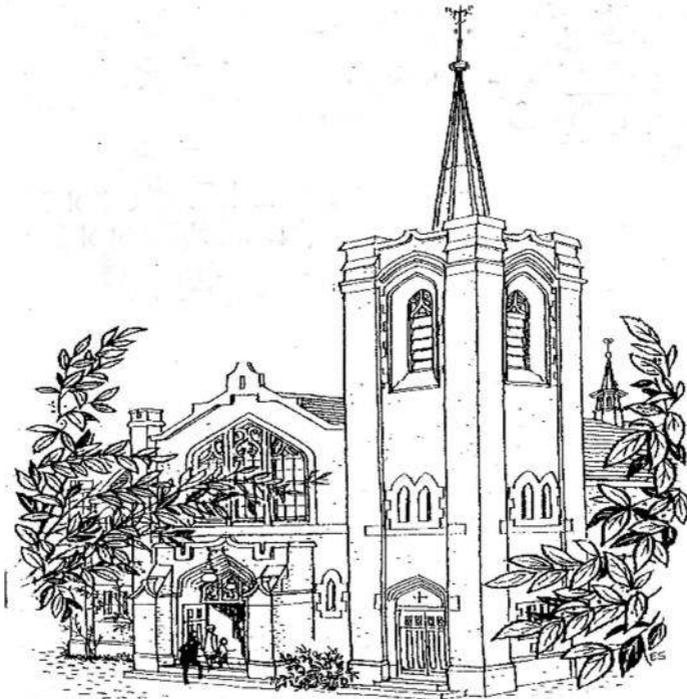


The Drive Methodist Church

Eastern Avenue, Ilford IG13pp

Newsletter

January 2022



Minister: Revd. Mmasape Zihle

Email: Mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk

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.

Mmasape's Message

Happy New Year

Dear church family and friends, at the start of the year 2022 I pray for you all to know the depth, height and width of God's love for you (no matter how good or hard things may seem).

May we like the psalmist "wait on the Lord as watchmen wait for the morning" Psalm 130.5-6

So much has happened in the last couple of years that at times we are afraid to say 'may this year be a good/better year'. Failing to do so is failing to hope and trust in God. But for those who depend on our faithfulness to keep their hope alive; those facing health challenges, the refugees, and the marginalised; I boldly wish for you that this new year will be better.

As we as a church renew our covenant and look forward with the circuit on our future; may God guide us in discerning how we are to be a missional church - God centred and people focused. May he show us how to be loving, welcoming and rooted in scripture.

May we in 2022 not only hear and speak God's word but also live it out through acts of kindness and mercy.

Happy New Year!

Mmasape

Church Family News

On 30th November we heard the news that after a long struggle with her health our dear friend Verney Brathwaite died aged 94 in hospital. Her funeral took place at The Drive on 15th December. For those unable to attend the service or use the online link, a copy of her Eulogy can be found on Page 11,12 & 13 of this issue.



Matthew and Emily's Wedding

"Emily and I would like pass our thanks to all our friends at The Drive for their many kind words and wishes for our wedding on 11th December, and to Ruth for dedicating the flowers to us. It was a fantastic day and we were so pleased to finally be able to have our day and get married in front of our families and friends. Emily and I have combined our respective Catholic and Methodist upbringings and are now regular attendees at St Mary's C of E Church in Horsham, West Sussex, where we now live, and are also members of their church choir. We look forward to seeing you all at The Drive soon.

Best wishes for the future Matthew and Emily.LB

Frank

Frank has been increasingly unwell and is currently in hospital, and here is a message from Jo to update you all. LB

Frank would like to thank everyone for their kind prayers, phone calls and cards. They have really cheered him up, after spending 5 weeks in hospital. He will now spend some time getting stronger again and would love to come back to church one day soon.

Jo

It is pleasing to know that Jo and Andy are now feeling better after testing positive for Covid, just prior to the Nativity Service Rehearsal and TDY Pizza Party that Jo and her team had worked so hard on. Thankfully Jo received excellent support to stand in for her.

Also Lorna and Iris, Jo and Andy's daughter and granddaughter also tested positive and we are thankful that they too are recovering.

We are sorry to learn that Janet's daughter Heather and her family are ill with Covid although all are now on the mend.

We wish you all better and extend our prayers to our friends in the circuit who are ill or recovering.LB

We remember Oli's mum and pray that she is comfortable.

Happy Birthdays



Belated birthday wishes to **Bernadino** who celebrated on 21st December.

Jo and Funmi have birthdays on 30th December.

And here are our New Year birthdays -

Phelo will be cutting his cake on 4th January

Matthew Foster will be the birthday boy on 9th January.

Many good wishes to you all.

Nativity 2021



Thankyou to all our young people and TDY leaders who helped to produce the 2021 Nativity. A particular well done to Rochelle, who wrote the play this year supported by Yetunde and the Fab Sisters. It was a real team effort in tricky times. We were reminded of how difficult these last two years have been, as some of our young people had to isolate and they missed playing their parts. There's always next year!

Mary (4 year old Emily) said her lines with great conviction, ably supported by her Mum, Annika.

The chorale sang Mary's boy child beautifully, which echoed around the church reminding us of the birth of Christ.

Many other adults in church helped to ensure the Nativity was a success, so thank you to all of them too.

Team TDY wishes everyone a healthy and happy 2022.

JO

0 0 0 0 0 0

Another big thank you to Andrew and all who sang or read at our amazing and joyful Candlelight Carol Service. It certainly lifted everyone's spirits. Well Done and thanks to Anne and her helpers for organising and serving our refreshments. LB

OYEZ! OYEZ! News from your stewards

A big thank you to everyone who played a part in making the church look so lovely for the Nativity and carol service and keeping us refreshed. Although we didn't have our usual sized tree (the other mysteriously not reaching us), our trees were looking very festive.

We want to make sure all our committees are up and running and we start planning for the year ahead, so invites will shortly go out for the Church Life meeting. If you're interested, please ask Hilary or another steward for more information.

On 8th Jan we will have a zoom meeting to continue discussions around the future of the circuit and churches. Following are some thoughts that Deacon Andy Packer sent round. These discussions really do involve us all and it would be great if you can attend, if you've any time at all. I will make the time and zoom link available as soon as I have it.

Take care, Michelle

SATURDAY AND CHIP LUNCH

In order to reduce gatherings and keep everyone safe, Ruth and I will not be organising a lunch in January but hope to do so in February. In the meantime we will seek some feedback from those who have previously come along in order to develop these gatherings with your ideas and suggestions in mind.

Lorraine

Here are the points recorded by Deacon Andy from the initial meeting that took place in October 2021. Please read carefully and give some serious thought in readiness for a further planned meeting.

Churches Future Story Day—Sat 2nd October

Below are a few bullet points which either stood out for me or my reflection on something that was said:

- ◆ Church Life Cycle - How honest are we about where we are?
- ◆ When the end of a life-cycle is coming to an end, do we:
 - A** wait until everything has lost its life and died, and the church closes?
 - B** take a 'pro-active' approach and, yes, with sadness (and regret?) conclude that it is time to close a church, and dedicate and commit whatever human resources are left to another church community?
- * Further to 1 & 2 above,
 - ? Do we wait until a church volunteers or decides to close of its own accord? OR
 - ? (More controversially) Assess each church on its current and future vision for mission and Ministry and decide, as a circuit, "We will close churches A & B."
- ◆ Need to consider how our local geographic (demographic) environment has changed and the needs of the people who have moved into the area. Who has moved in? What are their needs?

- ◆ A question all churches need to ask:
 - A. Where is our Evangelism? (Basically, sharing the Good News of how God, through Jesus has changed our life.)
 - B. Where is our Vision? What are the plans for this church in 5, 10, 25 years time?
 - C. How effective is our current Mission & Ministry?
How does it need to change to suit the 21st Century?
- ◆ How many churches are 'running to stand still' and have little or no energy left for mission, ministry and outreach?
- ◆ "We have too many churches"
- ◆ Can we evangelise and minister more effectively if we work with other denominations?
- ◆ "Our Worship & Preaching must improve." We are losing some of our young people to churches where the worship is more relevant to their life-style.
- ◆ How are we fulfilling 'Our Calling'? (Worship, Learning & Caring, Service, Evangelism.) Is there a balance between these elements or do we focus one or two to the neglect of others?
- ◆ We need to listen to our communities! Only when we listen, will we know what they need!!

CHURCHES FUTURE STORY

- ◆ Why do our churches only have worship on Sundays?
- ◆ What are the ‘good’ and ‘successful’ things we are currently doing which we need to ask God to multiply?
- ◆ “Do what **you** can and not try to do things that you **cant.**”
- ◆ WE need to take better care and give more consideration to our Children & Young people, especially **how and when** they worship. They are NOT the church of tomorrow—they are very much the church of today.

** The future of the local church is in your hands—

?? What will you do about it ??

?? How will you respond ??

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION!!

Michelle will give details asap of the follow up meeting.



EULOGY for VERNEY PAULINE BRATHWAITE

19-08-1926 – 30-11-2021

Good afternoon, my name is Jackie, Verney's eldest daughter. On behalf of my brothers and sisters, the grandchildren and indeed the Gt. grandchildren I would like to thank you all for being here to celebrate the life and say goodbye to our mum and grand - Verney Pauline Brathwaite.

Mum was an incredible person who was loved by many. She always knew how to brighten someone's day and make them feel special, treating everyone with kindness and respect. Many described her as strong, generous, independent, glamorous and elegant, and was all those things. If you were lucky enough to spend time with her you usually left with a smile on your face, and no one was allowed to leave without a little something – a packet of crisps, a few sweets, or maybe even a bottle of something! We are grateful to have had a mother and grandmother who embraced each day with such optimism.

She was born in Guyana, the 4th eldest child of 7 who survived to adulthood. The daughter of Lawrence and Lillian Hercules. Her childhood like many others had fun bits and tough parts. She was a bright child, she loved numbers and was very good at maths. She also loved languages and even in the latter part of her life would practice her French saying "Merci, vous etes tres gentil". Her mother and some of her brothers and a sister converted to Seventh Day Adventists when she was a teenager, but she refused to do so because she loved dancing and going to parties!

She met my dad at a local youth club attached to a church and he proposed within months. In 1957 my dad decided they should come to the UK, so they left 4 of the children in Guyana with my grandmother until they were settled and then sent for us.

Many of you will know mum as a retired nurse but when she arrived in the UK she did not think about nursing and her first job was as a seamstress. However, there were no career opportunities, and she didn't find it rewarding. She really wanted to do something she considered 'worthwhile'. It was her elder sister Grethel, already a nurse who suggested she try nursing which began at the Eastern Fever Hospital mainly because in those days nurses were expected to live in a Nurses Home for the first 3 months and with a family to look after this was not possible, but at the Eastern Fever Hospital, this was not a requirement.

The training combined with studying and looking after a family was hard. She had an amazing work ethic, and I can't remember her ever having time off. She went on to work in other hospitals, The Metropolitan in Kingsland Road Dalston where she did her general training and psychiatric training. The Salvation Army Mother's Hospital in Upper Clapton where she trained and worked as a Midwife and finally the London Jewish Hospital where she was a Ward Sister and an Examiner until it closed. Rather than retire, At this time, she decided to see what nursing was like in America.

She moved to America in 1979, did more studying and qualified and worked as a Critical Care nurse in Texas and then New Jersey. Mum made many good friends in America.

In 1991 she returned with my dad to the UK. It was at this point they decided to travel and really enjoy another aspect of life. Cruises were their thing, and they even went on an Around the World cruise for 6 months.

Mum who was a great Bridge player, also went to computer classes and did voluntary work. In her 80s she volunteered for Help the Aged phoning and visiting 'the Old People' as she put it.

Sadly, dad died in 2001 age 75, but after his death she continued to travel on her own mainly to see friends and family in America, Canada and Guyana. Her last trip was at the age of 92. Her favourite places being Vegas and Atlantic City, where she loved a little flutter and would jokingly reassure us that the Deeds to the House were safe.

One of the highlights of mum's life was her 90th birthday party . Friends and family came from different parts of the world, and she danced the night away. It was a great occasion and showed how much she was loved.

The last couple of years of her life because of failing health and the virus, she was mainly housebound, and took great comfort from watching her favourite TV programme "Judge Judy" however, she was always incredibly grateful for the visits and phone calls from you all. People always bought her gifts and souvenirs from their travels and she appreciated every single one of them and would never throw them away. Mum leaves behind five children; seven grandchildren and eight Gt grandchildren.

Sometimes people will forget what you said, sometimes people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Mum made people feel welcomed, loved and appreciated and she never forgot friends and family, no matter how far away they were; she will be greatly missed.

What an amazing , caring lady you were Verney. May you rest in Peace. LB

LITTLE DONKEY

Little donkey, little donkey
On the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding
onward with your precious

Been a long time little
donkey
Through the winters night
Don't give up now little
donkey, Bethlehem's in sight

Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that little star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem

Little donkey, little donkey
Had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way. Ring out those
bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem. Follow that star
tonight Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Little donkey, little donkey
Journey's end is near
There's a guiding star up in the
Heaven shining clear
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way

Eric Boswell



AN EXTRAORDINARY CHRISTMAS EVE -



Followed by Christmas Dinner served in the Stable a.k.a. the Garage

I was expecting two of my grown up grandchildren, Natalia 27 and Oliver 22, to be joining us on Christmas Eve for a few days, as their parents Susan and Jonathan have gone to live in Ecuador which meant they'd have been on their own. Oliver has been staying with his sister Tiffany and her husband Dan, but they were due to go to Dan's family in Basingstoke over Christmas.

On Christmas Eve evening we received a call to say they were on the M11, 8 miles from my house and had a puncture and didn't know how to change the wheel. Unfortunately, they didn't have breakdown cover and so Mary, my daughter & Peter, my son took my tool kit and went to find them in the pouring rain. Mary parked a safe distance behind their car with her hazard lights flashing, and they both went to help. Having removed 3 of the 4 nuts, Pete asked for the alloy key to remove the last one but unfortunately that was nowhere to be found in the car. Peter managed to get his breakdown company to agree to come and help but the wait was going to be 2.5 hours.

Mary then remembered she had a can of emergency tyre repair foam in her car, which they used and managed to get the car back to my house. They all arrived cold and very wet but thrilled to have eventually made it. Mary went to their car to congratulate them for driving back on a foam filled tyre when Oliver announced that they had both just done a lateral flow test and his was showing positive.

We managed to get them into the Travel Lodge in Beehive Lane, gave them some food to take with them, and said we would try and work something out on Christmas Day, although were not sure what because so much would be closed.

Christmas Day

Natalia signed up for breakdown cover but could not use it until 9.00am on Boxing Day. We invited them to come over at lunch time, and we would give them Christmas Dinner in the 'stable'. A table was put in the garage, covered with a Christmassy tablecloth, and decorated with a small Christmas tree with lights and Christmas music filled the air. The garage door was raised to let plenty of fresh air in but that made it even colder and so after lunch and coffee we encouraged them to go back to the Travel Lodge and we supplied them with more food for a Christmas supper.

Boxing Day

They called the motoring organisation the next morning, and when the mechanic arrived he announced that there was no alloy wheel locking nut but rather the wheel just had different nuts which Peter had not expected and had not been able to see on a dark, wet night on the hard shoulder of the M11!

With the spare wheel now fitted they dropped by to say a Covid secure distant goodbye before heading back to Manchester and were just leaving as I arrived home from Church. Oliver could now stay with Tiff and Dan who had also tested positive. We will wait to see what happens to Natalia!

The moral of this story - when going on a journey more than a few miles away from your home, always make sure you have roadside assistance cover in case of a break down or even just a puncture. Also very important is to know where your alloy wheel key is, or even better, know that you don't have an alloy wheel nut!

Brian Grinham

Everyone needs a challenge Brian and Team Grinham certainly met theirs.

I'm sure we all have heard accounts of how families have faced last minute adjustments to their Christmas plans due to unexpected positive test results and those I am aware of have been as ingenious and determined as Brian's. LB



Bible Reading Group

The Bible Reading Group will meet at 11:00 at 104 Wanstead Lane on 7th January Covid-19 permitting, we will discuss Genesis chapters 46-50.

We will also meet on January 28th same venue if allowed. We will discuss The Gospel of John chapter 3.

All are welcome

Greetings from Phyllis and Phil

Dear Friends,

A number of you will remember we were members at The Drive from 1984 until retiring to Wimborne in Dorset in 2007. You may also remember our son Ian, and that he married Michelle in 1999: they live on the very northern edge of the Liverpool conurbation close to Michelle's family.

Over the years we have found the 270 mile journey each way between Dorset and Liverpool to be increasingly tiresome, and for some time we have recognised that it would not be practical for Ian to offer us any support if we should need it. We have therefore decided in principle that it would be appropriate for us to move somewhere that is much closer to our family. We started this process at the end of the first lock-down in the summer of 2020 in the mistaken belief that we would be able to move before any restrictions were reimposed. How wrong we were!

There were always going to be practical issues with house hunting over this distance, despite properties being advertised on 'Rightmove'. Because of the disparity of house prices between the more expensive south and the marginally more affordable north we have opted for a two stage strategy. At the end of June we put most of our possessions into storage and purchased a compact 1st floor flat in Skipton, west Yorkshire, on the fringes of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

We have identified the market town of Ormskirk in west Lancashire as our preferred location, this being about 8 miles from our family, and around 1½ hour journey from Skipton.

Once we were established in our flat in Skipton we started house hunting in Ormskirk in earnest. We are pleased that we found a suitable house to purchase at the end of July and initially had hoped we might be able to move in before the end of the year. However the chain which we are in is proving to be slow moving, and as yet we have not exchanged contracts, and so we do not have a completion date.

Currently therefore we are living in Skipton although we hope that we will complete on the purchase of our home in the first part of 2022. For a while we will retain our Skipton flat as a second home, and this will be helpful in particular when building work is being undertaken to renovate the house in Ormskirk.

It has been good to read your church newsletter on-line and through that to keep abreast of the activities at The Drive.

We send you our greetings for Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

I have note of Phil and Phyllis's address, should anyone want it. LB



Heres a contribution from Ruth to make you smile

What did the cheese say when he looked in the mirror?
HALOUMI

Did you hear about the cockle who went to a seafood disco?
SHE PULLED A MUSSEL

What's at the bottom
shivers



of the ocean and

A NERVOUS WRECK

I met this lovely Dutch girl with
inflatable clogs. I gave her a call
to ask her out but she'd popped her clogs



How many ears does Spock have?
LEFT EAR, RIGHT EAR, FINAL FRONTIER

What does a baby computer call his father?
DATA



What do you get when you cross a
snowman with a vampire?
FROSTBITE



Why don't they play poker in the jungle
Too many cheetahs

My dog used to chase people on a bike a lot
It got so bad, I had to take the bike off him

How do you make holy water
Boil the hell out of it!



I asked my friend how his first day working
down the sewer went.....He said he felt drained



The urge to sing "the lion sleeps tonight"
is never more than `a whim away'



Why did the golfer change his pants?
Because he got a hole in one

Does anyone need an ark?
I Noah guy.

HA HA, thanks Ruth, you could work for a cracker factory!

An update from our friend Colin Rodway (sent before Christmas)

Thanks A Lot

Hopefully you all know but the year started poorly because after a brave and uncomplaining fight, Pauline died of breast cancer on January 3rd. A lot of people were able to attend the funeral virtually and Clare did a lovely eulogy. As a family, we would like to thank you all for the friendship and support this year. The four of us had a lovely meal to celebrate Pauline on the 33rd floor of The Shard (London). I even wore a suit. We also had a lovely leaving party in August in Ilford, partly to celebrate Pauline but also to say goodbye properly to Ilford.

Covid

Where would we be without a conversation about Covid? We all caught Covid on January 3rd although if it wasn't for Clare self-testing, we wouldn't have known. Apart from Clare having a dodgy couple of days with her third jab, we have been very lucky with no side effects from Covid. Like everyone, Covid hindered our activities but led to a lot of walking with friends as that was the best and most enjoyable way to meet up.

Colin Departed London

I decided to go ahead with previous moving plans, as had enough of living in London, and ended up in Birstall, Leicester. There was no particular reason for going there but the location ticked a lot of boxes and I loved the house, especially the hot tub. The parish council did lodge an appeal but southerners are allowed here. The house overlooks the River Soar and I wake up to narrow boats and swans rather than drunks and buses. You can walk straight into a country park and Birstall is a nice place with a fair few shops.

Property Magnates

Ana & Ciaran who moved to their first home in Northampton in April and they have had a good lot of work done and the house is very nice. Ciaran still enjoys cooking and Ana has learnt to put more convenience meals in the oven (their words).

Ciaran's main achievement has been putting 15 pringles in his mouth which whilst impressive is 20 behind the world record. He continues to enjoy school, support Arsenal, F1 (no son of mine) and is playing football for a new team. Ana was successful in getting a PhD at Northampton and also works part time at the University to fund this urge not to get a real job (I hope she doesn't read this). She has continued to play volleyball at a very good standard. For her birthday she did a parachute jump, which she very much enjoyed although she is now only 4 foot 2. The old ones are best.

The Party Continues

Clare still loves the buzz of London. She starts a new job at Westminster & Chelsea hospital in January which is nearer to the house she shares in Clapham. Clare survived not being able to travel around the world as usual but has been to Copenhagen for a long weekend and manages to combine her hedonistic lifestyle with being the sensible one of the family and attempts to keep the two males under some sort of control.

I have not killed anyone yet, not anticipating a Paul Hollywood handshake in the near future. Made lemon drizzle cake, cupcakes, chocolate & courgette cake but the locals seem to prefer "Scons" although they say "Scownes". Getting them to speak proper is 2nd on my list after getting them to switch to Bristol Rovers.

Living In Birstall

I have been in Birstall for 5 months, but still need a sat nav to find anything. I have become involved in the local Methodist church. I help with the audio visual setup for services and funerals, tidying up at a play group, escorting people on a minibus to the weekly OAP lunch for over 30 people where I serve the food. Twice a month I help at a coffee morning where I have baked cakes and although I have not killed anyone yet, not anticipating a Paul Hollywood handshake in the near future.

Made lemon drizzle cake, cupcakes, chocolate & courgette cake but the locals seem to prefer “Scons” although they say “Scownes”. Getting them to speak proper is 2nd on my list after getting them to switch to Bristol Rovers.

I started playing football at the local leisure centre, which was hard as most of the others were 20 years younger than me. Scored my first goal for 25 years but stopped recently after 3 months as 30 years olds started coming and wow are they fast. Instead started Walking Football which is more my pace and is run by Leicester City. Only been two games but enjoying it and they have asked me to play for their league team. I’ve kept on with the walking either on my own or with the U3A. Joined David Lloyd gym who set me a plan which is much more rigorous than I am used to. It hurts.

The Best Of The Rest

Still going to see Bristol Rovers and have even seen them win. Been to cooking classes in London making macaroons and Caribbean Food. Unfortunately, Sooty the cat sadly also died from cancer this year so no cats for the first time in 30 years. Had various friends and family up and you are most welcome.

That was our brief outline of our year. It seemed busier to us but hopefully gave you an outline of what we have been doing.

Hugs and kisses from us all and hope you all have a lovely Christmas.

Colin, Clare, Ciaran and Ana

Colin sounds more than settled in his new home and community. LB



IT'S BEHIND YOU!



1. In the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' what does Jack trade for magic beans?
a. A Unicorn, b. A Donkey, c. **A Cow**, d. His Mother
2. 'Aladdin' was originally one of the stories in a book of Middle Eastern folk tales – what is the name of the book?
a. The Cobbler Astrologer, b. The Enchanted Horse
c. **One Thousand and One Nights**, d. The Shepherd and the Jogie
3. Which pantomime was also the name of a character voiced by Antonio Banderas in the 'Shrek' films?
a. Dick Whittington, b. The Lambton Worm, c. Aladdin
d. **Puss in Boots**
4. The story of Snow White was written by the Brothers Grimm. Where were they from?
a. Gateshead, b. **Germany**, c. Grimsby, d. Holland
5. How many years should Sleeping Beauty sleep for unless her spell is broken?
a. Fifty, b. **One hundred**, c. One thousand, d. Ten

6. When Mother Goose is down on her luck and has no money, what creature arrives which could be the answer to all her problems?

- a. A goose with magic beans, b. A goose with a money tree
- c. A goose with a Tesco voucher, d. **A goose that lays golden eggs**

7. In Aladdin what is the name of the evil uncle who steals the Magic Lamp and tries to rob the Treasure Cave?

- a. **Abanazer**, b. Arthur, c. Benezir, d. Abracadabra

8. The sound of bells call Dick Whittington back to London. Which bells are they?

- a. Bells of St Clements, b. **Bow Bells**, c. Bells of St Hilda's
- d. Bells of Shoreditch

9. Which hospital is entitled to all royalties on JM Barrie's Peter Pan since they were signed over by the author in 1929?

- a. **Great Ormond Street Hospital**, b. Royal London Hospital,
- c. South Tyneside District Hospital, d. Royal Victoria Infirmary

10. In Jack and the Beanstalk the Giant threatens Jack with – "Fee-fi-fo-fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman". In the fourth line he says he will grind his bones down for what?

- a. Pie, b. Pate, c. A rejuvenating facemask, d. **Bread**

Answers can be found on Page 29

Brian's Musings



We are not put on

this earth to see through one another, but to see one another through."

Peter de Vries

"What if the three wise men had been three wise women? Well they would have asked for directions and arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, brought a casserole and given the child much more practical gifts."

Susan Perlman

And there's more.....

"A stingy man went shopping, but everything he saw was too expensive except for a £50 vase that was on sale for £2, because the handle had been broken off.

He bought it and had the sales assistant mail it so that his friend would think it had got broken in the post.

A week after Christmas he received a thank you note from his friend. "Thank you for the lovely vase," his letter read. "It was so nice of you to wrap each piece separately."

From a Bucket of Surprises by J. John and Mark Stibbe



Flowers in Church



We hope you have enjoyed the flowers we have placed in church during the past year, although there were times when this wasn't possible due to church closure. During this time, we very much missed the pleasure and peace that comes with making the arrangements, especially when it is for a special occasion or a tribute for someone we knew.

This year we all met together to decorate the church for Christmas and enjoyed a Ploughman's lunch together, although we kept our coats on as it was a particularly cold day.

Do speak with one of us or use the flower rota to indicate if you would like to donate flowers on a particular occasion .

Best wishes to you all for a Happy New Year.

Janet, Anne, Ruth and Lorraine



Practice the Pause

When in doubt, PAUSE

When stressed, PAUSE

When angry, PAUSE

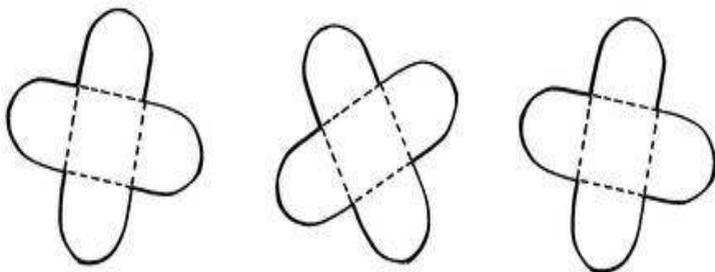
When offended, PAUSE

And whenever you pause.....*PRAY*

Answers to Its behind you quiz:

1c, 2c,3d, 4b, 5b, 6d, 7a, 8b, 9a, 10d.

Floating Flower Prayers



Colour the petals with colouring pencils.

Write a prayer in the centre.

Fold the petals over the middle, one at a time, to hide the prayer. Crease well. Float carefully on top of the water in a bowl or paddling pool.

Watch the petals slowly open, lifting the prayer up to God.

Science: When you fold and crease the petals you break the paper fibres. The water seeps into the broken fibres first, forcing the petals open.

Tips: Use colouring pencils instead of felt-tipped pens or the ink seeps into the water too!
Lay the folded flower on top of the water carefully and watch. Don't sink it into the water!
Experiment with different sized flower shapes.

A Message for the New Year

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a year it's been! The topsy turvy nature of living through a pandemic can be draining, strenuous and tiring, yet through it all, we still have reason to proclaim: *"thus far the Lord is still with us"*! (c.f. I Samuel 7:12)

St. Luke in Acts 20 begins verse 31 with the words, *'So be on your guard!'*; having clearly cautioned earlier in 28-30 about keeping watch over the flock and personally. A concern being the disarray that will be brought upon the flock if the shepherds are asleep at the wheel. Such admonishment seeks to awaken servants of God to the challenges of our times, against wolves and naysayers who decry the existence of God just because life is hard. It has echoes of dashed hopes, when we'd hoped 2021 will surely be better than 2020! Now looking towards 2022, those hopeful echoes resound again yet with the cautionary measure sounded by Luke in Acts 20.

Life may have thrown us some unexpected curve-balls in this ending year, yet God's mercy has never ceased. In spite of the hopes the pandemic will be gone, it is still with us; in spite of the hopes for COP26 it fell short of the expectation; in spite of the hope of an improved 'Universal Credit', the plight of many has yet to be alleviated; and in spite of the hopes for an improved economy, government borrowing is still high and hopes of a recovery slow. The outlook seems bleak, yet we have faith in Christ Jesus born for us this Christmas season; for in being watchful, we have once again taken care of one another.

We have looked out for the destitute, the lost and the refugee; over two thousand meals and more, were served up in the greater London area alone;

from the Catford Team (which combined a number of groups), the Alexandra Pub in Wimbledon, the Brixton Soup Kitchen, St James, Piccadilly, West London Mission, Wesley's Chapel, Seven Kings' refugee meal scheme and many others known and unknown to us; food was offered to lots of people who'd have otherwise been alone or had none this Christmas. This is a true testament of the God who is still present in spite of the struggles we face.

Thus as we face head on the year ahead, St Luke's words in Acts 20:32 are a source of comfort and hope for all: *"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified"*.

We remain God's people no matter what lies ahead. We are, through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ who is the hope of the world, once again committed to God and His word of grace. God's love will always take us through to where His prevenient grace has already prepared a place of hope, healing and fulfilment for us all in 2022.

So, as we remain on guard, looking after ourselves and each other; we go on in faith knowing that God's word will never return empty. His promises are true and His grace remains sufficient to carry us through into a new year of hopefulness; one that is filled with Christ's grace and in which we are all empowered to set a fruitful example for all believers in faith.

We wish you a very blessed entry into the New Year of 2022. We hope God's comforting and life-giving hand will rest on you, guide you to the *inheritance* He has prepared for you as Christ builds up your resilience, hopefulness and positive faith action in the year ahead.

Have enjoyable New Year celebrations and a fruitful, Christ centred year in 2022;

With much love and blessings,

Jongi and Nigel, London District Chairs

We are a church that believes in Jesus,
a church that loves God and people.

Overwhelmed by the gift of salvation

we have found in Jesus,

we have a heart for authentic worship,

are passionate about the local church,

and are on mission to see God's kingdom

established across the earth.

We are a church that believes in Jesus,
a church that loves God and people.

AMEN

Helplines and Support

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) provides free debt help and local community groups across the UK.

Iford CAP Debt Centre is run in partnership with City Gates Church. Call 0800 328 0006 to speak to a debt coach.

Concerned about a rough sleeper? Tell someone.
0300 500 0914 .

Victim Support_ 08 08 16 89 111 is here to help and support anyone affected by crime. [victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/essex](https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/essex)

Mind for Mental Health Support Infoline: 03001233393
Email: info@mind.org.uk

Samaritans now has a free telephone number.

11612324 hrs. email and you will receive a response within 24 hours by contacting us on jo@samaritans.org

Childline_You can talk to us about anything. Call 0800 1111 or via 1-2-1 chat between 7.30am and 3.30am every day.

Call the National Domestic Abuse helpline on **0808 2000 247**

January Diary

Sunday 2nd 11:15 am

Covenant Sunday including Holy Communion
led by Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

Thursday 7th Bible Study 11.am

104 Wanstead lane

Sunday 9th 11.15am

Morning Service led by R Debrah

Sunday 16th 11,15am

Morning Service led by Deacon Andy Packer

Sunday 23rd 11.15am

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Morning Service led by Rev'd Mmasape Zihle

Thursday 28th Bible Study 11.am

104 Wanstead Lane

Sunday 30th 11.15am

Morning Service led by Mrs Jan Pearson