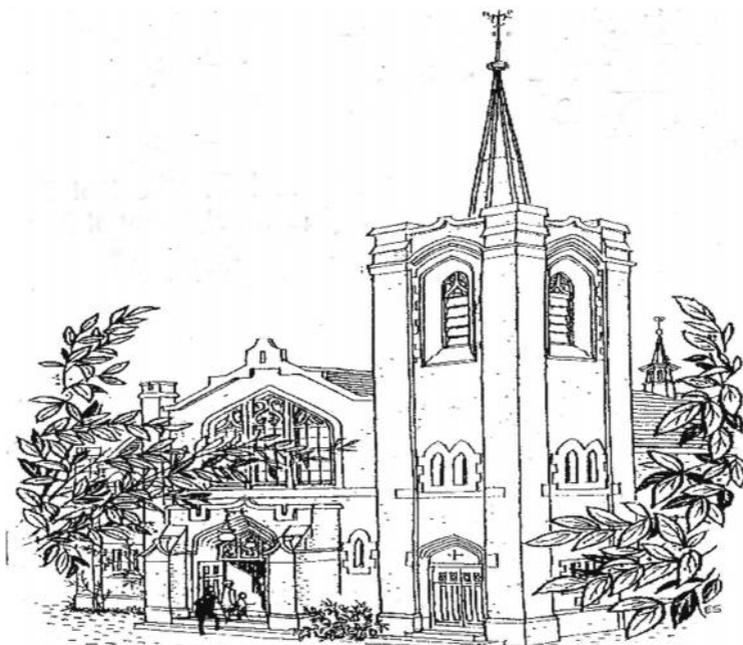


# The Drive Methodist Church

Eastern Avenue Ilford IG13PP

## Newsletter

### MAY 2022



**Minister: Revd. Mmasape Zihle**

**Email: [mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk](mailto:mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk)**

**[www.drive-methodist.church](http://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.

**Corinthians 13:4–8a** *Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

Love is the common denominator in how we relate—to God, to others, or to ourselves. As followers of Christ, love is our trademark.

Love is a tricky word. It's most often understood as an intense feeling of deep affection. Biblically, love has a much deeper and richer meaning; it transcends a feeling or emotion. This is what we see in 1 Corinthians 13. Paul tells us that love isn't merely a feeling but a way of relating to others.

While most of us are fairly familiar with 1 Corinthians 13, slowing down to read it empowers us to enjoy subtle beauties we may otherwise miss. In this timeless passage on love, Paul uses poetic symmetry to deepen his point. He lists eight things love embraces and eight things love resists.

In these verses, Paul instructs us about what we need to hold close and what we need to let go. He empowers us with a framework to respond to any situation in love. Sometimes we will need to do things that are out of our comfort zone; sometimes we will need to not do things that feel natural to us. In both situations, love empowers us to respond beyond our feelings so we may impart life to others.

We can begin by putting these into practice with those closest to us, our family. Although as Christians, we don't stop there. As outlined in 1 Corinthians, we're called to love everyone God brings into our lives.

We're experiencing extremely anxious and unsettling times and it's easy for fear to take hold and control our thoughts, emotions, and actions. The good news of the Gospel is that we have a remedy for fear—courageous love (1 John 4:18). We have experienced this love personally, and now we have the opportunity to share it with others.

As life returns now quarantines are lifted, and people are able to resume typical schedules, many people are going to need help. Growing debt and poverty are significant concerns and many are in crisis. Children can become vulnerable to neglect and, abuse. What can we do? Be aware, be concerned, show compassion and help in anyway you can. Show your love to others and help them to regain stability.

***Father, thank You** for the courageous love You've expressed to me through Christ. Thank You for the patience, kindness, and perseverance You embrace me with each day. As I celebrate Your goodness in my life, I pray You would also use me as an instrument of goodness in the lives of others. Open my heart and mind to ways I can demonstrate the love and compassion of Christ to those nearby, in my community, and around the world.*

*Amen*

*Alice Phillips—lay preacher (Yorkshire)*

## **PRAY FOR UKRAINE**

**Loving God**, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

**We weep** for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

**We weep** for those cowering in basements.

**We weep** for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

**We weep** for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

**We are amazed** at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

**We pray** for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

**We pray** for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

**We pray** for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

**May the** Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

**May we**, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

**Amen**



## *CHURCH FAMILY NEWS*

**Doreen**, as you recuperate at home, we send you us love and best wishes and hope we see you again very soon.

**Marlene**, we remember you in our prayers as you adjust to life without Danny

**Janet** (Wragg) it has been so good to see you back in church recently and hope this continues.

**Rochelle**, very pleased to hear that you are now feeling much better after your liaison with Covid.

**Sheela and Rohit**, good to know that you too are recovering well from Covid

### **FRANK SAYERS**

Our dear friend Frank passed away peacefully on 22nd April and we will miss him so much. We send our love, prayers and sincere condolences to Jo, her brother Nick and their families.

*Please pray for those in our church family who are unwell, bereaved or feeling confused by life. Pray also for those who take a caring role in their lives. LB*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO RUTH  
FOR 11TH MAY**



***Birthday wishes to Christine (Priya's Mum) for 25th May***

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU BOTH**



~~~~~



**The new logo for music@thedrive,  
representing all our church  
musicians.**

If you've been around for a while, you might recognise this as being based on the logo for The Drive Quavers, the children's choir we ran about 20 years ago.

**Andrew**

**That's a smart logo. LB**

## **FRANK SAYERS – The Drive's longest-serving organist**

Frank and Catherine Sayers were married at The Drive (then Eastern Avenue) Church in 1962. The story he told me was that as soon as they returned from their honeymoon, the Minister, Rev Leonard White, asked him to take over as organist. So the honeymoon was over! Frank remained as organist for the next 33 years, supported by Catherine who sang in the choir. In that time there were a further seven ministers, and the creation of The Drive church in 1973 with the joining together of the Eastern Avenue and Cranbrook Park churches. The first of the major refurbishments of the church buildings took place, and alterations and improvements were made to the organ itself. He worked with Nicholas Foster for many years when Nick ran the choir, and took back that responsibility when Nick moved to Devon.

I had a couple of organ lessons from a friend at university (to date, my only formal training – should I admit that?) and Frank was always very kind in allowing me to practise and even play for some services when I was back for the holidays, and after I left university as well.

As a young organist, I wanted to play all the big, loud pieces, really before I was ready to do so, but Frank was always ready with quiet words of encouragement and advice, never judgemental. He had an almost encyclopaedic knowledge of hymnody, remembering the names of tunes as well as authors.

He knew the hymn numbers of most of the hymns in the 1933 *Methodist Hymn Book*, a feat of memory that he had to relearn when *Hymns and Psalms* was introduced in 1983.

A lover of meaningful words in hymns and songs, Frank was not a fan of singing short songs two or three times over. Rev John Beadle knew this, and challenged Frank to write his own extra words, so he added two wonderful verses to Daniel Iverson's *Spirit of the Living God*, which we still use at The Drive to this day.

Arriving at church one Sunday morning, Frank turned to Catherine and said, "Ready for another day of rest, dear?" By 1995, Frank had decided it was time to step back from regular organ-playing duties, and handed over the reins to me. But for many more years, I was grateful to have Frank to deputise for me, and accompany the choir at Christmas and on many other occasions. He also continued to organise the organ and piano tuning.

Musicians do tend to have a bit of an ego – one of the joys of being an organist is the ability to drown out everyone else in the building! But Frank was not like that at all. He was generous with his time, talents, praise and encouragement. He always wanted to thank me at the end of a service and ask about the music I'd played. "We're lucky to have you," he would often say.

Well Frank, we were extremely lucky to have you.

**Andrew Taylor**

*Indeed we were Andrew.LB*

## **Frank**

Thank you so much for all your prayers, messages of support and the love that you have shown Dad, me, and my family over many months. Dad loved The Drive Methodist church and all his Methodist family within it.

Thank you to Rev. Mmasape and Rev. Bernadino who came and blessed Dad with some lovely prayers.

Dad's funeral will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon at The City of London Crematorium, South Chapel. A video link will be available, please let me know if you would like the information. Then 1pm back at the church for Dad's celebration of life service.

Refreshments will be served in the church hall afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

Jo

## **Trendy Frank**

As he struggled with his health, we saw less of Frank in his beloved church over the past few years, although occasionally with the help of Jo and Andy he managed to get to worship. I recall that as he got older he took a new interest in his clothes and loved it if I or others noticed and admired his colourful shirts and jumpers. I will miss this kind and humble, Christian gentleman. Thank you for the music Frank.

Lorraine

**OYEZ! OYEZ!**

**News from your Senior Stewards**

### **Safeguarding**

Stewards and members of the church council had some very interesting training last month, aimed at raising our awareness of what needs to happen to make sure that we are all safe in and around the church. There was lots of conversation and we agreed that it was useful to remember that we are all vulnerable at times, whether because of health issues, life events, stage of life or even our desire to help others.

Safeguarding is here to stay. Please speak to Lorraine or one of the stewards if you are interested in finding out more.

### **Vision Day for the Drive**

Our minister Mmasape has arranged a time for us to build on conversations this year about how we want to grow our church and keep us moving forward. It is on Saturday 7th May, 10.30 to 12.30 in the church and everyone is welcome. Please come along and let's think and dream together.

### **Membership**

If you are a member of another church denomination you can also become a member here and have dual membership! If you would like to find out more, please speak to Mmasape or one of the stewards.

## **Volunteering at Church**

Everyone who takes up a role at church is a volunteer and we are all very grateful for your input. The rota availability request is out now, for volunteers to submit your dates for the next quarter. Please do get your dates back to Mike by 8th May. Even if you can't do any of the dates this quarter, please send your form back and let us know. This helps us know that you are still willing and able to help out, even if you can't do it this quarter.

## **The Collections**

On most Sundays a collection is taken up during the service for the work of the church and circuit. This money is used to keep the church going, including building upkeep and repairs as well as staff wages and community work e.g. the Religious Education Resources Project. This project enables local school children to visit churches and find out more about Christianity.

There are many ways that people can give; in cash, by cheque or by bank payment. Many people started paying via their bank during the pandemic and please ask a steward if you'd like to do this. People who want to give regularly can sign up for the yellow envelopes you may have noticed others giving. This also enables you to use the gift aid system if you are a tax payer. Please ask a steward, who will advise you.

During a communion service there are 2 collections; as well as the usual offering there is an opportunity later in the service to offer money for the work of a particular charity. On 1st May this collection will be for Christian Aid and on 5th June for the Church Benevolent Fund.

Til next time,

**Michelle**

## DEMENTIA UK

Hi Supporter,

**Today we're excited to be launching our largest ever brand campaign, showing the impact that dementia can have on families.**

Our campaign, called 'I live with dementia', highlights the fact that dementia doesn't just impact the person with the diagnosis – everyone around them, from family members to friends, is affected in some way.

**Because if you love someone living with dementia, you're living with it too.**

It's a message that many of our supporters like you will know all too well. And it's what our specialist dementia nurses see day in, day out, through the families they support.

Research commissioned as part of the campaign also shows that four out of five family members supporting someone with dementia felt unable to switch off from their caring responsibilities.

**Our campaign video <https://youtu.be/OfU6zyDuViE>**

shares the stories of three families whose lives have been affected by their loved ones' diagnosis, and highlights how they have been supported by Admiral Nurses.

Throughout the campaign, our Admiral Nurses will be sharing free, expert information with families.

[campaign resources that you can share on your social media channels](#)

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) for more updates about the campaign, which runs from today until early June.

Many thanks for your ongoing support,

Hilda

**Chief Admiral Nurse and CEO, Dementia UK**

## **What is an Admiral Nurse?**

Admiral Nurses are **registered nurses who specialise in dementia**, helping family carers gain the necessary skills to assist with dementia care, promoting positive approaches in living well with dementia and improving the quality of life for everyone involved.

## **Why are they called Admiral nurses?**

They get their name from 'Admiral Joe' Levy, founder of Dementia UK and a keen sailor. They can work in a number of environments – in the community as NHS staff, or hospitals, hospices and care homes.

In loving memory of  
**Joseph M Henry (Danny)**

**06.09.1929—15.03.202**

'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race  
I have kept the faith'

2 Timothy 4.7

I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call:  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way;  
I found my place at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joys.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too shall miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow:  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savoured much;  
Good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.

Perhaps my life seemed all too brief:  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart and share with me;  
God wanted me now, He set me free.

## **Bambo's Marathon**

*Early in September 2021, a good friend of mine asked me to join him in running the Rome Marathon. I do run regularly and had completed a couple of half marathons in the past. I had always wanted to do a marathon so this felt like a great opportunity.*

*I continued to run regularly throughout the rest of 2021, and then once early January arrived, I began a more structured marathon training plan.*

*I ran 4 times week for 11 weeks ahead of the Rome marathon. My running distance ranged from 3 miles to 21 miles, with the larger distances taking 3 hours plus! It was a big commitment.*

*Remember that friend who got me to sign up for the Rome Marathon? Well, he couldn't run it because of injury so I ran it alone. He, 2 other friends and my fiancée did, however, make the journey out to Rome to support me, which I am very grateful for.*

*Race day eventually came and I was looking forward to getting the race done and relaxing. The race started at the Colosseum and went out of the centre in one direction close to the river, looping back on the south side of the river and across again before returning to the Colosseum.*

*My favourite part (aside from seeing the finish line) was when I approached St Peter's Square, which is when the sun started to come out. The wintery runs in England didn't prepare me for the warm weather of Rome.*

*Towards the end of the race, the hot sun was beating down as my legs become even more tiresome and heavy. It was tough, especially the last 5km. However, the strength of the Lord kept me going and I am thankful that I was able to cross the finish line in one piece. I finished in 4h 2mins, of which I am very happy and proud. Time will tell if I decide to put myself through this again.*

*Overall, it was a great experience. Rome is an amazing city, and in some ways the perfect city to do a marathon because of the amazing food on offer.*

*Bambo*

*Well Done Bambo, what an achievement!*



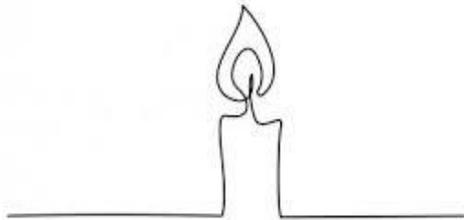
*As is usual for Lent and in particular Holy Week, although not for the past two years, there are many more opportunities to gather to pray, worship and reflect. Here, John reminds us of the symbolic supper that took place at The Drive.*

## **The Maundy Thursday Supper**

On this evening, we enjoyed a short service of readings and prayers with three hymns and a lovely choir anthem 'O Saviour of the World'. During the service we all took part in a ritual hand washing and sat down together to eat a lamb stew with unleavened bread. Communion wine and water were available to drink. After this symbolic last supper we continued the service.

I have heard many positive comments from those who took part. It was a very meaningful service and in a form that we have not done before. It would be worth doing this again next year, God willing.

John Pearson



**On 16th April, in memory of Roy, Janet unveiled a unique, colourful and welcoming new painting in the foyer of the church.**

**This was followed by a delicious buffet lunch.**



**Brian's Musings.....**

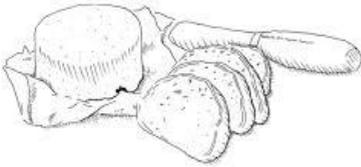
To thine own self be true, and it must follow as night follows day, thou canst not be false to any man.

*William Shakespeare*

O, what a tangled web we weave when first we practise to deceive.

*Walter Scott*

**Church Vision Day at The Drive**  
**Saturday 7th May at 10.30—12.30**  
**Held In the Church**



**The Monthly Saturday Lunch**

follows the meeting, so why not stay for a Ham and Cheese Ploughman's Lunch and a chat.

This will be held in The Parlour. Please see or call Ruth or Lorraine to book your place.  
Lunch will cost £4.

**OLD and TIRED**

**Do you have the interest and skills to repair books? Our pew bibles are looking a bit fragile and need some simple repairs. If you can help, please speak to one of the church stewards.**

## **Easter Egg Hunt**



### **Many thanks to all who donated to the purchase of Easter Eggs**

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the Easter Egg Hunt this year. It was good to be together again. The sun shone and everyone had fun.

Over £110.00 was raised for the British Red Cross Ukraine appeal.

Jo



## **BIBLE READING GROUP**

The group will meet on Friday 27th May at 11:30 at Jan and John's where we will discuss the Prophet Micah. Followed by refreshments.

## PLATINUM JUBILEE TEA at The Drive for church and local community.

On such a special occasion of Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee. I am looking for a willing team to help me with a memorable afternoon tea to be held in the church hall on Saturday 4th June. We will serve a traditional afternoon tea accompanied by music and activities for children.

Please arrive wearing your crown as there will be a parade of crowns during the afternoon, WITH PRIZES!

**YOU WILL NEED TO BOOK IN ADVANCE.**

**TICKETS £5. Children £1**

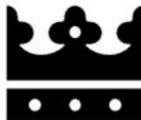
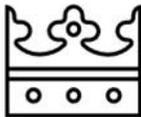
**WE NEED HELP WITH:**

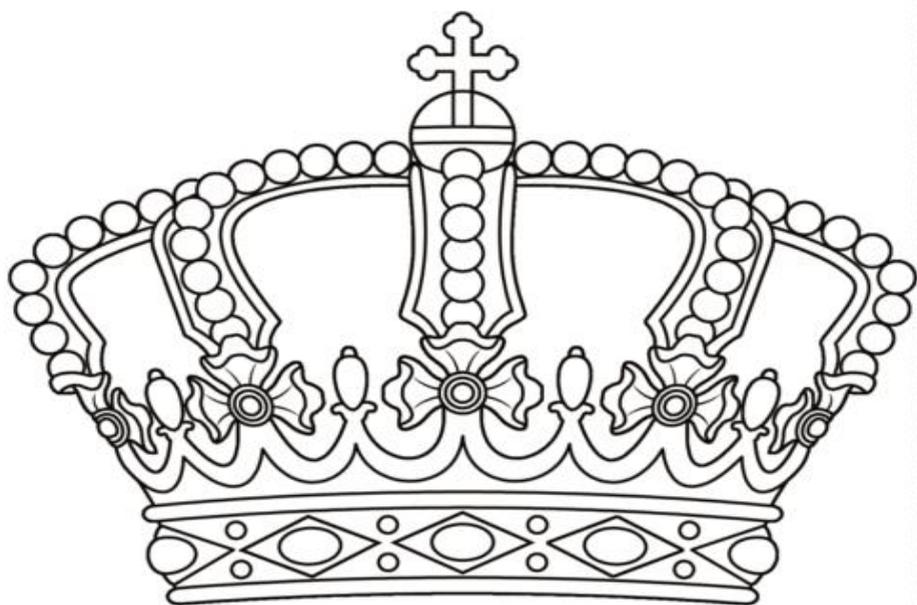
- ◆ **VOLUNTEERING TO JOIN THE TEAM**
- ◆ **BUNTING** - do you have any we can borrow or perhaps you could make a few metres?
- ◆ **CUPS AND SAUCERS** - do you have any lurking in your cupboards that we could borrow?
- ◆ **MEMORIES & PHOTOS** - of special occasions during the Queens reign or perhaps you took part in the Coronation Celebrations.

- ◆ CAKES AND BISCUITS
- ◆ RAFFLE PRIZES
- ◆ ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN
- ◆ DECORATING THE HALL AND GROUNDS
- ◆ HELP IN THE KITCHEN
- ◆ PROVIDING MUSIC
- ◆ WELCOMING GUESTS

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE  
AFTERNOON. THANK YOU

ANNE





## **A Prayer**

God of the wild places and margins,

give us the grace to honour those who are different.

God of the dispossessed and empty,

give us humility to value in others the things we lack.

God of the spiritually poor and cynical,

give us the self awareness to avoid arrogance.

God of the aggressive and defensive,

give us the courage and patience to love  
unconditionally.

God of ourselves,

give us the tenderness to see ourselves as you see us.

Amen

*Methodist webpage*

*I found this interesting article while looking for local litter picking groups as I've been so impressed by how many groups I have seen picking litter in street, parks, forests etc. Over the Easter holidays, many families were out together; with the children searching for litter as though it was a treasure hunt.*

*After all, it is everyone's responsibility to protect Gods wonderful world.*

## **EVERYDAY PLASTICS**

Founded in January 2018 in the UK, Everyday Plastic is a research-led social enterprise which focuses on evidence-based education and campaigns. Through active participation, we teach individuals and organisations the realities of everyday plastic use and how to make a difference.

We work to demystify and simplify what can seem to be an overwhelming problem, providing a personal connection and encouraging everyone to make changes that have a meaningful impact.

We were born out of a unique experiment when Daniel Webb moved to the coastal town of Margate, in 2016, he was appalled by the swathes of plastic littering the beach. This dismay was further compounded as there were no recycling options offered at his new home.

With seemingly no way to dispose of plastic responsibly, Webb decided to conduct an experiment: he would store all of his plastic waste for the entirety of 2017. After 12 months, Webb took the 22 bags of plastic he'd collected and, working with a team of researchers and volunteers, counted, categorised, analysed, weighed, and photographed every single item. Everyday Plastic was born.

A commission for a large installation, called *The Everyday Plastic Mural*, at Dreamland in Margate soon followed, leading to a partnership with scientist and researcher Dr Julie Schneider on the seminal report *What We Throw Away and Where it Goes* (published in October 2018).

With interest in the local and global plastic problem exploding, Webb found himself in demand as a public speaker, conducting over 50 talks in 2019 alone. Meanwhile, development began on *The Everyday Plastic Survey*, a nationwide research project with 400 households. Completed in 2020, the survey garnered blanket media attention and prompted a response from DEFRA.

We are a research-led non-profit focused on evidence-based education and campaigns. Through active participation, we help individuals and organisations understand the realities of everyday plastic use and how to make a difference.

We have partnered with Greenpeace to create the **UK's biggest nationwide investigation into household plastic waste**. We want to uncover the truth about how much plastic is passing through our homes and what happens to it.

The Everyday Plastic Survey has now evolved into The Big Plastic Count, offering every one of us the same chance to discover our household plastic footprint.

With your help, we'll gather new, game-changing evidence that will push the government to take bold action on plastic.

1. Sign up—We'll send you a free pack with everything you need (on recycled paper and plastic-free of course!)
- 2.- Join thousands across the UK and tally all the plastic packaging you throw away for one week – 16-22 May. Then submit your results on our simple website.
3. We'll give you a personal plastic footprint and reveal what really happens to plastic when it leaves your home. Once all the results are in, we'll share the national picture, and the next steps on pushing the government into action.

**I'm joining up. How about you? LB**

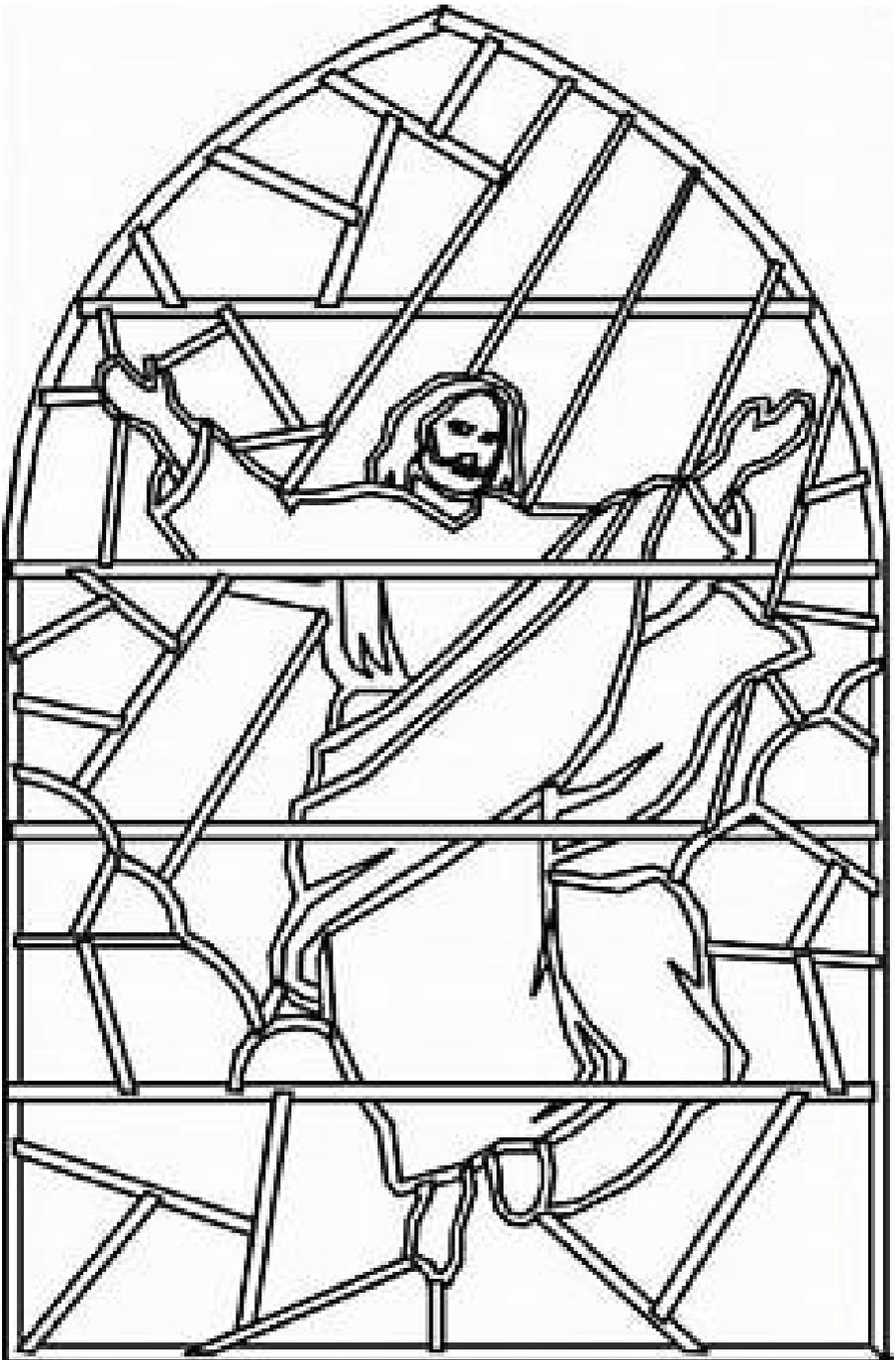
## **Ascension Day May 26th**

The celebration of the Ascension takes place forty days after Easter, by the church calendar. Jesus rose from the grave, and after appearing to disciples, rose into Heaven. Why is this important? The Ascension reminds us of who Jesus was, and also brings to mind the importance of how He has gone to prepare a place for us. We await His return, but know that He is with us still in the meantime.

Jesus gave us special promises prior to His departure for Heaven. He went up to be with God the Father, but He will return someday. We can await that, but can also spread His love to others around us.

Jesus promised to prepare a special place for us, and that He will come back for us one day. Meanwhile, He will be with us always and is present with us in each and every moment.

Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11



## **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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

## **CHURCH DIARY FOR MAY**

**1st May 11.15am Sunday Worship HC led by Reverend Mmasape Zihle.**

**Followed by the Annual Church Meeting and Shared Lunch**

**7th May - Church Vision Day followed by Saturday Lunch 12.30 in the Parlour**

**8th May 11.15am Sunday Worship led by Mr John Pearson.**

**15th May 11.15am Sunday Worship led by Reverend Mmasape Zihle and The Drive Youth (TDY)**

**22nd May 11.15am Sunday Worship and Songs of Praise led by Reverend Mmasape Zihle**

**29th May 11.15am Sunday Worship led by Sharon Grundy**

## Services every Sunday at 11.15am

Communion Services as announced

### Senior Church Stewards:

Michelle Garner , assisted by Diane Foster

**Property Steward**  
Bookings (J Foster)

Jeremy Foster  
[bookings@drive-methodist.church](mailto:bookings@drive-methodist.church)

**Church Council**  
**Secretary:**

Priya Inbakumar

**Music at The Drive**

Andrew Taylor  
[music@drive-methodist.church](mailto:music@drive-methodist.church)

**Flower Rota**  
**Secretary:**

Janet Brunnen

**Youth Church**  
**Leader:**

Jo Wright

**Safeguarding:**

Lorraine Bendon

**JMA Secretary:**

Diane Foster

**Newsletter Editor:**

Lorraine Bendon  
[newsletter@drive-methodist.church](mailto:newsletter@drive-methodist.church)

**Uniformed Organisations**  
**Group Scout Leader:**

Mr M Seviour

**Cubs:**

Mr R Shah

**Pre School:**

Kay Whiddon      Term time  
only: Mon – Fri 9.15am -12pm      1pm – 3.45pm