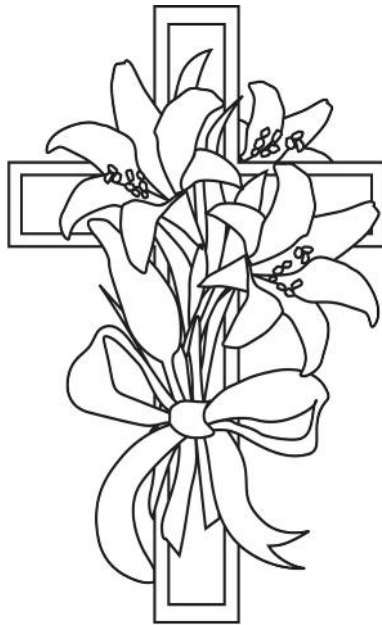


**The Drive
Methodist Church**

**Newsletter
APRIL 2024**



Eastern Avenue Ilford IG13PP

Minister Rev. Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni

Email: mmasape.zihle@methodist.org.uk

www.drive-methodist.church

The Drive Methodist Church Mission Statement

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.

To 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.

Message from Reverend Mmasape



Resurrection and renewal.

Embracing the melodies of life this Easter

Friends, It's a new Dawn of renewed hope as we declare:
Christ is Risen!...He is Risen indeed.

As I reflect on the intricacies of my journey, embodying moments of both grace and frailty, I am reminded of the richness and complexity inherent in our human experience. In the tapestry of my life, I have embraced joy and sorrow, pride and embarrassment, authenticity and facades, truth, and falsehood. I have traversed the spectrum from openness and receptivity to closure and rigidity, from integrity to moments of compromise at the slightest provocation.

Amidst these dualities, there is a verse from the hymn "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" that resonates deeply with me:

"Jesus! the name that charms our fears,

That bids our sorrows cease;

'Tis music in the sinner's ears,

'Tis life and health and peace."

These words encapsulate the power and significance of the name of Jesus, offering solace and comfort during our complexities. They remind me that in the face of fear and uncertainty, there is a name that brings calm and dispels sorrow. The name of Jesus is like music to the ears of those who seek forgiveness and redemption, bringing life, health and peace to those who believe.

In the light of Easter's triumph and the anticipation of Pentecost's joy, this verse reminds me of the profound unity that binds us all as we journey through life's mysteries. Just as the readings on the cross and Pentecost illuminate the transformative power of sacrifice and renewal, my own narrative echoes these profound themes of struggle and redemption, growth, and celebration. In the shadow of the cross, where suffering and grace converge, I find comfort in the universal truth of resilience and rebirth. The joy of Pentecost, with its promise of spiritual awakening and divine presence, ignites a flame of hope within my heart, guiding me through the ebbs and flows of existence.

As much as I may struggle with self-acceptance at times, recognising these dualities within me is an essential part of embracing the fullness of my humanity. In acknowledging these contradictions and intricacies within us, we illuminate our shared experience of the human condition, fostering compassion, understanding, and a deeper connection with one another. As we gather around the sacred texts that speak of sacrifice and revival, may we find strength in the shared narratives of faith and renewal, seeking forgiveness, extending grace, and embracing the richness of our diverse experiences.

In the light of our United struggle to find resources - both human and financial, to keep the gospel and mission of our faith going; it is important that we draw even closer as a circuit - celebrating and honouring those individual attributes of our congregations, whilst maintaining our place in the wider body that is the circuit. It was a delight to share in our united lent studies and look forward to our upcoming Easter-Pentecost study based on the book of Acts of the Apostles.

It is this community of disciples where they were united in prayer and fellowship, sharing in all things that we draw inspiration and encouragement. Many in our circuit have expressed how wonderful it is to belong to the different groups such as our Circuit Fellowship of Safeguarding Officers or the Youth Leaders groups, as these give a place to share experience and expertise. Joining in circuit study or services reminds us that we are not alone and it rekindles the fire of Christ's resurrection glory, so please May I urge us all to join our circuit mission and move forward in faith - TOGETHER

Blessed Easter wishes,

Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni

Let us pray

Loving Lord, thank You for all my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord. You have made us one in Him and are building us into a spiritual temple of living stones, each with our own peculiar function, in the heavenly kingdom of God. Instill in each of our hearts an increasing and ever-deepening love for each other and for You.

Keep us from petty arguments and careless words and may we minister to one another in true Christian fellowship and Godly love, where the gifts and talents of each member are used and valued in the benefit of others to the praise of Your Holy name.

Amen.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Our prayers are needed for our friends who are unwell at this time.

Liz, Susan, Andrew, Brian and Kathleen. We hope with Gods good grace you will all soon feel improved.

We pray too for the recovery of King Charles and the Princess of Wales. May they be granted peace to heal



We remember our dear late friend Josie who would have celebrated her birthday on 6th April.

Birthday wishes to Talia for 9th April

**EASTER DAY SERVICE BEGINS EARLY
WITH DRESSING THE CROSS AND
SINGING PRAISE OUTSIDE CHURCH AT
11.00am**

BIBLE READING GROUP



The Bible Reading Group will meet on Friday 26th April at 11:00am when we will finish 1 Corinthians. As usual we will meet and Jan and Johns and finish with refreshments. All are welcome.

A Thank You from Jo



Thank you to everyone who sponsored an Easter Egg. It was extremely kind and much appreciated.

Thank you also for coming and joining the Easter fun at the Egg Hunt.

The total from the raffle, which will be sent to the Red Cross Disaster fund appeal, will be revealed in the May newsletter. Your generosity is appreciated. To find out more about the appeal see the website below.

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/disaster-fund>

Message from Ruth

Heart Shaped Lavender Bags

I thought you might like to know about a lovely thing that happened to me the other day. Following a lavender bag sale on 9th March, where is sometimes give my details should people want to contact me. I receive the following text.....



“Good Morning Ruth

I bought a lavender heart last Saturday for a desperately ill friend and delivered it it after the Open Day and it gave her much pleasure.

This was her response. Thank you Joanna for the pomander—lovely scent of lavender!

She died suddenly on Wednesday aged 64, mercifully saved from more pain.

I thought you should know that your work gave her much pleasure and comfort

Best regards....”

Wasn't that kind of her to let me know?

Ruth.

*Never underestimate the value of a random act of kindness.
LB*

Thank you from Brian.



Hello all,

Thank you all so much for helping to make 90th Birthday so memorable.

The organisation put in by my children, their partners and my grandchildren, made my celebrations, which many of you attended, such a wonderful occasion that will stay with me for ever.

For all the cards I received, many, many thanks - I keep looking through them from time to time - and for the many gifts I received (although I asked for your PRESENCE not your PRESENTS). Thank you also for those who gave me cash towards a Charity. I am sending the £100.00 that I received to RAYSIN HOPE, the charity that Anne set up, after Ray's passing, to help and support sufferers from Brain Tumours and their families.

The book that was left on the stage for people to write in is also a lovely book for me to keep, although the comments are so complimentary that I shall have to be careful that I don't have to widen the doors in my house!

If I haven't expressed my thanks to you personally, please forgive me. I decided to treat myself to a new bed just before Christmas and was unusually decisive because the shop we went to for me to look at what was available, and I came out having ordered a new bed. It is due to be delivered just before Easter, and the room will be decorated, and a new carpet laid in time for the bed to arrive! So, I have had many things on my mind and the old brain is not quite so agile as it once was!

Thank you to my Church Family once again.

Brian.

HOMELESS IN REDBRIDGE

Call 0208 708 4002 if you are homeless now and have nowhere to stay tonight. This is a landline telephone number.

Email us if you do not have a phone. We can arrange an emergency face to face interview at Lynton House in Ilford if needed.

We will check to see if you are eligible for emergency accommodation. Emergency accommodation could be a room in hostel or self-contained flat.

This accommodation might not be in the borough of Redbridge.

Redbridge has a housing policy for those who are vulnerable.



THANK YOU

**FOR KEEPING OUR FOOD-
BANK BOX TOPPED UP.**

Your donations are taken regularly to the foodbank in Ilford, where they are pleased to accept your offerings.

Please remember that they are unable to accept items of food that have been opened or are out of date. These can't be used and will be disposed of.

LENT SERVICES

Many thanks to Rev Mmasape, Rev Kido and Deacon Andy and all concerned in making the LENT services in our circuit so thought provoking and memorable..



It was evident that numerous hours and much thought went into making this happen in our churches. LB

Music at The Drive

We are fortunate to have so many dedicated people at The Drive who provide us with wonderful music under the guidance of Andrew.

This Easter was no different . The music and singing has been glorious and we are so grateful for the efforts of so many.



Moji

London Marathon fundraising and training update



Since my autism and ADHD diagnosis last year I've embarked on a journey to try and increase awareness of people with differently wired brains.

Autism and ADHD are neurodiverse conditions which means people's brains are wired differently. Approximately 15-20% of the population has a neurological difference. This results in strengths and weaknesses that impact how we operate in the world. One of my biggest challenges in being neurodivergent is the sensory overload I get from being in loud and bright environments. As my brain takes in more environmental information (for example in a forest I see the individual branches and leaves rather than the trees) and if I can't filter out stimuli my senses can become overloaded. This results in shutdowns (losing the ability to speak), migraines, and nausea. Managing my sensory overload and the associated anxiety of knowing the environment could make me ill, made it difficult for me to remain in employment.

One part of my journey has been training for the London Marathon to raise funds for the National Autistic Society.

I'm delighted that I've raised £1,300 out of my £2,200 target. Another key aspect of my journey has been talking to over 500 people and sharing my experience on social media. Finding out I'm Autistic and have ADHD has improved my life as I'm no longer chronically tired and I feel happy for the first time in my life.

After my diagnosis, I was shocked to learn about the poor life outcomes of others with Autism. Just 30% of Autistic adults are in work and despite making up around 1% of the population we make up 11% of those that die by suicide.

Increased awareness and the breaking down of outdated stereotypes are required to increase the employment of Autistic individuals and improve mental health outcomes.

Many thanks to all at The Drive who have already contributed to my fundraising

If you'd like to help me reach my goal, please reach out to my mum Antonia or myself or I have:

Moji's National Autistic Society Fundraising page

London Marathon 2024—21st April

NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY
CHARITY NO. 269425

VOLUNTEERING

I have been involved in the League of Friends of King George Hospital for the past 14years and this included a volunteer shop in the atrium. That shop closed at the beginning of COVID and we have been trying to reopen it ever since.

Following positive talks with hospital management.....should we be successful, we will be looking for volunteers to staff the shop for short shifts.

If you are interested, please contact me on 07780 852858 if you would like to find out more.

Thank you

Ruth Joyce

Pastoral Leader/ Worker Training

1 further session of this training is planned for 13th April at Goodmayes Methodist Church from 10.00am—4.00pm.

It is led by the District Learning Network.

Interested? Call Jaquie Saito 0208 517 6159

Bring a packed lunch.

Now here's a days entertainment for you!

SATURDAY LUNCH 12.30PM 13TH APRIL

Jacket Potato with choice of filling and salad
Tea / Coffee - £4



Friends welcome

Please add your choice on the form at he back of the church



**FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE AND TEA
(and raffle)**

**SATURDAY 13th April 2024
THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH HALL**



2.30 PM for 3.00 PM START

TICKETS: ADULTS £5; CHILDREN (under 16) £2.50

from DIANE FOSTER 07903 560534

jma@drive-methodist.church

An afternoon of fellowship, food and fun for all the family to support the work of Junior Mission for All.

An Easter Prayer from the Mercy Ships

Risen Jesus,
today we praise you
for the gift of new life and hope.

May your love and mercy shine,
today and always,
on our hospital ships.
In every caring hand
every tear wiped away
every heart healed
and every life restored.

May the light of your mercy
shine like the dawn.

Amen.



Since 1978, Mercy Ships has had one to three ships in service. Currently, Mercy Ships operates two hospital ships. The *Africa Mercy* and the *Global Mercy*.

The *Global Mercy* is the largest charity-run hospital ship in the world. The 174-meter, 37,000-ton ship has six operating rooms and houses over 600 volunteers from around the globe representing many disciplines including surgeons, maritime crew, cooks, teachers, electricians, the host staff and more. The ship also features a 682-seat auditorium, student academy, café, shop and library - all of which have been designed to accommodate up to 950 crew onboard when docked in port.

The *Africa Mercy* contains five operating rooms, a four-bed recovery area, intensive care for up to five patients, and 80 ward beds. It houses about 400 volunteer crew members from up to 40 nations. Acquired in 1999 through a donation from the Balcraig Foundation, the former Danish rail ferry *Dronning Ingrid* was refurbished specifically for our mission and named the *Africa Mercy* in April 2000.



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

) Coffee with Claire (District Safeguarding Officer)

For current Foundation Module Trainers or those interested in becoming a trainer.

Wednesday 10 April | 6pm - 7pm | Zoom

) Foundation Module Training In Person

Thursday 25 April | 9:30am - 1pm | Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

) Advanced Module Training in person

Tuesday 30 April | 10am - 3:30pm | Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

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NEWSLETTER NOTE—Please note that I am unable to print this newsletter in colour and therefore cannot reproduce posters or internet pictures or photos unless they are black and white. LB

A SWEDISH EASTER



In Sweden, the Easter celebrations used to begin with the three days of Shrovetide, full of carnivals, games and revelry. Activities included playfully thrashing each other with birch twigs and tobogganing down steep slopes. People were also supposed to mark Shrove Tuesday by eating seven hearty meals before observing a 40-day fast.

On Easter Saturday, the celebrations turned joyful, and people began eating eggs again. Eggs were sometimes painted in different colours, probably because they were often given away as presents. In the 1800s, Swedes began filling paper eggs with sweets.

In western Sweden, the practice was to light bonfires, fire shotguns and shout to scare away witches. The bonfire tradition still lives on in the west of the country. The custom of bringing birch twigs into the house and decorating them with coloured feathers dates back to the 1880s.

Easter is one of the principal holidays, or feasts, of Christianity and marks the resurrection of Christ. It begins on Palm Sunday in celebration of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In the old days, you were not allowed to spin or chop wood on Maundy Thursday, as this might intensify Christ's suffering. Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. It used to be a quiet day in Swedish tradition, spent in silent contemplation. People dressed in black and ate salty food without anything to drink. Easter Sunday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

EASTER WITCHES

Many people used to believe in the old legend that on Maundy Thursday the witches flew off to consort with the Devil on Mount Blåkulla. Nowadays, children dress up as Easter witches; clad in discarded clothes, gaily coloured headscarves and red-painted cheeks, they go from house to house in the neighbourhood and present the occupants with paintings and drawings in the hope of getting sweets in return.

Having consumed all these sweets, they are then given Easter eggs filled with yet more. Parents who are more ambitious let the children search for the eggs themselves in a treasure hunt – following clues and solving riddles until they find their prizes.



A traditional Easter lunch is likely to consist of varieties of pickle herring gravlax, and Jansson's Temptation (potato, onion and pickled anchovies baked in cream). Eggs are favourite accompaniment to the dish of pickled herring that is the centre piece of most Swedes' Easter meals.

The table is often laid like a traditional smorgasbord (or smörgåsbord as it's written in Swedish), and decorated with birch twigs – nowadays decorated with brightly coloured feathers (and nowadays, only few associate the birch twigs with the suffering of Christ). Spiced schnapps is also a feature of the Easter table.

For dinner, many people eat roast lamb with potato gratin and asparagus, or some other suitable side dish.

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS ONLINE TRAINING

All those holding roles within their church are encouraged to attend this training.

Wed, 24 April or Fri 7th June 10—11.15am

'Unconscious bias refers to a bias that we are unaware of, and which happens outside of our control. It is a bias that happens automatically and is triggered by our brain making quick judgments and assessments of people and situations, influenced by our background, cultural environment and personal experiences.'

Hidden biases have the power to undermine and derail our desire to act justly, and fairly towards other people and lots of areas in our decision making. eg, when it comes to recruitment, promotion, and openness to new sources of ideas. It is possible to be unconsciously biased regarding disability, religion, race, gender, age, social class, and more.

The resources can be found at: [Introduction to Unconscious Bias – for church councils, circuit meetings and other groups - Methodist Church](#)

The online session will include watching the videos and joining in small group conversation/reflection following each of the 3 video clips.

The reading/study material which be sent following booking your place, please select which session you will be attending.

To book, see London Weekly Update

Redbridge Faith Forum E-News Bulletin – April 2024

We hope this bulletin finds you safe and well. Please do keep in touch and send details of any information or events you would like to promote to *faith.forum@redbridge.gov.uk*

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Happy Naw-Ruz to our Bahai friends; Happy Holi and Navaratri to our Hindu friends; wishing a spiritual Ramadhan to our Muslim friends Blessings and Happy Passover/Chag Sameach our Jewish friends; Happy Vaisakhi to our Sikh friends; and Happy full moon day to our Buddhist friends

Faith Festivals

11/12th March to 9th/10th April Ramadan (Muslim)

19th March Naw-Ruz (Baha'i)

25th March Holi (Hindu)

29th March Good Friday (Christian)/ 1st April Easter Day (Christian)

9th April Nawratras -Chatria Navratras:

13th April Vaisakhi/Baisakhi (Sikh)

22nd April – 13th April Passover / Pesach (Jewish)

23rd May – Vesak Full moon Day (Buddhist)

The Whitechapel Mission –

we have been helping Londoners to help people who are rough sleeping since 1876, meeting the specific needs of each man and woman who walks through our doors.

We are a volunteer led work with very few staff, but this does not mean we are a small organisation.

-) We can see as many as 350 people a day, looking for our assistance.
-) We remain open every day
-) Our impact remains high
-) We do this for a fraction of the cost of other day centres.
-) We do this without any statutory funding.
-) We recognise the true strength of our volunteers.
-) And recognise the value of everybody coming through our doors.

First, we help people by meeting immediate needs: food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. In our recovery programs, we address deeper needs for life-skills and job-skills training, and addiction recovery. We measure our progress against four criteria, which indicate to us that a life has been transformed from homelessness to hope: connection to family, commitment to sobriety, a job and a place to live, and a plan for the future transformed to hope, joy and lasting productivity.

Our Purpose

The Whitechapel Mission is called to serve the men and women caught in the cycles of poverty, hopelessness and dependencies of many kinds, and to see their lives transformed to hope, joy and lasting productivity.

Our Goal

To be the most effective provider of compassionate care and life transformation for hurting people in London.

We promote the concept of being part of and taking ownership of the Mission. Any and all who come are welcome. The services we offer are built upon trust and belonging. We are an inclusion centre rather than an exclusion centre.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION—connection with The Drive

On 12th May, Tony Miller from Whitechapel Mission will be preaching at The Drive. I have confirmed with them that he will be able to take any donated clothing back with him after the service.

I am clearing out clothes that I no longer wear and mentioned trousers, shirts and socks; all of which they will be happy to receive.

A full list of their needs is on their website-

Whitechapel.org.uk

On ways to donate—scroll down to “Donate gifts in kind” and you will find “OUR CURRENT NEEDS” with a comprehensive list which is updated daily.

Brian Grinham

A Prayer for Springtime



There is real wisdom, Lord,
in the adage

'It is always Springtime in
the heart that loves God.'

Springtime is a season of
optimism and hope,

and the Christian lives a faith
centered on hope.

Winter, with its cold and dark days has gone,

just as Good Friday has passed to Easter and
beyond.

We live a resurrection life
reflected in the new life springing up around us.

Thank you, Lord, for the hope that you bring,
the renewal that you bring,

both to this world and to our hearts and lives.

AMEN

REDBRIDGE GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS



Free fortnightly garden waste collections are here again, starting Monday 8th April. Please place a maximum of 5 open sacks at the boundary of your property on the day of collection and our crews will do the rest!

Any open sack is acceptable, except builders (rubble) bags.

We will collect as part of the garden waste service:

cut flowers, weeds, leaves, grass cuttings, twigs,
hedge trimmings.

ENERGY CAFÉ

Drop in sessions at Redbridge Library, helping you save energy and giving information about grants and help with bills.

www.transitionilford.org/energy-café



Have you checked out the One Planet Shop in South Woodford Unit 1, The Galleria, 180 - 182 George Lane

Apart from their vast range of refill products, you are now able to recycle candles via The Recycle Candle Company and cork items via Liga. Both will be recycled into beautiful new products.

HELPLINES

SAMARITANS

Available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts. www.samaritans.org **116 123** (free to call from within the UK and Ireland), 24 hours Email: jo@samaritans.org

MIND

Mind offers advice, support and information to people experiencing a mental health difficulty and their family and friends. Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm (except bank holidays). www.mind.org.uk **InfoLine: 0300 123 3393 to call, or text 86463** Email info@mind.org.uk

PAPYRUS UK

PAPYRUS is the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. They support young people under 35 who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, as well as people concerned about someone else. Their HopelineUK service is open 9am - midnight every day of the year (including weekends and bank holidays). www.papyrus-uk.org **Helpline: 0800 068 4141** Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org

YOUNGMINDS

www.youngminds.org.uk

Parents helpline: 0808 802 5544 (Mon-Fri from 9.30am - 4pm, excluding bank holidays)

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY (CALM)

A helpline for people in the UK who are down or have hit a wall for any reason, who need to talk or find information and support.

thecalmzone.net Helpline: 0800 58 58 58

thecalmzone.net/help/webchat/ 5pm—midnight, every day of the year

BROOK YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICE

Information, support and signposting service for young people under 25 on sexual health. Local services available via text message offering free contraception, pregnancy testing, counselling.

brook.org.uk

CHILDLINE

Emotional support for children and young people on issues relating to child abuse, bullying etc. **0800 1111**

FORCED MARRIAGES

Enter Forced Marriages into search bar at top of site - Service provided by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to protect young people from forced marriages abroad. Service offers help to young people in these circumstances to help get them back to the UK.

020 7008 0151 gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage

NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION 0808 800 5000

email help@nspcc.org.uk www.nspcc.org.uk

For anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse.

FREEPHONE 24 HR NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

0808 2000 247 www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/

Run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge, this is a national service for women experiencing domestic violence, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf.

NATIONAL LGBT DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

0800 999 5428 galop.org.uk/get-help/helplines/

Emotional, practical support for LGBT people experiencing domestic abuse.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

Helpline providing support for families and friends of problem drinkers, whether the person is still drinking or not. **0800 0086 811**

www.al-anonuk.org.uk

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY <https://capuk.org/>

Free help getting out of debt, budgeting and making your money go further

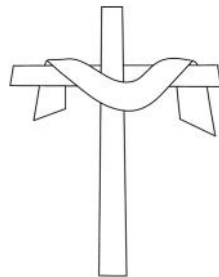
AGE UK ADVICE 0800 678 1602 www.ageuk.org.uk

Information and advice for older people

A Blessing

You are the peace of all things calm
You are the place to hide from harm
You are the light that shines in dark
You are the heart's eternal spark
You are the door that's open wide
You are the guest who waits inside
You are the stranger at the door
You are the calling of the poor
You are my Lord and with me still
You are my love, keep me from ill
You are the light, the truth, the way
You are my Saviour this very day.

(Celtic oral tradition - 1st millennium)



CHURCH DIARY FOR APRIL 2024

31st March @11am Easter Day/HC led by Rev'd Mmasape

7th April at 11.15am Sunday Worship/HC led by
Rev'd Mmasape

13th April at 12.30pm Saturday Lunch in the Parlour

13th April at 2.30pm Beetle Drive in the Church Hall

14th April at 11.15am Sunday Worship led by Rev. Mmasape

21st April at 11.15am Sunday Worship led by John Pearson

26th April at 11.am Bible Study –see inside for details

28th April at 11.15am Sunday Worship led by
Deacon Andy Packer