

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2025



Minister: Revd Jacqueline Jones

Email: rev.jacquelinejones@outlook.com

<https://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.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour and pray that you are well.

It is fantastic to contemplate what it means to be in a new season. As many of you would know, on February 1, we are expecting our first grandchild. It's been a wonderful and soulful time preparing for a new baby. While settling into a new country and vocation, the beginning of 2025 has undoubtedly been a year for me to anticipate and reflect on what it means to embrace new beginnings.

I imagine many of you by now have had your Covenant Service; these promises have been a great blessing for so many reasons. It gives us a sense of God's love and purpose, as well as direction in our lives and deep connection with one another globally. The Methodist Covenant Service seems to ground our faith and bring our imagination to Godly possibilities while reminding us of how audacious and vulnerable these promises are. The Covenant Service exquisitely confronts us with the idea of surrender. The covenant prayer says that sometimes our covenant promises are against our human nature. I often wonder how life presents us with situations that feel a little against our human nature and capacity and how the grace of God enables us to imagine new things even when they seem impossible.

In some churches I've preached, people have made their Covenant promises for more than 75 years, a faithful presence of God's Disciples. Living our lives as people of faith has many ups and downs.

These extracts from John Wesley's Diaries attest to his life's uncertainties and challenges –

“Sunday, A.M., May 5: Preached in St. Anne’s. Was asked not to come back anymore. Sunday, P.M., May 5: Preached in St. John’s. Deacons said “Get out and stay out.” Sunday, A.M., May 12: Preached in St. Jude’s. Can’t go back there, either. Sunday, A.M., May 19: Preached in St. Somebody Else’s. Deacons called special meeting and said I couldn’t return. Sunday, P.M., May 19: Preached on street. Kicked off street. Sunday, A.M., May 26: Preached in meadow. Chased out of meadow as bull was turned loose during service. Sunday, A.M., June 2: Preached out at the edge of town. Kicked off the highway. Sunday, P.M., June 2: Afternoon, preached in a pasture. Ten thousand people came out to hear me.”

Quite staggering and a sober reminder of what it takes to sometimes keep our faith amidst perplexing times. I pray that February will find you gifted with the joy of being the witness of Christ, remembering God is faithful and present in all seasons.

I pray that the presence of new beginnings, the gift of grace, and the promise of the covenant will align deeply with your soul and spirit.

In Christ's love
Jacqui



EDITOR'S NOTE

January – it's almost over!



January – 31 days to get through
now that Christmas has gone,
It's a month that seems to just go on and on,
With frosty mornings and bitterly cold,
(For some of us it's a time when we feel really old!)
It's that time of year we all yearn for the spring
For flowers and plants that the warm months will bring.

BUT...

...you and I know these days will not last,
We should be grateful and not wish time go fast
And give thanks to God that we are yet alive
To worship and pray and sing **LOUD** at The Drive!



SO WELCOME to this February issue of the Newsletter and if I haven't said it to you already, Happy New Year!

As I take over once again as editor, I would like, on behalf of the church, to thank Lorraine for her service editing the newsletter over the past five years. Her dedication, commitment and enthusiasm will be a hard act to follow. But here goes!

So now I want to hear your news! Whether it be a special event you are organising, an achievement reached, special anniversaries – in fact anything that you would like to share with our church family. If you are aware of somebody's birthday, which they don't mind being included, then please let me know.

The same goes for our church friends or their families who are unwell or going through a difficult time. Please make sure the person concerned is happy to have their names mentioned.

Although some weeks ago now, I do hope you enjoyed your Christmas. Perhaps you celebrated in a different way than usual? Did you go away somewhere? Or went on a day visit to somewhere interesting? Why don't you write a few words to tell us about it for inclusion in a future edition? You can email items to me at the usual address - newsletter@drive-methodist.church or leave in the newsletter folder in the Minister's vestry.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Have a great month!
Diane Foster



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY to Janet Wragg on the 6th and to all those celebrating a birthday this month. Have a lovely day!

(If you know of somebody with a birthday to be added to our Birthday List, please let me know – Diane)

CONGRATULATIONS to Janet and Geoff Wragg who recently celebrated their 46th Wedding Anniversary. Hope you had a lovely day together.





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

Roxanne Lashley Our thoughts and prayers are with Roxanne and her family who recently suffered two bereavements.

Revd Jacqui's father, who has been unwell for some time, has now gone into hospital in South Africa to undergo tests. We pray for Jacqui, her father and family at this difficult time.

Eddie Larney

We were so sorry to hear that Eddie Larney passed away on Christmas Eve. Before they moved further out in Essex, Doreen and Eddie were members of the Drive for many years. Eddie was a lovely, caring man. One lasting memory of him was when he dressed up as Herod in one of our Nativity presentations. He was also a great fan of the Beetle Drive. He and Doreen were usually the first to buy tickets! We give thanks for the life of Eddie and remember Doreen, son, Martin and all the family and friends in our prayers.

Please speak to Anne Dellow for details of Eddie's funeral.

Look with divine pity, O God, on the pains of your whole family, and let the passion of Christ and his infinite love make fruitful for good the tribulations of the innocent, the sufferings of the sick, and the sorrowing of the bereaved. Amen.

A French prayer (1915)





CHRISTMAS AT THE DRIVE



TDY party 2024

For the first time since before covid, we had a TDY Christmas party. After a quick Nativity rehearsal, we enjoyed food, games, and crafts in the parlour. It was great to see older members of TDY (and younger ones) enjoying themselves.

Thank you to all the adults in team TDY who supported with the Nativity rehearsal the Nativity service, and the party. A particular thank you to Diane who collated and printed the Nativity booklet, to Lorraine and Ruth who organised the party food, Michelle (great rehearsal leader, always positive!), and Oli and Priya who are always on hand with safety pins, props and calming advice. It really was TEAM TDY!

A massive thank you to you all.

Jo Wright

Nativity 2024

Thank you to everyone who was involved in our Nativity play and toy service. It was wonderful to hear the story of Jesus' birth. This year Thea included the thoughts of various characters within the Nativity story, which enabled us to think about how each character might have felt.



Tahlia handmade Angel Gabriel's wings, which were beautiful. Luckily her sister, Emily, played Gabriel and looked splendid.

Lola and Folake sang "Mary did you know?" with their beautiful, soulful, voices and Gila and her three talented children sang away in a manger.

The narrator (Yetunde), singers, and all the other characters and pianist (Andrew is always so adaptable!) made the Nativity story come to life in a wonderful, celebratory way.

This year we were so pleased to welcome children (and their families) from the pre-school who came dressed as angels and a king. It was lovely that they shared in our Nativity story too. The families told me that they were looking forward to the annual Easter Egg Hunt. It's wonderful to share events with our local community.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.

Jo Wright

Big thanks to you as well Jo for bringing it all together. I was pleased to have been part of the host of angels! – Diane

Walking into church during the Christmas period is such a delight for all the senses. The expertly dressed Christmas trees, the Nativity scene, the beautiful flower arrangements and decorated candle stands, the advent ring and readings, that starts our advent journey, and of course the Carol service with "sweet singing in the choir" accompanied by the resounding organ and then delicious mince pies in the parlour.

Our first Christmas day with Rev Jacqui was such a fun, joyous service, with Thea and other young people unwrapping gifts.

This was all made possible, and thoughtfully arranged, by many of our church family. Thank you to you all. It was such a special Christmas season.

Jo Wright

I agree Jo. It was all lovely and was so good to see many people in the congregation at the Carol Service including our daughter, Louise and our nephew, Patrick with his mum, Isobel, Jeremy's sister. And of course my sister Susan who enjoys this service every year. As you say the Christmas morning service led by Jacqui was lovely and a wonderful way to start our Christmas Day celebrations. Thank you to all involved - Diane.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DURING DECEMBER.

Over the Advent and Christmas period, we had a number of special charity collections. Our Treasurer, John, was pleased to report that we were able to send a total of £781.75 to the following charities:

Shelter	£400.00
Whitechapel Mission	£157.73
Grange Hill Warm Space	£117.00
Action for Children	£107.02



FOOD BANK



The Jubilee Church in Ilford send thanks to everyone at The Drive for their contributions to the food bank each month.

A PRAYER FOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27th JANUARY

Loving God, holy and immortal
may we always remember and mourn the six million Jewish children, women and men, murdered at Auschwitz- Birkenau, Treblinka, Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Majdanek, Babyn Yar and in so many other places.

Loving God, holy and immortal
may we never forget all those murdered by the Nazi regime, those with disabilities, gay women and men, communists and other political opponents, Roma and Sinti people, Jehovah's Witnesses.

Loving God, holy and immortal,
on this day we remember and mourn those killed in genocides across the globe,
we pray for peace and an end to all war and violence,
help us to see one another as you see us,
all your children, precious and beloved.

Amen.

Prayer taken from the Methodist Church website

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex. Go to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's website – <https://hmd.org.uk> – for more information about their theme for 2025 "For a Better Future".



SATURDAY LUNCH



Saturday 8th February 1pm
The Drive Church Parlour

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.

SAFEGUARDING FOUNDATION MODULE

Saturday 22nd February 2-4.30pm
The Drive Church Parlour



Places must be booked in advance. Please let Lorraine Bendon know if you would like to attend: safeguarding@drive-methodist.church

PROPERTY MATTERS

We are now almost halfway through the church financial year so I thought I would give an update on our property.

In December we had the five yearly inspection of the property by a surveyor. I am pleased to report that although there were some minor works recommended, the overall comments were very positive with the conclusion stating "(the premises) are being maintained to a generally very good standard". The minor works have now either been completed or are in course. However, there are also some general comments about the need to upgrade certain facilities particularly the kitchens which will be addressed as part of our Centenary Development Project.

We have already undertaken a number of repairs, renewals and improvements. These include:

- Re-carpeting the vestry following the moth infestation;
- Provision of an additional CCTV camera to cover the church foyer entrance;
- Repairs to the Trinity seat;
- Fitting of a new bell and intercom to the church foyer entrance;
- Flushing internal toilet waste pipes and external drains;
- Fitting new vanity units and hand driers in the Parlour toilets;
- Tree pruning and gutter cleaning;
- Fire & Legionella Risk Assessments
- Lightning conductor testing
- And of course the unplanned emergency repairs to the church ceiling.

During the remainder of this year we will be undertaking PAT testing (there are approx. 160 portable appliances to be tested) an overhaul of the roofs and some redecorating.

Our church hosts many local community groups. Whilst I appreciate that the car park can get very busy at times, the income is not only essential to maintain our financial viability, but also allows us to support many local worthwhile projects. I am pleased to report that we have been particularly busy with lettings in recent months.

With the land sale completed our Church Centenary Development Project is now starting to take shape. The architect has prepared a draft set of plans and these will be discussed by the Finance and Property Committee at their meeting in February. We will then share the plans with our church family and community groups. However, if anyone has any questions or suggestions for possible improvements please do speak with me.

Jeremy Foster

SINGING THE FAITH – THE THIRTEENTH YEAR



“LORD, FOR THE YEARS YOUR STATS’VE BEEN KEPT AND COUNTED...”

We first used our Methodist hymnal *Singing the Faith* on Sunday 15th January 2012. Since then I have kept a note of the hymns and songs used (from now on, I’ll just refer to them as “songs”). Here are the song stats for 2024.

Included in these figures are the songs we have been using since September in the new Worship Song slot at the start of services, but not included are the 6 songs chosen by preachers that are not in *StF*, and any songs the choir has sung alone.

During 2024 we sang 187 different songs from *StF*, which is 10 more than were used in 2023, and is the most different songs we have used in a year since the first year of *StF* in 2012. These were the most frequently used songs:

6 times	503	<i>Love divine, all loves excelling</i>
5 times	20	<i>Be still, for the presence of the Lord</i>
	351	<i>In Christ alone my hope is found</i>
	443	<i>Come, let us sing of a wonderful love</i>
	470	<i>Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided</i>
	548	<i>Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine</i>
4 times	59	<i>Lord, the light of your love is shining</i>
	293	<i>All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord</i>
	545	<i>Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart</i>
	663	<i>I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry</i>

A further 18 songs were chosen three times, 41 twice and the remaining 118 just once. Of the total 187 songs used, 18 were completely new to us. 503 *Love divine, all loves excelling* tops the list for the first time, despite being a perennial favourite. However, 446 *I will offer up my life in spirit and truth*, suddenly popular in 2023, had no outings in 2024.

Taking the twelve years we have been using *StF* overall, we have now used 518 of the 790 songs available (not including the Canticles and Psalms section), which works out at just under 66 percent – almost two thirds! In the overall top 10, 693 *Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair* was not sung at all in 2024, and 94 *To God be the glory, great things he has done*, the top song overall since 2013, was only chosen once. 12 songs have been used at least once every year since 2012 (counting the COVID years 2020/2021 as one year).

The top two songs in the first twelve years of *StF* overall have been in the top two slots since the start:

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

Only in the first year (2012) were the positions reversed, and if trends continue, this could be the case once again in 2025. They remain comfortably ahead of the competition.

Our new time for worship songs at the start of each service has given us the opportunity to introduce new songs to the congregation, both from *StF* and elsewhere. 2025 will surely see us pass two thirds of *StF* sung, and then the target is three quarters!

Andrew Taylor

MEMORIES OF EASTERN AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

My grandfathers George S Fudge and Alfred J B Haynes JP were the first stewards/officers of the newly built Eastern Avenue Methodist Church in 1928. Alfred was also a Local Preacher. My parents George Fudge and Vera Haynes first met as pupils in the Sunday School. My mother was a very keen Girl Guide and Guider. Years later they courted and married at the church on 19th September 1942 (with two cubs in the parade after namely John Taylor and Brian Grinham!). My father was the Sunday School Superintendent until WW2 and during the war my mother Vera ran the Guide company and two Brownie Packs (the second one at Barkingside Methodist Church).

My grandmothers Edith Fudge and Euphemia Haynes were loyal members of the church and in the Women's Fellowship etc. Mrs Haynes died in 1997 at the age of nearly 103 and her memorial tree is outside the new entrance to the church.

Both my late brother Adrian and myself were christened at the church. Adrian and I both attended the Sunday School and were very keen members of the Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides. I was company leader and Adrian went on to become a Queen's Scout. He was also a founder member of the Castle Venture Unit.

We were both also keen members of the youth club which was affiliated to the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs. We regularly attended the London Weekend youth rallies (we used to accommodate clubs from other parts of Britain sleeping in the church hall over the weekend), put on reviews/plays every year and had very lively weekly discussions at the Manse fellowship after the evening service on a Sunday hosted by the Revd Harry and Mary Parkin.

Our years spent at the church were not just to worship but they formed our social life as well. My parents and myself all played tennis at the Ilford Methodist Tennis Club in the church grounds (now flats). Peter Foster (Jeremy's Father) was my mixed doubles partner. Fond memories of Sunday School outings to Maldon, Clacton etc filling at least three coaches with children and their families.

I met my future husband Graham Smith at the youth club and we were married there on 18th October 1975. Many other couples met there and married! Our Golden wedding is this October.

Our three grown up sons Richard, Christopher and Jeremy were Beavers, Cubs and Scouts at the church and I was on the Executive of The Drive Scout and Guide Group until it closed in recent years. We started to worship at St Andrew's church as our sons were choirboys there and I helped with the Sunday school etc.

I always tell folk that I am a Methodist first and Church of England second!! I became a church member aged 12, the Minister then was the Revd Leonard White.

I try to attend The Drive Methodist Church when I can as this is where my roots are. I really enjoyed joining the choir for the Candlelit Carol service last December.

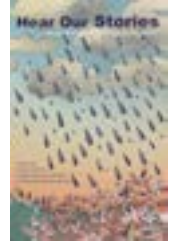
Maggie Smith

We were pleased to have you boost our sopranos at the Carol Service Maggie. It's always good to see you – once a Methodist, always a Methodist! – Diane

A BOOK REVIEW

Hear Our Stories.
An Anthology of Writings on Migration

Edited by Teresa Norman, Sinaed Mangan-McHale
and Consuela Rivera-Fuentes.



This book was loaned to me by Ruth who has recently started attending our church. Ruth successfully entered a storytelling competition and her essay is included in this publication. Her story 'Invisible Heroes' focusses on the challenges and difficulties that undocumented people face every day in the UK and particularly during the pandemic. Her wish is for a world of equal rights and status. A world where everyone is visible. Her words are very thought provoking and makes one realise how fortunate those of us are who have a safe place to call home.

The book is a collection of stories and poems about despair, hope, sadness and gratitude told by those who journey to the UK looking for a better life. As we are told, for many, a passport is simply a means to travel, but for millions of migrants and refugees, a passport represents freedom.

Diane Foster

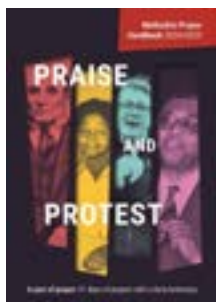


If you have read an interesting book and would like to share your thoughts about it please let me know.



**Grange Hill Methodist Church
Community Centre
Burrow Road, IG7 4HQ**

Invite you to a Warm Welcome Space
serving hot drinks, biscuits, snacks
and a warm welcome
Every Wednesday 10.00am – 12.00pm
<https://www.warmwelcome.uk/spaces>



**METHODIST PRAYER HANDBOOK
2024/2025**

Following the prophet Isaiah's call, echoing through the ages to us, the 2024/2025 Prayer Handbook contains prayers on how the Church can "learn to do right; seek justice and defend the oppressed" (Isaiah 1:17a, NIV).

In her song of praise, the 'Magnificat' (Luke 1:46-55), Mary thanks God for the child Jesus, who will announce God's kingdom which "brings down the powerful from their thrones and lifts up the lowly."

To engage in God's mission and be part of that transformation, we believe the Methodist Church is called to become an increasingly evangelistic, inclusive and justice-seeking Church.

Order online at methodistpublishing.org.uk
or phone: 0845 017 8220



CHINESE NEW YEAR 29TH JANUARY

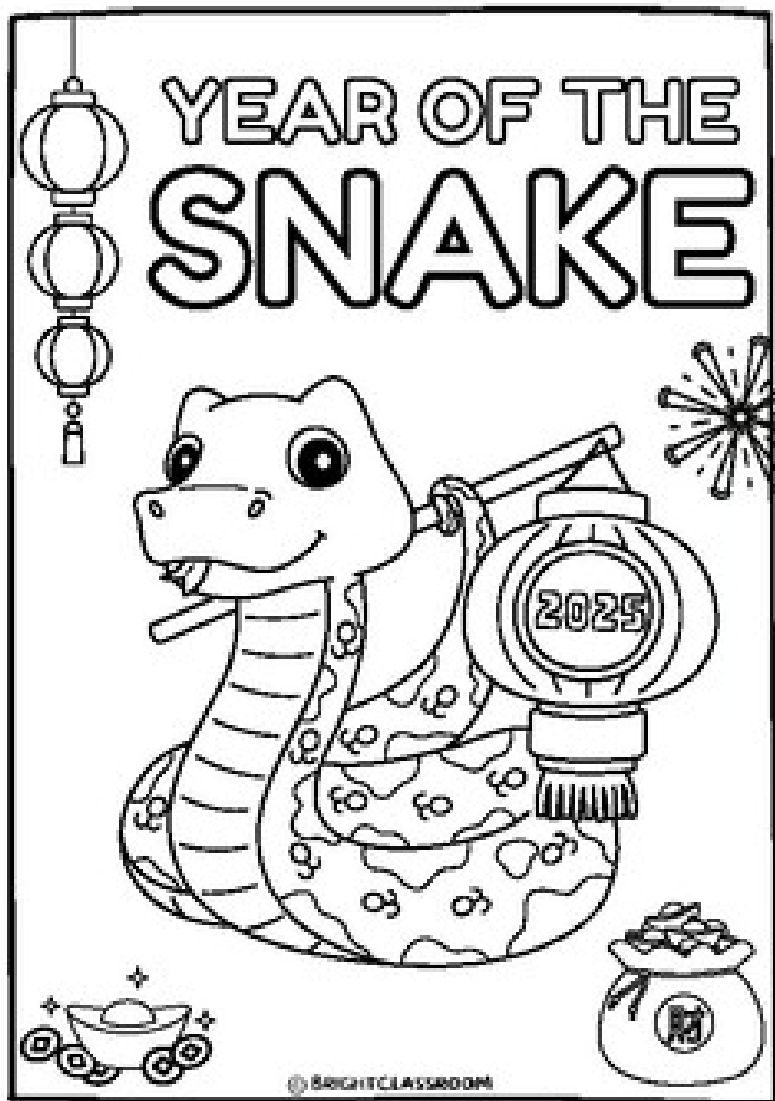


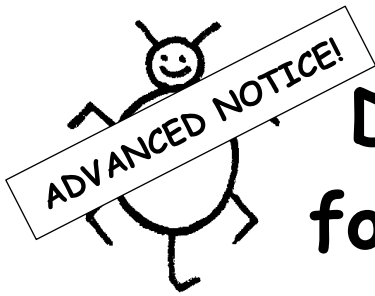
This year the Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, falls on January 29th. Celebrations happen from the evening before, and last for 15 days. It is celebrated by more than 20% of the world and is the most important holiday in China and to Chinese people all over. The exact date changes each year but it usually happens between 21 January and 20 February, on the date of the first new moon. This is different to the 'Gregorian' calendar that is traditionally used in the UK, which starts on 1 January.

In Chinese tradition each year is named after one of 12 different animals of the Chinese zodiac: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. This year is the year of the snake. The snake symbolises wisdom, intuition, and transformation. The order of the years supposedly comes from a story about a race across a river which was set by the Jade Emperor. The animals all wanted the year to be named after them so they competed to cross the river the fastest and, through cunning, the rat won. Then the other animals were named after in the order they finished the race. There is a 12year cycle of animal names.

It is a time for people to meet up with family, and lots of people travel to see their friends and relations at this time of year. Often people clean their houses before the new year, to sweep bad luck away. People eat special food, including noodles, which represent having a long life. They also dress up in traditional clothes, sing and dance and light red lanterns. There are firework displays and parades.

Chinese New Year celebrations in Chinatown London are the largest outside of China, making it the ultimate destination to experience this vibrant time of year.





**Don't
forget!!**



BEETLE'S ALIVE IN 25!!

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

**SATURDAY 29th MARCH 2025
THE DRIVE METHODIST
CHURCH HALL**

2.30pm for 3pm start

**Tickets will be available soon
from Diane Foster**

**Just put the date in your diary
for now and tell all your families
and friends!**



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.papyrusuk.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 29

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 PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

Dear God, as February unfolds, grant me moments of deep reflection.

May this month be a period of self-discovery and spiritual growth.

Guide my thoughts and contemplations toward a better understanding of Your purpose for me.

Help me learn from past experiences and open my heart to new revelations.

Let Your light illuminate my path of introspection and self-awareness.

Amen.

From PrayersLife

DIARY

FEBRUARY		
Sun 2nd	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Jacqui Jones
Tues 4th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Parlour
Sat 8th	1pm	Church Lunch Parlour
Sun 9th	11.15am	Morning Service led by Dr Anthony Russell
Tues 11th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Parlour
Sat 15th *	10.30am - 1.30pm	Sale at Becontree Heath Church
Sun 16th	11.15am	Morning Service led by The Revd Jacqui Jones
Wed 19th	8.00pm	Property & Finance Meeting Valentines Room
Sat 22nd	2-4.30pm	Safeguarding Foundation Module see page 12
Sun 23rd	11.15am	Morning Service led by Mrs Sharon Grundy
MARCH		
Sun 2nd	11.15am	Morning Service with Holy Communion led by The Revd Jacqui Jones
<p>*STOP PRESS* Becontree Heath Church are holding a sale with various stalls and refreshments on 15th February, 10.30am-1.30pm</p>		

And finally.....

Each Sunday morning our minister was mildly irritated by a member of the congregation who was a fast reader. Finally, announcing the 23rd Psalm, he added:

"And will the lady who is always by 'the still waters' while the rest of us are still in 'green pastures,' please pause until we catch up?"

.....

I called the RSPCA today to report I had just found a suitcase in the woods containing a fox and four cubs. "That's terrible," she said. "Are they moving?" "I'm not sure, to be honest," I replied, "But that would explain the suitcase."

.....

A man went to his doctor to say that his eyesight was getting worse. The doctor asked the man to look out the window and to tell him what he saw. "I see the sun," the man replied. The doctor replied: "Just how much farther do you want to see?"

.....

The church newsletter announced details of the church creche: 'Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.'

.....

A small boy went to church with his grandmother and joined her when she quietly slipped off the pew to kneel and pray. He even copied her example of burying her face in her hands. But after a few seconds his curiosity got the better of him. "Who are we hiding from, grannie?"

.....

I watched a coughing contest on TV between residents of Botany Bay, Whitley Bay and Morecambe Bay... I love the Great British Bay Cough!

.....go on smile! 😊

Services every Sunday at 11.15 am

Communion services as announced

Senior Church Stewards: Michelle Garner, Diane Foster
stewards@drive-methodist.church

Property Steward and Bookings: Jeremy Foster
property@drive-methodist.church
bookings@drive-methodist.church

Church Council Secretary: Roxanne Lashley
secretary@drive-methodist.church

Music@The Drive: Andrew Taylor
music@drive-methodist.church

Pastoral Secretary: Lorraine Bendon
pastoral@drive-methodist.church

The Drive Youth: Jo Wright
junior-church@drive-methodist.church

Flower Rota Secretary: Anne Dellow
flowers@drive-methodist.church

Safeguarding@The Drive: Lorraine Bendon
safeguarding@drive-methodist.church

JMA Secretary: Diane Foster
jma@drive-methodist.church

Newsletter Editor: Diane Foster
newsletter@drive-methodist.church

Pre School: Kay Whiddon
pre-school@drive-methodist.church
Term time only: Mon to Fri 9.15am-12pm; 1pm-3pm