of the pandemic this did not take place last year and with the uncertainty surrounding the virus at the beginning of this year, and who might possibly attend, one was not arranged for this year either.



Going forward I would like to see The Drive continue to support JMA through donations, our young people collecting and possibly restarting our Beetle Drive. If any of the young people in our TDY group would like to start collecting, please let me know.

Diane Foster



Music@TheDrive

If the last two years have taught us only one thing, I think it's how to be flexible and go with the flow! In this spirit, we are bringing the Choir, Chorale, organ and instrumentalists all under the heading of Music@TheDrive.

The idea is to be able to choose the right music and musicians for the right occasion. This is not as radical as it might sound – for example, the choir will still be visible week by week, but they might not always be in robes in the choir stalls. We are keen to be inspired by ideas from TDY and the young adults in our congregation. Just recently on Palm Sunday we used a song by Stormzy which successfully involved all our singers.

Going back to tradition, it was a joy to be back in church to sing for Harvest Festival in September, and to be able to have our Carol Service in church again in December. As I write we are looking forward to our first Easter Day in church since 2019.

We have now been using our hymnal Singing the Faith for ten years, and my latest statistical analysis showed that we have used 57% of the available hymns at least once in that time.

We've begun the process of revising the Drive Songbook, which is also 10 years old, to take out the songs that are now in Singing the Faith and include some of the best of the latest worship songs.

As restrictions on our daily lives are lifted, we will look into musical events that can involve both the church and wider communities. As we discuss the future of the BDI Circuit, we should also be using music as a unifying force for our churches.

My thanks to all in the Choir for their time and commitment in attending regular Thursday practices again, and to all who have sung with the Chorale, enriching our worship at The Drive. Thanks also to Mmasape and all in the congregation for the support and encouragement that you give.

Andrew Taylor

## BIBLE READING GROUP

The Bible Reading Group has been meeting this last year but at first on zoom and then in the Gardeners Cafe and more recently in our home where we first began the group.

We have read about Joseph, the one with the many coloured coat and the exploits of David and selections from the Gospel of John. We have also read the letters of the Apostles Peter and John and Some of Paul's writings. So a wide range of scripture.

We have had six members meeting regularly until Colin moved away and gracefully bowed out leaving five of us.

Our format has as always been that of a book club. We ask, was it a good read. Anyone may comment on what they have read and there are no experts. So it is not a bible study as usually understood. That is why we have called it the Bible Reading Group.

We intend to continue meeting for as long as folk want to and would welcome new members. The group meets once a month often on the last Friday of the month.

John and Jan Pearson

## THE DRIVE NEWSLETTER

The newsletter continues to be published monthly, despite the long-standing problems with the church printer. For the past 6 months we have Jackie Saito from the Circuit office to thank for undertaking the printing. We look forward in anticipation to the arrival of a new printer/copier.

At least ten of our publications are sent far and wide to past members and those interested in our church life. We appear to have regular contributors who educate, inform and bring us joy. Our Minister writes a message which offers reflection and prayer on what is going on in the world, Senior Stewards report regularly, and Brian offers his musings!

I would like to encourage you, dear reader to think on what you could offer in terms of an article, poem, reflection or maybe you have a favourite hymn or prayer you would like included. It is your newsletter, what would you like to read more about?

I will be delighted to hear from you.

Lorraine Bendon

## CHURCH WEBSITE

Use of the website remains fairly constant at the rate of about 5,000 visitors a year with over 14,000 pages being viewed each year.

There is little to report on the website this year, with most developments concentrating on 'under-the-hood' improvements. It is hoped that in the next few months the website may receive a 'face lift' to give it a new look whilst maintaining the existing facilities.

As always, the main issue is the lack of new material being submitted for the website. It can only ever be as good as the information provided.

Mike Seviour

## THE DRIVE TOGETHER WHATSAPP GROUP

The Drive Together was set up in March 2020 following the closure of our church due to the onset of the Covid pandemic. Ministers and Lay Preachers ensured we had a virtual Sunday Service throughout Lockdown. Daily prayers were posted twice a day by a team of people from the circuit.

The flower arrangers posted pictures of home arrangements and gardens, with dedications to the NHS and others.

Church family members and friends posted news and information that some people passed on to other members who did not have access to a mobile phone. Our young people kept us informed of their achievements and hopes for the future. Andrew shared links to hymns and music and Brian kept our minds active with a Quiz or Word Search.

It is also used to inform and bring comfort to those who need prayers and support during illness or bereavement, as well as congratulating those with birthdays and celebrations.

As we move on from the last two years it is reassuring to know that The Drive Together will continue to exist virtually, alongside our Church life and provide prayers, comfort, strength and inspiration every day.

Anne Dellow

## FILM SHOW

The last film show we managed to hold was in January 2020. It is our intention to start again as soon as possible, and we will let you know as soon as the dates have been fixed after we get the go ahead. I am grateful to John and Jan Pearson who help with the preparation and setting up. Also, John helps sort out any technical problems that are above my capabilities! We do not charge for showing the films but ask for a donation towards the purchase of the DVDs, and we do serve light refreshments about half way through the films which are normally just under 2 hours.

Brian Grinham

## FLOWERS

We have four flower arrangers who prepare the flowers for each Sunday as well as for special events during the year. At present we are experimenting with different methods using vases, containers, wire and biodegradable oasis to help the environment. We thoroughly enjoy what we do.

If there is anyone who would like to dedicate flowers to somebody please see Lorraine, Anne, Ruth or myself. Thank you.

Janet Brunnen

## CHURCH SATURDAY LUNCH

Some months ago, Lorraine and I were musing about ways to get people mixing after Covid and decided that restarting the church lunch would be a perfect situation. We agreed that we would never be able to match the magnificent meals that Barbara and Catherine created when they were Queens of the lunches some years ago. However, as the object of the exercise was to get people together, we thought maybe we could try something simpler, like fish and chips.

So, taking into account various Covid restrictions and setting a maximum number of 30, we had our first lunch on 6th November which was very well supported.

Lorraine arranged special rates with a local fish & chip shop, and it seemed to be well received. There were some teething problems as the chip shop didn't label the packets which wasn't very helpful but we managed to get through it.

Having learned some valuable lessons, our second lunch on 11th December went more smoothly with a Christmas theme & music to add to the festive feel.

In the New Year, we gave out feedback forms to see what people thought and received some valuable comments. We have therefore decided to hold it for the first Saturday in the month and try different food options.

We played safe after a further Covid spike in the New Year and resumed the lunches on the 5th March but as the weather was still cold, we decided to stay with fish, chips and music which proved so successful we had to gently remind people they had homes to go to!

Our lunch on 2nd April being mindful of Lent was simple with homemade soup, bread and cheese and instead of a set price, we requested donations in support of Ukraine.

So far, this has been very successful and we hope to build on this over the coming months. Watch this space!

Ruth Joyce & Lorraine Bendon

## CUB PACK

We have continued our cub pack with 5 cubs meeting Tuesdays at 7pm. This year has been eventful with some return to usual and the longed-for return to meeting up in person after running the programme virtually.

We started last summer with an evening at Fairlop Waters with the cubs taking over the Aquabounce. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all as our first meeting back in-person. The cubs, with others in the district, had lots of fun swimming and jumping over the inflatable obstacles in the lake, as well as getting reacquainted with each other with some only seeing each other for the first time in nearly 2 years.

We've undertaken lots of traditional scouting activities over the past year such as pioneering, cub challenges, firelighting and backwoods cooking as well as some practice in pitching and striking tents – new experiences for some of the cubs as the majority of their time here has been participating online. It has been a chance for the cubs to work together and get

some of our equipment out and used again. It has also been an opportunity to rediscover lots of cub games which we've been unable to do virtually, again for some cubs this will have been the first time they have played our favourites like submarines, Jacob's ladder and dodgeball. We have been working to fill out the activities they have been missing for their challenge awards. The cubs have been superb in working together as a team.

We've also been able to say goodbye to 3 cubs during the past year who have moved up to Scouts. We are looking forward to recruiting some new members as interest in cubs rises now that we are returning to some normality after the past years.

Reenit Shah  
Cub Scout Leader

## THE DRIVE PRE-SCHOOL

The Drive pre-school has been serving the Local Community and beyond since 1974, offering Early Years Education to children aged 2-5 years old.

The Drive pre-school is an extremely inclusive practice and children with their families from all walks of life are warmly welcomed. We celebrate the breadth of the diversity of both children and adults in our pre-school, appreciating the different cultures and religions these bring. We have families from around the world, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Romania, Cyprus, Italy, South Africa, The Gambia, Turkey, Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.



We promote independence from an early age, by teaching the children to do things for themselves such as: take themselves to the toilet, wash and dry their hands, serve their own snacks and drinks, wash up their dirty dishes, tidy up before they go in the garden and take off and put on their coats.

We are all very proud that Ofsted has awarded us an "Outstanding" provider and this is due to the hard work that goes into everyday life of the pre-school by the whole staff team. This is very special to the pre-school, as it gives it recognition for all the excellent work we do with the children, to prepare them for their next step in their learning journey. We believe that firm foundations are laid for the children's future, as a result of the outstanding work we do.

Covid and the lockdown, has created a situation that has left a lot of children with speech delay and a reluctance to separate from their parents. We have experienced a challenging time to settle new children as they are taking a lot longer to get settled than before.

We are currently supporting seventeen children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We have all the plans in place to meet their individual needs and support them and their families on this journey.

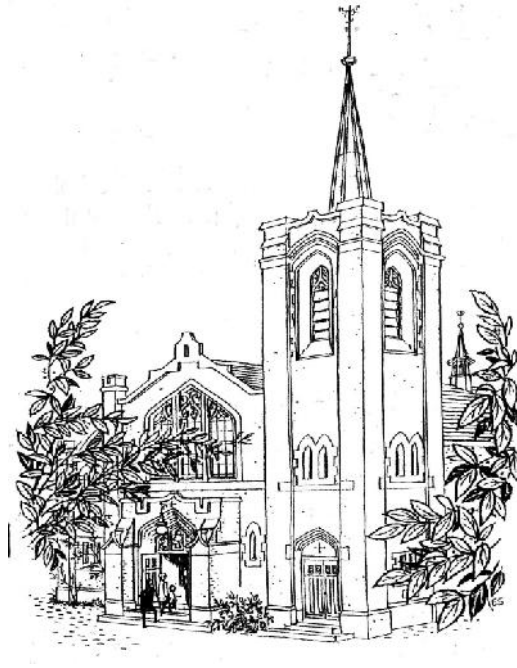
Below are two quotes from our Ofsted report that highlights what the Drive pre-school is all about.

"Staff have a relentless dedication to supporting every individual child, including those with additional needs, to help them make excellent progress".

"The manager is passionate and leads the well qualified team to provide the best possible care and learning for all children who attend this pre-school".

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to the whole staff team at the pre-school, as their hard work and dedication is what has given the Drive pre-school the good name and reputation we have in our local community.

Kay Whiddon  
Pre-school Manager



Almighty God, we thank you for the life of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ,  
who sent his disciples to share your Good News.

Help and guide us to deepen our own spiritual faith,  
enabling us to nurture those we meet  
to come to know you more personally.

We pray that you would draw people into your presence,  
expanding your kingdom here on earth and that you would fill  
us all with your Holy Spirit so that we may grow in love and  
joy serving you through the people we meet.

In all that we do,  
may we know your grace  
and give glory to you.  
Amen.

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.