

**The Drive
Methodist Church**

Newsletter

October 2024



Eastern Avenue Ilford IG13PP

Minister Rev. Jacqueline Jones

Email: rev.jacquelinejones@outlook.com

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.

LETTER TO THE CIRCUIT: OCTOBER 2024

Revd Jacqui writes:

Dear friends,

It is a joy to write to you on my return from training at Cliff College after attending an advanced safeguarding induction. The church's witness to ensure that we are safe places for all to worship, is evidence of sacrificial love as the cornerstone of our Methodist way of Life.

On the journey back, we passed many beautiful fields, ready for harvest. The display of God's bounty was everywhere, reminding me of the gift and responsibility of the time of harvest and the Season of Creationtide from 1 September to 4 October each year. This year's theme is Hope and Act, an invitation to pause for wisdom and prepare to act in our care of all Creation.

My journey to Cliff College took me via Coventry. We entered the old Cathedral bombed during the Second World war. Through wounds of the pain of our humanity we see new life displayed in many ways in the New Cathedral and the courage to express hope in the echoes of ruin.

Every new season is an opportunity that blesses and releases the past season and welcomes what is to come with great anticipation.

It is a delight for me to be in the Circuit, and I thank you for your generous and kind welcome and wait in anticipation to discover together what God is doing amongst us in our places of worship and mission.

I look forward to our Circuit Vision planning as we reimagine how we continue to find expression as the Methodist Church to be embodied places of healing and growing and be an inclusive evangelistic justice-seeking church.

In Christ's hope,



Jacqui

In Creation

Let Wild Wind blow strong
And let Heaven's birds sing
Let the Sea aloud roar
And all who find home there!
Let the trees clap their hands
Let the flowers dance with sunshine
As the moon rules the darkness
As Christ Risen sends church
May the Earth hear:
Good News .
Right now.
Amen

Welcome October, A Prayer from Oli

good morning

O Lord,

Please help me to make peace with yesterday
and have an open mind and heart for today.

Help me to be a blessing.

Help me to see the good around me,

the good in others

and the good in myself.

Fill me with happy thoughts and a thankful heart.

Guide me through the new month of October

with selflessness and love.

Amen



A Prayer for Black History Month

Spirit of Abundance, God of Grace, Mother of Hope,
We pause now to remember those stories that are all
around us, but so often passed over.

Those stories, that when told are shared because
of what someone is, not who they are.

This month in our nation's character
is Black History month.

Help us to realise that Black history is
all our histories.

May the day come when these stories
are so wildly taught that no month need
be separately divided.

We know this day will not come until we as a people
make different choices.

We pray now for those new choices.

May we come to see a day where the prison system
Becomes redemptive, not punitive.

A day where the legal system learns to focus more
squarely on the facts, and not on the colours of our
skin.

A day where our schools are as well funded, as the needs demand.

May our role models be allowed to excel when they thrive, and not be taken down for their rich heritage.

We know this will require a shift in power.
and this can be scary for some.

Give those full of fear - hope.

May we come to know grace, so that our hearts will not be hardened to the pain around us.

There are so many beautiful stories needing to be told, and we need to get the chance to hear them.
Widen our vision so that the history that is shared this month and every month, come to be known as our history too.

We are most human when we see the humanity in others.

Amen



Peter and I are grateful for the many prayers and messages of support we received during Peters recent stay in hospital. He is doing well.

Our granddaughter Bethany will be married on 3rd October. She was baptised at The Drive. LB

We hope Diane and Jeremy enjoy their Ruby Anniversary weekend celebrations with their family. Congratulations.

Anne Dellow also has a weekend of birthday celebrations with her friends and family. Happy Birthday Anne.

We wish David Wright a swift recovery after a recent knee surgery.

Audrey Taylor's Annual Macmillan Coffee morning raised the substantial amount of £805 for this worthy cause. She sends her grateful thanks to all who supported and contributed to this event.

Audrey is happy to receive further donations.

`Hello` to all who are unable to worship at The Drive, but we hope you are able to follow the streamed services on line.



It was a joy to be present at Rev Jacqui's Circuit Welcome Service, with so many of our friends from the circuit ready to greet and support Jacqui in her mission and new adventures into Barking Dagenham and Ilford.

We look forward to worshipping with her and helping her to get to know our churches and the friends within. LB

October Birthdays



On 1st Janet Brunnen will be celebrating as will Sheela Selwyn on 3rd

WISHING YOU BOTH A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

If you have a birthday you would like mentioned, please let me know. LB

"God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well." —Voltaire

Centenary Development Project

At the last Church Council meeting a number of important decisions were taken which will affect our Church property.

The first decision was to proceed with the sale of the land currently occupied by the Scout Hut and the World War 2 bomb shelter. Having been involved with the Scout Group for many years it is sad that the Group has had to close, but times change and it was agreed by all that it was not possible for the Group to continue. Unfortunately the buildings are not suitable for repurposing and are therefore redundant.

The site will come up for sale by auction on 9 October. Assuming that a sale is achieved, the Circuit has agreed that the sale proceeds can be reinvested back into our premises. To this end, the Church Council has agreed to launch our Centenary Development Project utilising the funds from the sale. It is important that the Project furthers the mission of both our Church and the Circuit so we will focus on the priorities of Youth, Worship and Community by undertaking improvements to enhance our Welcome, our Facilities and our Sustainability.

We are currently working with an architect to help us draw up a list of works. No final decisions on the work have been made, but I anticipate that, as a minimum, we will look to open up the Eastern Avenue entrance, upgrade the kitchens and look at installing solar panels.

This is a really exciting opportunity for our church which will position us ready for our Centenary and beyond.

Jeremy Foster

Thank you for the Memories

We were welcomed into The Drive Methodist Church family right from our first visit and we have enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of many of the lovely people who worship there. We tried to involve ourselves in the life of the church and circuit and were sad to be leaving.

Moving home is generally thought to be difficult but we have managed to empty most of the boxes and have met some friendly people here. We have visited a local Methodist church which we can walk to. The Drive was a five-minute walk, and this is an eight-minute walk, so you still hold the record.

The people there seem friendly and welcoming and although it is early days this might be our new church home.

If possible, we will come and visit. We have many happy memories of our time with you. Thank you for the memories!

Jan and John

Its so good to know that Jan and John are settling into their new home and may also have found a Methodist Church close by. I'm sure it wont be long before they discover Jan and Johns talents. Watch this space!

LB



HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Thank you to all who took any part in making our Harvest Service and Harvest Lunch possible.

The Preschool parents once again have filled our church with their donations of food. We are very grateful to them and to Kay for their thoughtfulness.



The worship, music and prayers, the collecting and giving of the food and money, decorating the church so beautifully, the preparation and cooking of our lunch, good company and fellowship—and not forgetting the boring bits, like setting up the tables and the washing up!

Well Done Everyone.

Jo

Kay mentioned to me that for the first time, she enlisted the help of the Preschool children to bring the food donations into church and took the opportunity to show them around. The children were interested and enjoyed this task and felt very proud of themselves for helping.

Good learning opportunity. LB

The Harvest Hymn by Sir John Betjeman

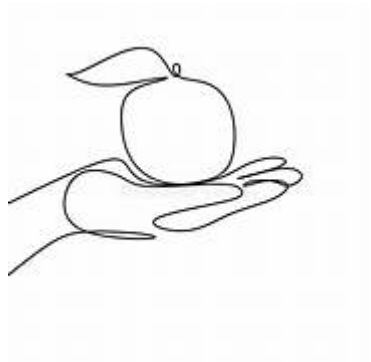
*We spray the fields and scatter
the poison on the ground,
so that no wicked wild flowers
upon our farm be found.*

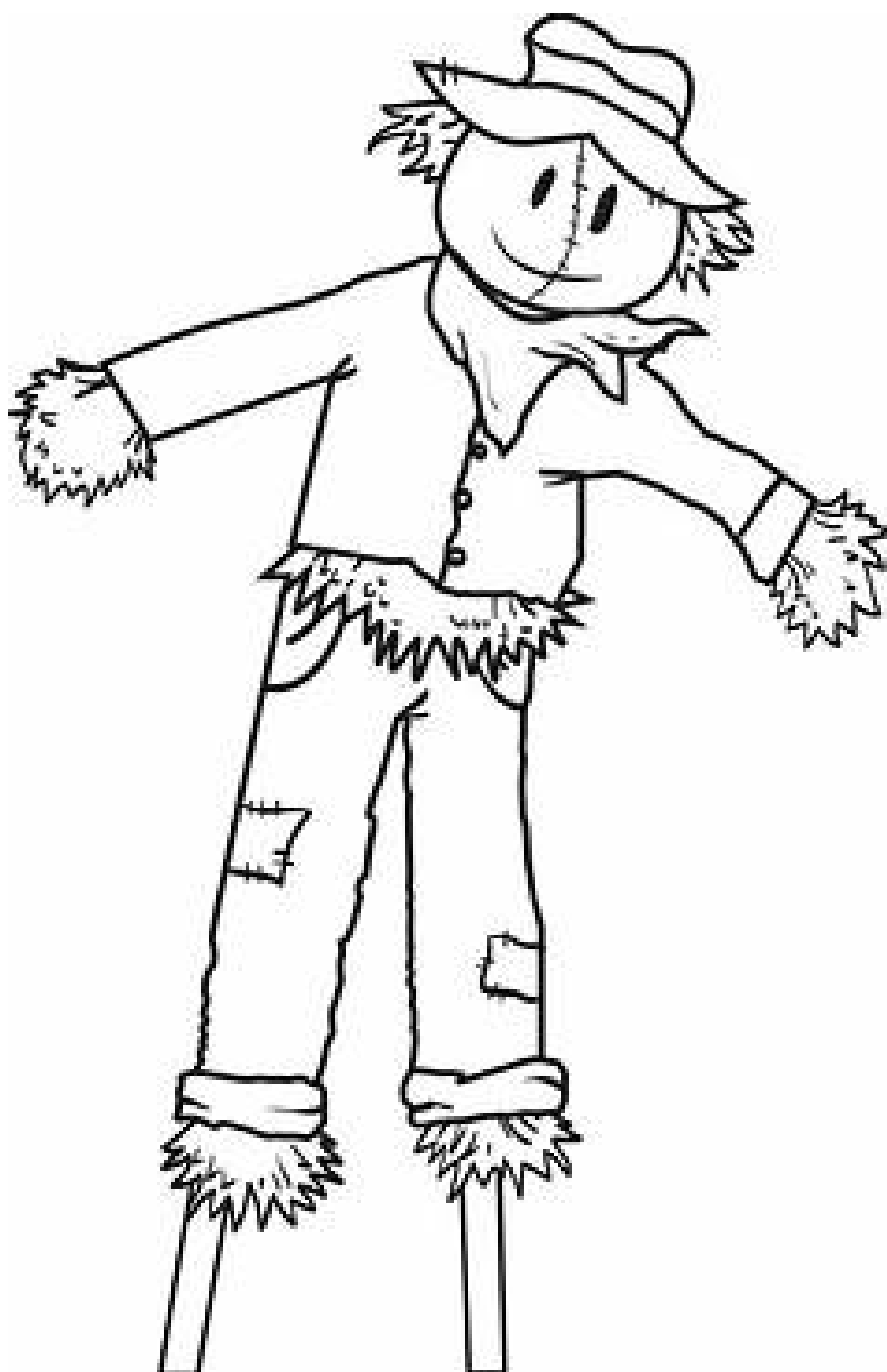
*We like whatever helps us
to line our purse with pence;*

*The twenty-four-hour boiler-house
and neat electric fence.*

*All concrete sheds around us
and Jaguars in the yard,
The telly, lounge and deep-freeze
are ours from working hard.*

Food for Thought!





LET US PRAY

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

AMEN

Diwali is the five-day Festival of Lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world.

A festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness, and for some also coincides with harvest and new year celebrations.

Diwali this year begins on 1st November but changes each year because it is set by the lunar calendar. The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word *deepavali*, meaning "rows of lighted lamps".

Houses, shops and public places are decorated with small oil lamps called diyas. People also enjoy fireworks and sweets too, so it's really popular with children.

Each religion marks different historical events and stories. Hindus celebrate the return of deities Rama and Sita to Ayodhya after their 14-year exile. They also celebrate the day Mother Goddess Durga destroyed a demon called Mahisha.

Sikhs particularly celebrate the release from prison of the sixth guru Hargobind Singh in 1619. But Sikhs celebrated the festival before this date.

In fact, the foundation stone of the Golden Temple at Amritsar, the most holy place in the Sikh world, was laid on Diwali in 1577.

The founder of Jainism is Lord Mahavira. During Diwali, Jains celebrate the moment he reached a state called Moksha (nirvana, or eternal bliss).

Diwali is also a time for prayers and leaving offerings to gods and goddesses - like Lakshmi the Hindu goddess of wealth - for good luck..

We wish our friends a Happy Diwali.



SHOE BOX APPEAL

I have ordered the Shoeboxes ready for this year's effort.

They will be here soon, and the collection date will be in Early November. Please take one or more when they arrive, together with a "contents leaflet" for each box.

If anyone wants to order Bible Reading Notes, please let me know as soon as possible.

DAILY PRAYERS

In September I asked on WhatsApp if anyone would be prepared to join the 3 people who currently post a prayer on a weekly basis as we have 4 days which are not covered.

So far I have no volunteers so watch out I will be asking people to carefully consider if it is something they could undertake on a regular basis, so we can have a prayer every day.

When I first started I was apprehensive, but my daughters came to my rescue and bought me a book of 1,000 prayers. I have used many, and they are not all really suitable, but then I found other sources and have managed to cover one day a week ever since. If I approach you, please carefully and prayerfully consider whether you would be willing to take on this service to your fellow Christians.

Brian.

C'mon, you know you really want to! LB

SATURDAY LUNCH

12th OCTOBER

1PM

Cost £5.



On this occasion we will be serving:

Beef or Vegetable Chilli with Rice and Salad.

Tea/Coffee and biscuits

If you would like to join in the good food and good company, please add your name to the form at the back of the church.

Lorraine, Ruth and Anne.

HOPE CAFÉ

This is a radio programme I heard for the first time on Radio 4. It is a collection of challenges, endurance and heart warming real life stories, experiences. I recommend a listen.

It is broadcast on Mondays at 9.45am but all episodes are available to podcast.

From Me To You Letters

This is a fascinating charity who provide letters for those who are living with cancer.

It was founded in 2017 by two friends. Some time previously one of them became ill and not knowing what to say, she wrote letters to her friend in an attempt to reach out and connect. Their story was featured on the radio and sparking an interest with others, the charity Donate a Letter was formed.

“Our writers, from all over the world, send us their donated letters, which we then distribute to those most in need. We work with our letter outlets - hospitals, cancer centres and partner charities - as well as sending letters directly to people’s homes, which anyone can request whenever a boost is needed.”

Donate A Letter aims to reduce the social isolation and loneliness so often associated with cancer. Receiving a letter or card, even from someone you don’t know, can bring a connection and sense of comfort at a time of difficulty.

You can request to become a writer or a recipient.

www.frommetoyouletters.co.uk

Donate A Letter: PO Box 6033, Ascot, SL5 5FH

*We thank Thee Lord, for happy hearts, For rain and
sunny weather.*

*We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food, And that we
are together.*

Amen



Lets sing

For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT SERVICE

BLOOD DONATION

Blood stocks are critically low. The NHS are making an urgent appeal for those eligible to make a lifesaving blood or plasma donation.

September marks Childhood Cancer Awareness month and we want to encourage more donors to switch to platelet donation. This is because 1 donation can help up to 12 children with cancer.

Currently, there are only 10,000 people in England who regularly give platelets and we need 3,500 new platelet donors this year. We need more blood donors with A negative, A positive and AB negative blood types to consider changing to platelet donation.

Platelets are tiny gold-coloured cells in your blood which help it clot and stop bleeding. Most donations help people with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy to avoid blood-loss, but platelet transfusions also help people who've lost a lot of blood after an accident, organ transplant or surgery.

Why we need more donors of Black heritage

At the moment we need more people of Black heritage to grow the number of blood donors with well-matched blood to help those with sickle cell disorder. In recent years, there has been a rise in demand for some rare blood types that are more common in people of Black heritage, including people of Black-African, Black-Caribbean and Mixed ethnicity.

COULD YOU HELP ?

<https://www.blood.co.uk/>

Call: 0300 123 23 23

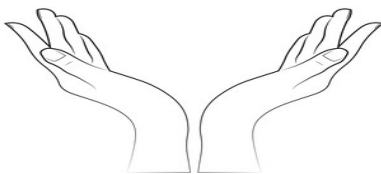
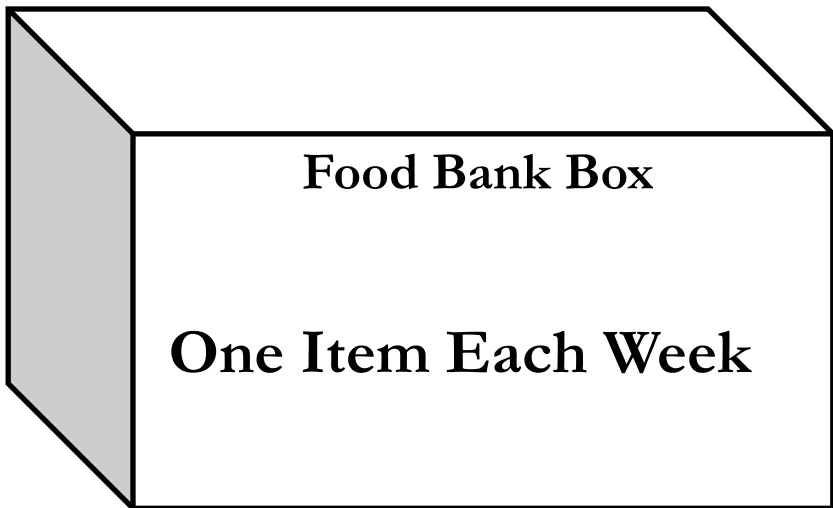
REDBRIDGE FOOD BANK

The Drive Methodist church has been supporting the local Food Banks for many years and they are truly thankful for the donations we take to them.

Have you seen the certificate issued to The Drive from the foodbank? Take a look..... Its on the notice board.

We have donated 337.1kg of food and toiletries

Well done everyone!



A message from our circuit administrator, Jackie Saito

Dagenham Flats Fire Appeal

Spectrum' fire, Chadwell Heath

You will have all seen the shocking news reports about the fire in the Chadwell Heath Tower Block, and you may be aware that Barking and Dagenham Council have set up a GoFundMe page for donations to help those who have lost everything.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-for-families-dagenham-fire-2024>

I know I don't need to ask you to continue to hold all those affected by this tragedy in your prayers.

Are you interested in studying further for the Methodist Ministry?

Students wishing to engage in further study that would benefit a local Methodist Church / wider Circuit are invited to apply for a grant from the Leaders of Worship and Local Preachers Trust (LWPT). Grants of up to £2000 plus £500 for books/resources are available. You can learn more about the grant in the London District Weekly News. Please bear in mind that the deadline for applications is Thursday 03 October.

SAFEGUARDING

There is to be a Safeguarding Audit of all Methodist Churches and our Circuit will be audited in November 2024.

The purpose of the audit is

- *To assess the effectiveness of safeguarding leadership in the district at church/circuit and district level.*
- *To provide information on how well the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance are being implemented in each district.*
- *To extract learning from each audit so that best practice can be shared across the Connexion (including how to overcome obstacles to good practice)*

Further details about the Audit can be found on the notice board in the church vestibule.

Foundation Module Training

Will take place at The Drive on Saturday 26th October 10-30am-1.30pm

At present there are no dates available for Advanced Module Training

London Worship Leader and

Local Preacher Development Day

The Learning Network are running a development day for worship leaders and local preachers. The event will give attendees the opportunity to think about how we communicate in the 21st century. The morning section will look at what we can learn from TED talks and in the afternoon we will look at how popular podcast themes around wellbeing can be looked at from biblical perspectives.

The first event will be held on Saturday 16 November at Camden Methodist Church and will then be repeated on Saturday 23 November at Lantern Methodist Church, Wimbledon. To book your place at either session, please click on the corresponding link below:

[London Local Preacher and Worship Leader Development Day North \(Camden MC\) | Saturday 16 November | 10am - 3pm](#)

[London Local Preacher and Worship Leader Development Day South \(Lantern MC, Wimbledon\) | Saturday 23 November | 10am - 3pm](#)



ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Because they're a child, like any other. A child with a favourite TV show. A favourite food. A child that deserves to feel safe and loved, in a place they can call home.

That's why we're launching A Place to Call Home, a campaign calling on UK governments to take immediate action on children's social care, so children in care get the high-quality homes, love, and support they need to thrive.

A shortage of good, loving homes means that many children have a poor experience of being in care. Not all foster or residential homes provide the high-quality care that a child deserves, or are able to meet that child's individual needs.

Children often have to move home several times as their circumstances change, and are moved to homes far from their families. They can struggle to get the support they need from school, health and other services, and they can feel ignored by professionals when they speak up.

All four UK governments have recognised these problems, carried out reviews, and are starting to act. But they're not moving fast enough to make the vital changes needed to their care systems.

We're asking for UK governments to take immediate action on children's social care:

Please visit Action for Children to support their campaign

www.actionforchildren.org.uk/support-us/campaign-with-us/childrens-social-care/a-place-to-call-home/

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

May the blessing of flowers, seeds,
and autumn fruit of clouds,
of rain, of rivers, seas and snow;
of God, sustaining God, made flesh,
and God the Wild Wind ,
Father, Son, and Spirit
keep you going, joyful, shining,
repurposed for all that lies ahead.
Let this be so, and here and now.

AMEN

OCTOBER CHURCH DIARY for The Drive

6th October at 11.15am Sunday Worship led by:
Rev'd Jacqui Jones

12th October at 1pm Saturday Lunch see page 18

13th October at 11.15am Sunday Worship—
Homeless Sunday—Own Arrangement

20th October at 11.15am Sunday Worship led by:
Rev'd Jacqui Jones

27th October at 11.15am Sunday Worship— Bible Sunday
led by: Kenneth Samuel Agyekum

A Ghanian Service is held on the 3rd Sunday each month
12.30pm at Barking MC

A Zimbabwean Fellowship takes place at 2pm every
Sunday at Old Dagenham MC