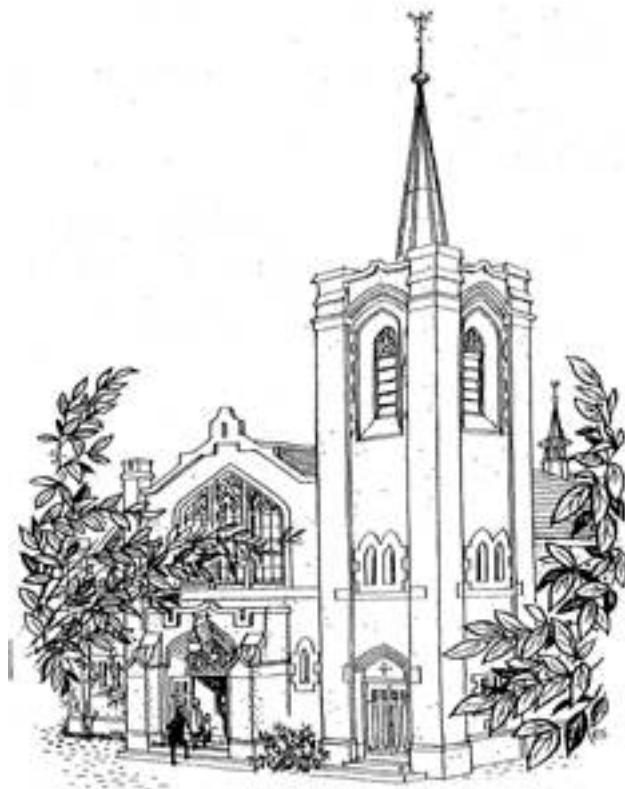


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

February 2020



Minister: Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

www.drive-methodist.church

**Church Mission Statement
of
The Drive Methodist Church**

The Drive Methodist Church aims to be faithful to the commandments of Jesus, and the calling of the Methodist Church.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission, and to fulfil the promises detailed in the Methodist worship book.

Provide a weekly opportunity for all people to worship God in Christ, here at The Drive Methodist Church.

Enable people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care.

Be a good neighbour to the immediate and wider community. Sharing our faith with others through pastoral care, church activities and communication.

Our Minister writes:

The “Beauty and the horror”

This is a title of a book by Richard Harries which explores the contradictory ways of life; balancing what it means to live in a world that has moments of amazing beauty – both in nature and in human actions but also equal horror in nature and in what humans inflict on each other. This for me is made more real as I witness in a space of a day the beauty of someone welcoming a new life into this world and hours later hearing about the tragic stabbing near the church in Seven Kings. Watching the news and seeing the once beautiful Australian landscape reduced to ash by uncontrollable fires which bring with it the devastation of wildlife and human life. The loss of belongings and belonging as people are made destitute. Yet alongside is the beauty seen in the selfless giving of firefighters, military personnel and volunteers who risk all to save what they can.

This leads me to ask again what our response is in the face of all of this. It's easy to send money to support relief efforts for natural disasters far from where we are. How, do we respond to the loss of life on our doorstep as is the case with the knife violence in Seven Kings (Ilford)? Especially in the midst of our faith diversity. How do we effectively show love of neighbours as for oneself?

This might not be an effective answer but for now all I can think of doing in the midst of questions from those within the church of how we respond to this, is that we as followers of Christ be a presence in the community. Open up the church for those who may want a place to pray or sit quietly, even when we are not sure if anyone will come in.

After our covenant promise to stand in the gap, I invite all of us to that for this community now. For Sikh, Muslim, Christians and non believers alike, let us who have promised to live for God, gather in solidarity and prayer with those who mourn or are affected by the horror of human action.

Let us pray:

Holy God, come to us and “change our spark to a flame” as in the midst of brokenness we show the beauty of Christ’s love. Walk with us as we walk within our divided communities to bring your unity.

Let your light of love shine through our being and doing for the healing that is needed.

Grant this through Christ our saviour, Amen.

Mmasape

Beauty for brokenness

Hope for despair

Lord in the suffering

This is our prayer

Bread for the children

Justice, joy, peace

Sunrise to sunset

Your kingdom in -crease

God of the poor

Friend of the weak

Give us compassion

We pray

Melt our cold hearts

Let tears fall like rain

Come change our love

From a spark to a flame

Graham Kendrick

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

Janet writes:

I am very grateful for the good wishes, cards, flowers and dinners after Roy died.

Roy Brunnen

It is with great sadness that we heard that Roy Brunnen had passed away.

Roy had been associated with the Church for many years and had many different roles during that time. He has been the chair of the Family Life Committee and often taken the chair at other meetings when Dino was double booked.

Roy was a real gentleman who served the local community as a councillor for many years and was Mayor of Ilford for a year. He worked in the Ambulance Service for most years of his working life. After his retirement, he and Janet moved away, but subsequently returned to Redbridge and became Senior Steward again, a post which he held for over 10 years.

Unfortunately, his health deteriorated over the last few years and he relinquished his role as Steward early last year. His health continued to decline, and, at the end, he was ready to go to higher service.

All who knew Roy had their lives enhanced by his friendship and he will be greatly missed.

Brian Grinham

Nativity - 15th December

This year Yetunde wrote the Nativity and what a wonderful Nativity it was. Well done Yetunde! With the help of other members of TDY, it was put to music and they told the familiar story of Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. It was lovely to see so many of our young people taking part. They all did an amazing job.

Thanks to Andrew who always says "Yes" to whatever you need him to play! Also this year we were pleased to have Phelo playing too.

A big thank you to everyone who took part and to the leaders who support our young people here at The Drive.

I wonder who will write the Nativity for 2020?

Happy New Year!

Jo Wright



Woodlands Family Centre

Dear Friends at The Drive Methodist Church

The team and I at Woodlands Family Centre would like to extend our grateful thanks for your very generous donation of £220.07 from your Nativity and Toy Service. As ever, the support we receive from you is very much appreciated and is used to support the vulnerable children and families we work with.

Your donation goes to families where a 'little helping hand' goes a long way; not only does it help resolve the immediate problem, but it also makes the recipients feel cared for and valued as parents and human beings.

Please be assured that we will use your donation money wisely; we also recognise and acknowledge how lucky we are to have your continued support.

Thank you.

Warm regards to you all

Laurette Robertson

Woodlands Family Centre Manager

Christmas Tree Festival



Our church at The Drive was transformed by the Christmas Trees provided by those who lead or are involved in the many elements and activities of church life. A real celebration of our community.

Our Candlelight Carol Service, which is always a special time, was particularly memorable with the addition of the trees.

The increased ‘busyness’ for everyone during the Christmas period meant that we competed with many other local festivals and attractions and while we would certainly have liked more visitors, I hope those who visited are now more aware of our place in the community and will join us again on other occasions.

A well-deserved thank you for the generosity of those who gave their valuable time and care to make this event possible:

A big thank you if you were:

- Involved in the planning
- Publicising and distributing leaflets
- Arranging, erecting and decorating the trees
- Planning and providing the splendid music and singing
- Making the delicious soup
- Buying and serving the refreshments
- A visitor to the church festival
- Welcoming and chatting to visitors
- A donor to Dementia UK
- Managing the finances
- Taking photos
- Removing, shredding and recycling the live trees
- Preparing the church building for the new year

If you were not able to be involved on this occasion and missed out on the fellowship fun and sharing, there will be lots of other opportunities for you to take part in, so watch this space.

Lorraine Bendon



Saturday soup kitchen

Thank you to everyone who made soup for the Christmas tree festival. It was delicious and much appreciated. Thank you also to the rota of people, who set up, served and cleared away afterwards.

Jo Wright

Thanks and congratulations

Thank you to Andrew, The Choir and Chorale for the production of the beautiful and inspiring Christmas music.

Thank you to Jeremy and his helpers for the spectacular Church Christmas Tree.

Thank you to Jo, the Junior Church Team and TDY for their unique performance of the Nativity.

Thank you to Doreen Larney and Sandra Runeckles who donated handmade crafts sold to raise funds for Dementia UK.

Many Congratulations to Sheela and Selwyn on the occasion of the recent 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Lorraine Bendon

More congratulations!

Congratulations to Matthew Foster who recently became engaged to Emily McDonald – you may remember Emily when she sang in our choir at the carol service in 2018.

Diane and Jeremy Foster

10th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

The Asian congregation at St Andrew's Church in The Drive has met at 4 pm each Sunday for the past ten years.

The service on 14th December was in three languages: Urdu, Punjabi and English, but was fairly easy to follow. The homily was preached by the Revd. Canon Rosemary Enever, who had been the vicar of St. Andrew's when the Asian services began. The anniversary service was fairly long to allow for translations to and from English. After the service we went into the hall for an excellent meal – tasty but not too spicy.

On 22nd December at 4pm I attended the start of the St Andrew's Carol Service before going to the practice followed by the Candlelit Carol Service at The Drive. That day I sang 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful' three times, even attempting the chorus in Urdu.

On New Year's Day I attend the 4pm service at St Andrew's where the Bishop of Chelmsford usually preaches. Due to an unfortunate lack of communication the Bishop did not attend. By next New Year's Day he is destined to be Archbishop of York. The Revd. Canon Marie Segal took the service which was followed by another excellent meal.

Susan Ruckes

Church Prayer Meeting - 27th February

The Church Prayer Meeting is on Thursday Feb 27th 7.15pm to 7.45pm in the Minister's Vestry.

Bible Reading Group - 28th February

Bible Reading group is on Friday 28th February from 10.30am to 11.30 am followed by refreshments at 104 Wanstead Lane. We will be discussing Acts chapters 15-20.

Jan and John Pearson

Advanced Safeguarding Training session – 28th March (registration 27th January – 23rd February)

To all Presbyters, Church Safeguarding Officers and Local Preachers

You may remember that at various recent meetings, Revd Kido Baek announced that there will be an Advanced Safeguarding training session held in the Circuit on 28th March 2020. This will be run by the District Safeguarding team. Attendance is for those who have completed the Foundation level training, and fall into the following categories:

- Circuit Safeguarding Officer
- Church Safeguarding Officers
- Presbyters
- Paid employees/volunteers who work directly with children, youth or vulnerable adults
- Local Preachers
- Worship Leaders

This event will be held at Goodmayes Methodist Church; registration will be from 9.30 am, and the training will begin at 10.00 am.

Applications to join this training will need to be made through Eventbrite, and the registration period will be from 27th January to 23rd February – to register, please visit the District website where there is a link to the Eventbrite registration page:

<https://www.methodistlondon.org.uk/safeguardingtraining>.

Please note, numbers are limited, and registration is essential. If you are unable to attend the training on 28th March, details of others around the District can be found through the same link.

If you have any questions about Safeguarding training, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Jackie Saito
Circuit Administrator
bdicircuit@btconnect.com;
020 8517 6159



Singing The Faith – The Eighth Year Eight Years A Geek!



We first used the new Methodist hymnal *Singing the Faith* on Sunday 15th January 2012. Since then I have kept a note of the hymns and songs used (from now on, I'll just refer to them as "songs"), and for those other geeks out there interested in statistics, here is a summary of those we used in 2019.

Not included in these figures are the 15 songs chosen by preachers that are not in *StF*, and any songs the choir has sung alone.

Over the year we sang 163 different songs from *StF*, which is 8 more than were used in 2018. These were the most frequently used songs:

6 times	351	<i>In Christ alone my hope is found</i>
5 times	487	<i>You shall go out with joy</i>
	503	<i>Love divine, all loves excelling</i>
4 times	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>
	51	<i>Great is thy faithfulness</i>
	59	<i>Lord, the light of your love is shining</i>
	94	<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done</i>
	566	<i>Take my life, and let it be</i>
	673	<i>Will you come and follow me</i>
	693	<i>Beauty for brokenness</i>
	707	<i>Make me a channel of your peace</i>

A further 8 songs were chosen 3 times, 43 twice and the remaining 101 just once. Of the total 164 songs used, 9 were completely new to us.

It's interesting to note some trends – the top two songs of the last eight years (see below), whilst still being chosen regularly, peaked in popularity in 2015 and 2017 respectively, whereas the top song this year 351 *In Christ Alone* is on an upward trajectory; chosen only once in the first three years of *StF*, it has become a more popular choice in the last four years.

Taking the eight years we have been using *StF* overall, we have now used 432 of the 790 songs available (not including the Canticles and Psalms section), which works out at 55 percent. 53 of those songs are by Charles Wesley; other popular writers include Fred Pratt Green and John Bell, with 17 songs each.

The top two hymns in those eight years remains unchanged from last year:

44 times	94	<i>To God be the glory, great things he has done</i>
39 times	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>

These two are still well ahead of the competition. Even if they are not sung at all in 2020, I can confidently predict the same result this time next year!

Andrew Taylor

Story time...

A little boy about ten years old was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefoot, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?" "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes." Was the boy's reply.

The lady took the boy by the hand and went into the store and asked the assistant to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could get a basin of water and a towel.

He quickly brought them to her. She took the little boy to the back of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with a towel. By this time the assistant had returned with the socks.

Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she bought him a pair of shoes. She tied up the remaining socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, my little fellow, you feel more comfortable now?"

As she turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand, and looking up in her face, with tears in his eyes, answered the question with these words. "Are you God's Wife?"

*From "A Bucket of Surprises" J. John and Mark Stubbs, Monarch Books. Reproduced with permission.
Submitted by Brian Grinham*

Diary

February

Sun	2nd	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Mmasape Zihle
Wed	5 th	8.00pm	Church Life Committee
Sun	9th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Foluso Famoyin Egbo
Sun	16th	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Angela Pothecary
Fri	21 st	10.30am	Coffee in the park Gardeners Café, Valentines Mansion
Sun	23rd	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Nelly Debrah
Sun	23 rd		Safeguarding registration deadline – see pages 9 & 10
Thur	27 th	7.15pm	Church Prayer Meeting in the Minister's vestry - see page 9
Fri	28 th	10.30am	Bible Reading Group 104 Wanstead Lane, see page 9

March

Sun	1st	11.15am	1st Sunday in Lent Morning Service led by tbc
Tue	3 rd	8.00pm	Pastoral Committee

**(Last date for items for the March Newsletter:
Sunday 16th February)**

A Valentine Prayer

I said a Valentine prayer for you

And asked the Lord above,

To fill your heart and bless your soul

With the precious gift of love.

I asked Him for sincere love

The kind that's meant to stay

Just like the generous love You give

To those You touch each day.

I prayed for love from family

And from every cherished friend

Then I asked the Lord to give you

His love that knows no end.

Submitted by Jan and John Pearson