

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

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023/2024



Minister:

Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni

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<https://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.

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Church family

Over the last five years of ministry at The Drive I have been so privileged to witness such a caring congregation. Caring for each other, for church resources and the fabric of the building. This is largely through our elected representatives to the various groups and committees and those who volunteer to the life of the church.

Our worship is supported by the circuit local preachers, worship leaders who support weekly worship and together with others shape and share in local arrangements. All this ably supported by Andrew, the choir and chorale.

It has been a delight to see our young people grow and participate in church and also join in the leadership roles, alongside a dedicated team of leaders. We look forward to receiving into full membership new friends who have recently joined the church.

This year has brought its fair share of trials for many of us, with many experiencing serious illnesses, surgeries and other health struggles. Yet amid these trials we have witnessed the strength of our community as we have come together to support and uplift one another.

Our pastoral team has been brilliant during life's joys and pain. We remember with fondness those friends whom we have lost and name Sandra Runeckles, Josie Jiggins and Peter Mitchell among those friends who have died since our last ACGM.

This year also marks my last as minister here at The Drive even though I will still be in the circuit. We are delighted and look forward to welcoming Revd Jacqueline Jones in September. I therefore wish to take this moment to say a big thank you for your support over the last five years. I look forward to seeing you in acts of worship and other circuit events.

Yours in Christ

Mmasape

The Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni

STEWARDS

I would like to start with thanks to our minister the Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni, to the Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and all other volunteers who have kept our services going and the church open throughout the year. I am thankful that we can continue to share the load of this role.

Thanks to all who prepare this report and who contribute to it.

Thanks to Brian Taylor, Brian Grinham, Diane and Jeremy who ensure our noticeboards show the world when they can pop in for worship – and they work! We have had new people joining us, which is lovely to see.

Last year Antonia and Yinka expressed an interest in joining our team of Stewards – myself, Diane, Ruth, Oli and Amy - and it has been great to see them taking up their role. Putting the rota together each quarter has become a struggle, with fewer availability forms being returned. I have high hopes for our Annual Church General Meeting; the last one saw one of the biggest turn-outs I can recall and two people offered to become stewards.

During the year we have enjoyed regular worship with special services to mark various occasions, including the church anniversary, Harvest, Christmas, a very poignant Maundy Thursday service and of course Easter. We have hosted some circuit-wide services too and these have been well attended. The Circuit services for Holy week this year were thought provoking and took us to different churches to Sense the Passion.

Mmasape and the Revd Kido Baek have led the Circuit as joint Superintendents but Kido is soon to leave the circuit and over the summer Mmasape will transition from our minister to sole Superintendent as well as taking pastoral responsibility for Barking and Ilford churches. I am sure you will join me in wishing both Mmasape and Kido well in their new roles as we prepare to welcome our new minister Revd Jacqui Jones who comes to us from a position in Florida.

A circuit group has overseen the closure of Seven Kings Methodist Church and the final service was attended by many across the circuit. This was one of the circuit vision priorities and we look forward to playing our part in the development and life of the circuit.

Michelle Garner – Senior Steward

I would like to endorse Michelle's thanks to all who contribute to the life of our church. One of my tasks is to find readers each week and I thank those who are happy to read the Bible lessons at services. If this is something you would like to do please let me know so that we can maintain an effective rota.

I would also like to thank Michelle for her commitment and loyalty to The Drive. She has shown faith and compassion for others throughout her time as Senior Steward and I have enjoyed working alongside her. We will continue with our roles for the next year and thank everyone for their support.

Diane Foster – Asst Senior Steward

COMMUNION STEWARDS

We still have four Communion Stewards, myself, Liz, Ruth, Rochelle and Oli. Communion is normally on the first Sunday of the month and we are grateful to Mmasape that she is able to plan that when the quarterly plan comes out.

Our numbers participating in our communion services varies from month to month which makes it difficult sometimes to "guess" how many to set up for. On the whole we tend to overestimate which is much better than being short.

I am grateful to our stewards for the work they do and to Liz who is on duty every month as she is unable to set up.

Brian Grinham – Senior Communion Steward

TREASURER

Income



Freewill Offerings – Receipts for the first 8 months of this financial year are approx. 7% down, in line with our budget for the year. The majority of freewill offerings continue to be received electronically. Please contact me should you wish to set up a standing order. However, Gift Aid envelopes are available, should you wish to continue making cash/cheque offerings. Your continued support is much appreciated.

If you pay tax in the UK, the benefit of Gift Aid is that we are able to reclaim the tax from your offering. Therefore, if not already done, I would ask that you request a Gift Aid declaration from Joel Inbakumar.

Rentals – I am glad to report that rentals are back to normal, and the income in line with our budget for the year.

Due to the high Bank Rate, we are earning good interest from our deposit account with CFB.

Expenditure

Circuit Contributions – Due to the loss of income at Grange Hill and Seven Kings, the remaining churches in the Circuit are paying extra contributions.

Repairs and Renewals – Costs are currently over budget. This is due to unexpected repairs to the roof, boiler and fire control panel. Further details will be given in the Property Report.

Due to continued unstable energy costs, we again had to budget additional expenditure for gas and electricity. Fortunately we had a mild winter, and as a result our energy expenditure is currently in line with the budget for the year. The tariffs we have with British Gas are due for renewal in July. Hopefully we will be able to obtain better rates.

Overview

Because of the additional, unexpected, repairs & renewal expenditure, we may have trouble meeting our budget for the year.

Costs associated with the proposed sale of the land behind the car park, were greater than expected. However, if the sale does go through, these costs will be recovered.

A big thank you to all those who continued to support the church financially throughout the year. Without these funds our work in maintaining and operating the church and its buildings would have been very difficult.

John Higgins - Treasurer

GIFT AID

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity. Your donations have made a significant impact on our church community, allowing us to continue our mission and serve others.

Gift Aid Contributions: I want to express my heartfelt thanks to every one of you who has contributed to our church through Gift Aid. Whether you've given a little or a lot, your commitment to our church family is deeply appreciated. Your financial support allows us to create a welcoming environment, provide spiritual guidance, and foster a sense of belonging for all who walk through our doors.

A summary of the Gift Aid receipts from the HMRC in the last four years is shown below:

For the year ended 5 th April 2023	£6,390
For the year ended 5 th April 2022	£6,409
For the year ended 5 th April 2021	£5,999
For the year ended 5 th April 2020	£6,215

I want to extend a special thank you to our regular donors, as well as those who have given one-time gifts. Your faithfulness and sacrificial giving inspire us all.

Claiming Gift Aid: For those who have signed up for Gift Aid, please know that your contributions go even further. By allowing us to claim Gift Aid on your donations from the taxman, you've helped us maximize the impact of every pound given. If you have any questions about Gift Aid on your contributions or are interested in joining the scheme,

please feel free to contact me. You must be a taxpayer to join the scheme.

As we move forward, I encourage you to continue supporting our church. Your financial gifts, prayers, and involvement make a difference. Let's keep working together to build a stronger, more compassionate community.

In Gratitude and Faith

Joel Inbakumar – Gift Aid Secretary

PROPERTY

In my Report last year I commented on four major projects that had been completed which were very much improvements to our buildings. These were double glazing the Hall, upgrading of the sound system, installation of CCTV and various items of electrical work to improve our energy efficiency. This year, the spend on our property has continued unabated, but virtually all of the costs have been to replace existing ageing and failing infrastructure rather than improvements.



So far this year the Hall floor has needed to be completely stripped and re polished, we had a heating problem requiring new parts, the fire alarm in the Church developed a fault, the circulation pump for the heating failed, the Hall fire alarm panel became faulty and the church foyer roof developed a leak.

As a result of these unplanned costs together with all of the routine ongoing maintenance required, our property spend this financial year will be in the order of £37000. I draw the distinction between improvements and maintenance just to emphasise that with premises of the size, quality and

complexity that we are so fortunate to enjoy there inevitably comes a high cost just to maintain them.

Managing the property is very much a team effort and I would like to thank all members of the Property & Finance Committee. John Higgins is our Treasurer and Committee Secretary, Anne Dellow looks after housekeeping matters, Joel Inbakumar manages our Gift Aid claims, Brian Taylor manages the invoicing of the groups who hire our halls, Brian Grinham adds a wealth of experience, and Mike Seviour and Peter Bendon both help with general maintenance and meeting contractors when necessary.

Finally, thanks to John, Mike, Peter and Colin Runeckles who are on our security rota and undertake a regular check of the premises last thing at night.

Jeremy Foster – Property and Finance Committee Chair

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Our premises continue to be a hive of activity throughout the week with numerous local community activities using our facilities. In addition to our long established Pre School, we have dance and music groups, fitness & exercise groups, St John's Ambulance and education groups.

As well as ensuring that our premises are put to good use and that we fulfil our mission of being a "good neighbour", the income we derive from our lettings is vital if we are to keep our premises maintained and the church financially solvent. Last year our rental income totalled £54788 compared to £51495 the previous year.

Jeremy Foster – Bookings Secretary

SAFEGUARDING

The Drive Methodist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry. Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we endeavour to protect the health and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Our safeguarding policy is about implementing the necessary measures to prevent harm to those most at risk of abuse and is integral to the mission of the Methodist Church to value every human being as part of God's creation.

Everyone has the right to protection from abuse and to be treated no less favourably than others, irrespective of any personal or protected characteristic. There are no distinctions regardless of difference.

The Drive is relatively on track with fundamental Safeguarding practices, and we continue to improve our Safer Recruitment procedures. The need for Circuit Foundation Training, that has previously taken place at The Drive has lessened, which indicates that a good majority of people have now completed this mandatory training. No doubt there are a handful of people in the circuit who still require this.

At the Drive, we are dragging our heels with undertaking Advanced Module training as for several years this has been mandatory for those in roles of leadership. It is accessible online as well as face to face.

We were required this year to form a small support team to practice our safeguarding policy and procedures, evidencing compassion and diligence. We also learned about our limitations and the importance of applying the 4 R's - recognise, respond, record and refer. I am grateful to this team for their commitment.

The Drive Methodist Church affirms that safeguarding is a shared responsibility. Everyone associated with the Church who comes into contact with children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable has a role to play, supported by consistent policies promoting good practice across the whole Church.

Lorraine Bendon – Safeguarding Officer



PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Our team of Pastoral Workers is made up of six amazing individuals who feel called to offer emotional, social and spiritual support to those in our church family who welcome their care. It is advised that all home visits should take place in twos.

This year, the team's encounters have been varied. A few examples being:

-) catching up in church over a coffee,
-) responding to worries and woes about study and exams
-) checking in at home or in hospital with those who are poorly
-) celebrating good news and events
-) offering support to those who feel troubled
-) sharing in Saturday Lunch
-) singing with the church choir
-) serving refreshments after church
-) accompanying Mmasape for giving communion at home
-) having a coffee in the park
-) visiting and sitting with those who are nearing the end of their life.

Whatever the need, pastoral workers always serve through Christ's love.

Recently at one of our Pastoral Team Support Meetings, we concentrated our thoughts and discussion on our own wellbeing and the need to take care of ourselves.

Traditionally in Methodism, pastoral care is offered to those who take up membership however we very much want to offer pastoral support to all who regularly worship at The Drive. Serving in this way is deeply satisfying and evident from those who have been Pastoral Workers for decades.

If you feel you would like to serve in this way, do please contact Mmasape.

Lorraine Bendon – Secretary Pastoral Committee

TEAM TDY



At the end of April, we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt. It was lovely weather, and it was good to see the parents and carers from the pre-school joining us again, as well as our young people from TDY. One



pre-school parent, whose child now goes to school, travelled from Leytonstone, as they always enjoy the Egg Hunt, and their children remind them every year to come.

A shout out goes to Peter Bendon, who took a tumble at the event, but is thankfully well on the mend.

TDY chose to send the £145 that was made at the Easter Egg Hunt event, to the British Red Cross Disaster Fund.

We all enjoyed the church anniversary get together at the Rodings, last July. It was a 'bring and share' picnic and everyone enjoyed being out in the fresh air. It was good to see people chatting in the sunshine.

It is always lovely when our young people return from university. It's so good to hear how they are getting on. Even though some of our young people are studying and working away, we keep in touch, and they are all still very much part of team TDY. Many of them graduate this year or move on to A-levels, college, or secondary school. We wish them all the best for the next steps of their journey.

Sheela and her family moved from Ilford, and we were sorry to see them go. Thank you to all the family for being part of team TDY. We wish them all the best. We are still fortunate that Sheela writes prayers for our Whatsapp group.

Our Nativity in December was a whole church event, and we had many young people and adults taking part. It was wonderful to have young and (slightly) older members of our church retelling the familiar story of Jesus' birth. The Nativity was dedicated to Sandra Runeckles, who sadly passed away last year. She was a wonderful TDY leader and will be remembered for her amazing crafts, organisational skills, and ideas!

During the year, The Drive hosted a youth evening, where young people from around the circuit enjoyed, pizza, fun and fellowship. Other churches are taking turns to host an event too. Michelle and I recently joined a meeting of youth leaders from around the circuit. Sarah Ocran, a circuit steward, has

the responsibility of youth within our circuit. It was great to meet other youth leaders and share experiences. In the not too distant future, we will be organising a circuit youth event, for all churches to join in with. Watch this space!

It has been a joy to welcome a new family to The Drive this year, and it is lovely to have younger members in TDY again, especially for Emily, who has been our youngest member for some time. She now has more friends in the group. They keep us on our toes and enable us to plan for all age groups. Praise the Lord!

Diane, our new family, and I recently joined a circuit youth event, at Chigwell Row campsite. This was organised by members of the Goodmayes church and Revd Kido. It was raining and cold, but that didn't deter us. We all had such an amazing time. Crafts, crate stacking, making shelters, singing and praise filled the day. We eventually left at around 7.30pm, after having a delicious dinner. More of these events are in the pipeline.

As ever, I am so grateful for the enthusiasm of our young people (TDY). They may be small in number, but still committed to sharing the love of Jesus. Rochelle and other members of TDY have taken responsibility for posting items on our church Instagram account, which has attracted attention from all over the world. Thank you!

Congratulations to Rochelle who is now a worship leader and will soon be joining us as an adult leader in TDY too. We also have a fantastic group of leaders who support and nurture our young people during the year. Our leaders 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!). Andrew has also inspired members of team TDY to join the chorale and, together with the choir our Easter service was truly wonderful.

Lastly, thank you to all the church congregation, who are always so willing to support TDY in their ventures.

Jo Wright – TDY Team Leader

JMA

Our JMA Beetle Drive and Tea was held in April this year and was again a great success with the beetles coming thick and fast! The splendid amount of £258 was raised. Thank you to everyone who came along and played and to those who kindly made donations.

Many thanks also to Jo for her help in the kitchen and Jeremy who explained the rules and made it all run smoothly.

We had two winners – the under 16 was Isaiah and the adult was Jeremy's sister, Ros. Well done to them both.

All money raised for JMA is split between The Methodist Church World Mission Fund and Mission in Britain Fund supporting projects both overseas and at home.

Diane Foster – JMA Secretary





MUSIC@THEDRIVE

This year we have introduced singing of two or three worship songs at the start of many of our Sunday morning services. This has given us the opportunity to explore some more of the variety of songs available to us in our hymn book *Singing the Faith*. As well as songs from well-known contemporary writers such as Matt Redman, Noel and Tricia Richards, Keith and Kristyn Getty and Graham Kendrick, we are using music from the wider world church, including South Africa, South America and the Iona and Taizé communities. It also gives us the chance to use different singers and forms of accompaniment.

Our traditional musical highlights have continued this year. At the service of Evening Prayer in July, the choir was joined by a small congregation. The Carol Service in December and most recently Easter Day saw the choir joined by other singers from our church family and friends, and both were very well appreciated by singers and congregation alike.

I remain so grateful to all who participate in music-making at The Drive, and to Mmasape and all of you for your support and encouragement. I have to particularly thank the choir members who turn up regularly on Tuesday evenings to practise for our regular Sunday services and the special festival events throughout the year.

I'd like to give a special mention this year to Brian Grinham, who turned 90 in March and as the bass section, remains the rock on which our choir harmony is built. Long may that continue!

Andrew Taylor – Organist and Choirmaster

BIBLE READING GROUP



This year has been pretty much as last year. We have been meeting in our home usually the last Friday of the month. We have read Amos and Joel and Hosea from the Old Testament and selections from the Gospels of Mark and Luke. We have also read some of Paul's writings including 1 Corinthians. So again, a wide range of scripture.

We have had five regular members and occasional visits by Anthony Russell who has shared his insights with 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. We want to share how the bible passages have affected us, have we any questions or observations. Are there things we didn't like and so on. 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.

Jan and John Pearson

THE DRIVE NEWSLETTER

Not too much has differed with this publication since last year. On average, we print 50 copies each month and quite a few are sent around the country to past friends and interested parties. There really isn't any feedback, so from a content aspect, it is difficult to know what is working and what isn't. It really would be helpful to have some constructive criticism.

While there are a handful of stalwarts who write the occasional article, it is becoming more difficult to encourage others to submit thoughts, prayers, articles and items of interest, and it needs the opinions and experiences of others to bring it alive; without this, it just becomes a carrier of dates and fundraising.

As well as good news and congratulations, the newsletter has been useful to record tributes from friends when a member of the church family has died and particularly comforting for those who have been unable to attend a funeral.

In these times, a small publication such as The Drive produces cannot compete with the steady, constant stream of instant news available from social media, although we too make a digital copy available on the church website, thanks to Mike Seviour.

And so dear reader, when you've been on your hols or just out and about or if you have a Eureka moment, please write something for the newsletter. You are more interesting than you think!

Lorraine Bendon - Editor

CHURCH WEBSITE

It is business as usual with our website and although there are no changes or developments to report this year, we must thank Mike Seviour, our webmaster, for its maintenance and upkeep.

It is certainly a very useful resource, offering a history of the church, information and news etc. It also gives us the current duty rotas with reminders to those on duty and supports the management of our premises.

Diane Foster

THE DRIVE TOGETHER WHATSAPP GROUP

Since the Group was set up following the onset of the Covid pandemic, it has evolved into a source of communication that provides our church family with not only the comfort of daily prayers and verse but also keeps

community. The Whatsapp Group is an extension of our church life, thereby enabling us to retain information to which we can refer to at any time.

The Group keeps us in touch with news of our young members who have moved onto university or other areas. We are able to celebrate their achievements and hopes for the future. Birthdays and special occasions are acknowledged warmly. Family and friends who are in need of support during difficult times find our prayers comforting.

Our church supports the local food bank and the Whitechapel Mission. A recent request for donations/items received a great response, mainly helped by posting on our Whatsapp Group.

The Group has moved on in many ways since its inception but it is reassuring to know that it is now a firm fixture alongside our traditional church life.

Anne Dellow.



FILM SHOWS



We started showing films again in June last year and have gone through the “God’s not Dead” series with appreciation from those who have attended which, unfortunately has not been very great numbers.

I am grateful for the help of John and Jan Pearson and Anne Dellow on the days we show films and also for the help from Terence and Sanjay, who have been helping with the technical side and the moving of the speakers, which are rather heavy!

During the summer months, from July, we are proposing to start at 3.00pm rather than 2.30pm as sometimes it cuts short the time people have for chatting together after the Church Lunch while equipment is being set up.

It would be great if some of our younger members from TDY would be able to watch the films and they could then discuss them on the Sunday in their meeting.

We will be planning our programme for the autumn and winter very soon as we find films that we have authority to show without having to pay for a licence which could cost about £80.00 to show once!

As usual we invite the other churches in the circuit to attend and we do get one or two regulars each month.

Brian Grinham

FLOWERS

Our flower team continues to consist of four flower arrangers, myself, Lorraine, Janet and Ruth. We ensure our church has one or two displays each Sunday and on special occasions throughout the year. We welcome requests for arrangements for loved ones and photos of the display are put on our website with personal dedications, for this we are grateful to Mike Seviour.

Our team is always available to discuss requests for various blooms required (depending on season and colours available). We are fortunate to have lots of shrubbery in our church garden and the use of this in our displays not only enhances them but can also result in a good arrangement for a reasonable cost. We are mindful of the need to consider the environment and try to limit the use of floral foam as this is not bio-degradable.

We attend two flower groups in Wanstead and try to incorporate some of the ideas into our displays, it is such an enjoyable occupation. Please speak to one of us if you are interested in joining our flower team at The Drive.

Anne Dellow – Flower Arranger



CHURCH SATURDAY LUNCH

This monthly social event remains popular with a steady stream of guests ranging from 28 to 10 in numbers. Our age group has spanned from 8-90 years and it has been good to see other friends from the circuit churches joining in.

We continue to provide a varied nutritious lunch, without too much cooking involved. We were reluctant to increase the cost from £4 to £5 but this reflects the general rise in food costs. We keep costs as low as possible and prefer not to make any significant income, preferring instead to support charitable causes and over the past year we have made donations to Breast Cancer, Food Bank and for Moji's efforts in running the marathon for the Autistic Society.

Occasionally we meet for Afternoon Tea instead of lunch and have also served lunch buffet style.

We encourage anyone attending to 'bring a friend' and we now have several regular 'friends' joining in. It really is rewarding to see people chatting freely, without the restriction of missing the bus or getting home to cook Sunday lunch.

Anne, Ruth and Lorraine would love to know if there is anything in particular you would like us to prepare, bearing in mind space in the oven and kitchen is limited.

Our get together in June will once again be Afternoon Tea in aid of Breast Cancer research.

See you there!

Lorraine Bendon, Anne Dellow and Ruth Joyce



THE DRIVE PRE-SCHOOL



This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Drive pre-school. What an achievement, especially as so many nurseries and pre-schools have closed recently for various reasons. The Drive pre-school is a very inclusive practice and welcomes children and their families from different backgrounds, religions, ethnicities and abilities; serving the local community and beyond.

Below are some of the comments we received from parents in July 2023, whose children have moved on to their new school:

“As parents to a child with emerging special educational needs we were very worried about picking a suitable pre-school. The Drive and their staff were informally recommended to us by a health care professional based on their prior proved track record. We would highly recommend the pre-school for a number of reasons. The setting showed great flexibility when it came to our child settling in. Their patience, care and tailored approach to our child based on her needs was excellent. My child was not just kept safe but given an opportunity to experience pre-school and seek exposure to social situations which she needed. She was able to take part in some regular activities and also specific activities based on her health care plan. My child also had complicated healthcare and personal hygiene needs which the staff met and managed with dignity and respect. We were going through the process of obtaining an Education and Healthcare plan, and then also had this transitioned to her current setting. The SENCO managed all parts of this with the utmost care and respect for our child’s needs.

We were made to feel just like any other parent at the setting, and also met with a smile and care from the staff. The pre-school and its staff are a great asset and should make the local community, church and its congregation proud."

"My daughter thoroughly enjoyed her time at the Drive Pre-school. I felt you ensured each child was looked after as they were your own. The staff are extremely caring and warm towards the children. I often saw my daughter hug her teachers as soon as she would enter in the mornings. If I had any concern, you were always easy to talk too and reassured me that it would be resolved, and it always was resolved. Both of my girls still talk about the nursery, which shows what a positive impact it has had on them."

"I do not have enough words to describe how wonderful The Drive Pre-School has been. All the staff are amazing and very nurturing, and they create a lovely atmosphere for the children. The manager, Kay, was attentive and accommodating to the needs of our child who took a long time to settle. She and the other staff helped settle my child and build his confidence. They provide wonderful stepping stones for the children to continue growing and learning. My son loved his time there, and we as parents were happy in the knowledge that he was safe and enjoying his time at pre-school. We were kept informed of any news or issues and communication was excellent. We wholeheartedly recommend this pre-school for other children. "

"My son has special needs and that in turn greatly impacts his development and the level of care he requires. However, despite the challenges, my son has thrived at The Drive Pre-school, he would go to nursery with a huge smile on his face and would never want to leave. We noticed a big change

in his development and ability to interact with other children. The staff were always kind and attentive and he enjoyed spending the session with them. We found the nursery manager, Kay, took the time to tell us about what he did during sessions and made every effort to allow him to be included and settled, including allowing him to bring some of his own toys to manage his extreme sensory seeking behaviour. The nursery is very much a nurturing environment for the children, both my sons attended the nursery and both thoroughly enjoyed, as did we as parents. I had full confidence in leaving my children at the pre-school because I was able to see what a wonderful place it is – especially as my son had learning difficulties. I would recommend the pre-school to everyone.”

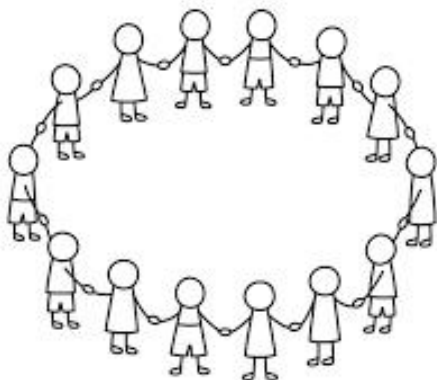
“There are not enough words to describe the care and commitment Kay and her team show at The Drive Pre-School. When looking for a place for my son, I visited so many nurseries and pre-schools. I had lost all hope. However, The Drive Pre-School changed my entire outlook. From the get go, Kay was so kind, compassionate, caring and informative. My son struggled a lot to settle. It was a very traumatic experience for us as parents however Kay and her team’s approach and patience was extraordinary. I cannot thank them enough. My son started to look forward to pre-school, and I no longer had the anxiety of how would he be. Kay was always there to answer any questions we had and my son, even though he is now in Reception, still talks about the pre-school and his aunty Kay. I truly believe in the current day and age where pressure is on all institutions such as educational or medical, Kay and the pre-school do an outstanding job. I wish my son could have stayed there forever! Many thanks once again to everyone there.”

I would like to thank all the parents who trust us to look after and care for their precious children.

As we celebrate 50 years, the pre-school continues to offer a nurturing and caring environment for all children of all abilities to thrive and grow. We provide an excellent foundation for the children's future, as they enter their life-long learning journey.

I wish to express my gratitude to the staff team of the Drive pre-school, who work hard to ensure each and every child reaches their full potential.

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

