

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

NEWSLETTER

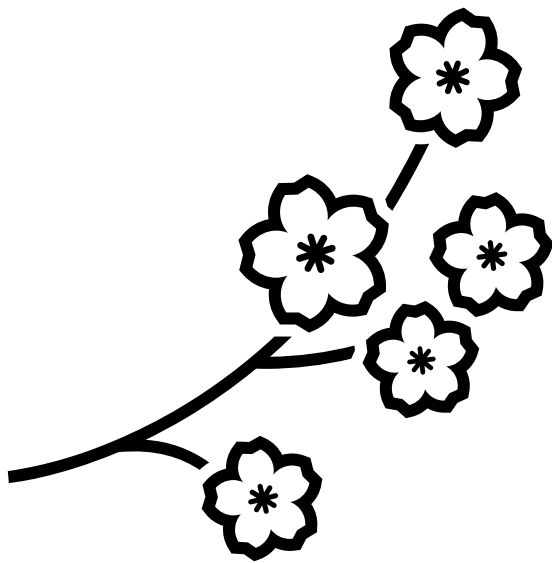
April 2025



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

The Promise of Salvation and the Glory of Easter

Dear Friends

As we enter the heart of Lent and journey towards the cross, we do so with the hope and assurance that Easter brings. The promise of salvation through Christ's sacrifice and the glory of His resurrection reminds us that, even in the darkest moments, God's love prevails. The cross is not the end of the story - Easter morning declares new life, redemption, and restoration for all.

I encourage you to deepen your walk with Christ in these sacred weeks by joining our Thursday evening Lent studies which end on 10 April, as we reflect on the theme:

Soul - Food, Shelter, Rest, Repair, Mates and Songs.

As Holy Week approaches, I invite you to participate in our special evening services, (posters were sent to the churches) drawing us into the powerful moments of Jesus' final days. On Good Friday afternoon, we gather as a Circuit at Old Dagenham Methodist Church to meditate on *Jesus' Seven Words from the Cross*, led by our ministers and local preachers. This will be a time of solemn reflection, gratitude, and renewal.

I also want to take this moment to thank each of you for all you do - your presence, your prayers, your service, and your generous giving. Your faithfulness sustains our church and enables us to live out our shared calling. As we look ahead, let us embrace our Circuit's vision priorities:

- Worship – that is inclusive and honours God in spirit and truth.
- Evangelism – sharing the good news of Jesus boldly and with love.
- Pastoral Care and Outreach – walking alongside one another with compassion.
- Families and Young People – nurturing the next generation in faith.
- Communication – ensuring that our message of hope is clear and accessible.

To this end the Circuit is looking to employ a Lay Pastoral Worker to support the ministers as well as employing a Family and Children's Worker – watch this space!

As we live out our faith this Lent, I invite you to support the Redbridge Foodbank through the *40p for 40 days* appeal. This simple act of giving up something - a daily coffee, a small treat - can make a tangible difference. For me, it means skipping my usual Costa or Starbucks coffee and offering that money to the foodbank, ensuring that someone else can experience the love of Christ. Over 40 days, this adds up to £16 - a small sacrifice that can provide real help to those in need.

Additionally, we encourage you to bring non-perishable foods and toiletries to support our Circuit community project at Grange Hill Methodist Church, where many rely on our generosity. Together, let us be the hands and feet of Christ, ensuring that no one in our community is forgotten or goes hungry.

Wishing you a blessed and joy-filled Easter

Mmasape

EDITOR'S NOTE

If the daffodils are out and there are chocolate eggs in the shops (and the Choir is practicing very hard on Tuesday evenings) it must be almost Easter! Holy Week begins with our service on Palm Sunday, 13th April and you can find details of all of our Circuit services and events on page 14.

Beetle! – At the time of writing we are looking forward to our annual Beetle Drive and Tea (29th March) and by the time you read this it will be over! I will let you know how much you raised and the names of the winners. In advance I give my huge thanks to Michelle for her help with preparing the tea and Jeremy for making it all run smoothly. Thank you to those who made donations, contributed raffle prizes and to everyone for their support.

On page 8 Jeremy gives the text from his presentation on the Centenary Development Project.

Our minster Jacqui is currently in South Africa with students from Cliff College. Read all about it on page 10.

Anne tells us about another two churches that mean a lot to her on page 18 and don't miss the first part of Thea's mystery tale (based on true events) on page 22.

Finally our young people (or older) may like to have a go at the Easter crossword on page 27. No prizes – it's just for fun!

Happy reading and a joyful Eastertide to you all!

Diane Foster





WE ASK FOR GOD'S BLESSING on all those who are unwell and that we have concerns for at this time. Our thoughts are with those who are unable to come to church because of ongoing illnesses. We remember them all in our prayers.

Anne Dellow has recently undergone an operation on her eyes. We are pleased to hear the operation went well and we send her our prayers and best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

We think of those who are grieving at this time and particularly remember **Revd Jacqui Jones** whose father Billy recently passed away. Our prayers are with her and all the family.

We also remember the family of **Mary Daniels**, who died recently. Mary was a former member of The Drive for many years. Our prayers are with her daughter, Araba and all the family.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10



HAPPY  **APRIL BIRTHDAY** to:

Dayane Serrato on the 17th
Ruth Beecher on the 20th



and to everyone celebrating a birthday this month.

Have a lovely day!

CENTENARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

On Sunday 16th March Jeremy gave a presentation outlining the project. This is the text of the presentation. Please have a look at the plans which are on display at the back of the church and make a note of the open church meeting on 23rd April at 7.30pm.

As you will be aware, the Property & Finance Committee has been thinking about the improvements and upgrades that we wish to recommend to the church for inclusion in our Centenary Development Project. We have focused on our mission priorities of Youth, Community and Worship. We have sought ideas from a number of groups and people within the church including our Pre School, Andrew who has suggested ways we can enhance our church music and in particular to Rev Jacqui regarding how we can develop our worship.

The plans are on display for you to view at the back of the church so I am not going to list every single item of work. But the principle projects are:

- Full refurbishment of the car park which will become necessary after the Scout HQ and shelter are demolished
- Repairs to the exterior stonework on the northern and western sides of the Church and Hall buildings
- Installation of solar panels which should provide all of the electrical power needed for the Hall
- A full rewire of the Hall electrical system plus redecoration and a total refurbishment of the kitchen

- In the church we propose to fit glass doors to the Eastern Ave entrance and to replace the leaded light panel at the rear with clear glass to make the entrance less intimidating. It will also help to keep the church warm
- We propose to convert the tea and coffee hatch into a doorway and to have a serving counter in the body of the Church
- We are looking to provide nice comfy pew cushions
- And we propose a remodelling of the choir stall area to place it on a single level from the top of the dais (level at which I am standing) right back to the rear wall and to upcycle the pews to fill in the panelling on the walls
- And we propose a major upgrade to the Audio Visual system

These are really exciting proposals which will ensure our future well beyond Centenary, as we continue to serve our community, nurture our young people and enrich our worship. But the improvements will come at a cost. The architect has costed the project including VAT at just under £600k. The good news is that with the land sale monies we are over half way to this target. We also believe that there are Methodist resources which we can leverage and there is the possibility of some local fund raising to close the gap.

Please have a look at the plans and do ask me any questions. The next step will be the open church meeting on Wednesday 23 April 7.30 in the Parlour when we can discuss these plans in more detail and also start to think about how we will celebrate our Centenary in 2028.

Jeremy Foster

GLOBAL MISSION IN CONTEXT SOUTH AFRICA

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour and pray you are well. In the coming two weeks I will be leading a Global Mission encounter to South Africa with a cohort of multiple learners from Cliff College.

The gravity of Christian theology and mission contemporary contexts has shifted away from the traditional centres of the North and the West to the growing Church in the global South and East. This unit offered by Cliff College provides students with an opportunity to encounter and explore expressions of Christian faith and practice in a cultural location outside of Europe.

It considers concepts of contextualisation in Christian theology and mission and gives priority to non-Western voices as interpreters of the Bible and as Christian theologians. After initial orientation, the unit is delivered in context, engaging with theological, ecclesiological, and missional themes that arise from that context. Relevant theological approaches are explored in conversation with local contextual scholars.

I will be in South Africa from Monday, 24th March, making sure all the logistics are in place for the students, and then we have a mission packed encounter that will explore:

- Mission in global transformation in Fourways, with Diepsloot Methodist Church and Gracepoint.
- A Pilgrimage of Renewal – “One Mission many Voices” – Mission in the Methodist Church in Southern Africa.
- Inner City Consciousness and Refugee Ministry.
- Black Consciousness and Mission.

- Exposure to June 16th 1976, Uprising in Soweto, Tsietsi Mashinini Methodist Church of Southern Africa Community Centre, Nelson Mandela's home in Soweto and the Hector Pietersen memorial. Place as mission and transformation.
- Biodiversity and Eco-mission, as well as a short Safari trip reflecting on eco-tourism and mission.
- Youth Development and Economic Empowerment.
- Finally, a visit to Maropeng Cradle of Humankind, the intersections of science and faith.

We will worship in various churches and the students will have opportunities to process and reflect on their formulation of Global Mission whilst they are away.

The aims of the course are to develop an appreciation and understanding of issues and approaches in global Christianity, to enable students to engage with Christian theology rooted outside of Europe to reflect on their own tradition and assumptions. To equip students to interpret the Bible and the theological tradition considering global expressions of Christian life and mission. To prepare students for further exploration of global Christianity as informed and reflective practitioners.

Please keep us in your prayers as we embark on this Global Mission, and I am deeply grateful to the leadership of the Circuit and District and Local Churches allowing me the space to do this work.

In Christ's love
Jacqui

Revd Jacqui Jones

CUPPA WITH A COPPER

When: 10.30am, Wednesday 2nd April

Where: In the Church Parlour

For how long: approx 1 hour



Tea, coffee and cake will be available.

Why not come along for a relaxed informal chat with officers from our local neighbourhood policing team. It really is a social chat and not intended as a meeting.

Please share the details with your local friends and neighbours. We hope to make this a regular event.



TDY NEWS



CIRCUIT YOUTH GET-TOGETHER – 12TH APRIL

TDY are hosting a circuit youth get together on Saturday 12th April 6-8pm in the church hall. This is for children and young people in year 7 and above. For more information and a permission form, please see Jo or Michelle.

A FUTURE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – 12TH JULY

Saturday 12th July is the circuit youth get together at Chigwell Row campsite. More information will be released soon. This is for all ages of young people.

HAPPY
EASTER!



EASTER EGG HUNT
SATURDAY 19TH APRIL
10.30AM -12.30PM



THE DRIVE CHURCH HALL
COME AND JOIN US FOR
HOT CROSS BUNS, CRAFTS,
FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!

ADMISSION:
ADULTS FREE, CHILDREN £1



If you can, please sponsor an Egg for our
Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter branches and donation box
are at the back of the church.

Write an Easter message and hang it on the tree.



Many thanks – TDY



CIRCUIT SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK



Day	Time	Church
Monday 14th	7.30pm	Barkingside
Tuesday 15th	7.30pm	Becontree Heath
Wednesday 16th	7.30pm	Goodmayes
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	The Drive
Good Friday	3.00pm	Old Dagenham

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE AT THE DRIVE

Our Easter Sunday morning service will start at 11.00am as we gather outside the church by the Easter cross. If you are able, please bring a few flowers with you. Andrew will lead this part of the service. He and the Choir will lead the singing of a hymn whilst you are invited to decorate the cross with your flowers.



The Choir will then proceed into the church to sing whilst you take your places.



THROUGHOUT APRIL

365 - AN EXHIBITION

BY LOCAL ARTIST ANDREW WRIGHT

A year in the life of Valentines Park, captured by local artist Andrew Wright.

This intriguing display features a kaleidoscopic image for each day, Creepy CrawLies emerging from items gathered and a trio of trees. Using a variety of traditional and contemporary image making processes, the artist entices and challenges the viewer to observe, explore and decipher his various creations - but be aware, all is not as it might seem at first glance. You will be able to view the exhibition during the month of April. The mansion is open Sunday and Monday 12-5pm. See the mansion website for more details.
Valentinesmansion.com



FROM LITTLE ACORNS DO OAK TREES GROW

Many of you may know that I make fancy lavender cushions to raise funds for Anne Dellow's charity "Raysin Hope". Well did you know that since I started over 10 years ago, I've raised nearly £7,000 and with the majority costing about £4 each, that's a lot of bags!

Ruth Joyce

THE LIONS

As you know, I have been distributing the "Message in a bottle" and "Message in a Wallet" and have plenty more. They are a way of keeping important contact information close to hand in the case of an emergency so if you want some, let me know as I have plenty.

Also, when collecting my last supply of the bottles, I had a cuppa with my contact at the Lions who informed me that they also recycle old glasses, hearing aids and hearing aid batteries to pass them on to those who need them.

I have put a box at the back of the church by the tea table, for you to deposit these items and will pass them on to those that can make good use of them.

Ruth Joyce

FROM THE REDBRIDGE FOSTERING SERVICE

There are over 300 Redbridge children who need to spend time in foster care. Redbridge Council currently have 80 foster carers so there is a real need to recruit more and to promote fostering. If you would like to find out more about fostering for Redbridge Council, please call us on 020 8708 6068. Alternatively, join our next information session. Visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringfaith> to book a place.



THE VINE AT HOME

A REQUEST FOR HELP

Born as a fast response to Covid lockdown, The Vine at Home has just started its 6th year. This free to use resource is copyright free and comes with our encouragement to share it with anyone you know. It really is important to us to keep this as a free resource.

Twelvebaskets is a small company and is funded by individuals subscribing to The Worship Cloud and Circuits subscribing to The Vine Local Arrangement Services. Producing and distributing the Vine at Home takes a good chunk of our resources each week, and we want to keep it clear of adverts and promotions.

To enable us to give away The Vine at Home for another year we would like to ask for your help, for a little bit of love. Can you make a donation, however small, that will help us pay for this resource?

We would like to say a Big Thank You to all of you who have donated in the past year. Your donations, messages of support and prayers mean a lot to us.

God bless
Wayne and the Twelvebaskets Team

For links to make a donation contact:
thevine@twelvebaskets.co.uk

A TALE OF FIVE CHURCHES – PART TWO

Further to my previous article, the following two churches are of significance to me.

The Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road, Hackney E5.

Listed building Grade 11; Built in 1871.

Noted to be one of the finest examples of non-conformist architecture. This church replaced the Gravel Pit Chapel which was established in 1804 in Morning Lane Hackney. In 1868 the congregation of the gravel Pit had quadrupled and the Round Chapel became one of the most important non-conformist churches in East London.

The Round Chapel stood at the top of the road where I was brought up. My mum told me that when she was a young girl she longed to live in Powerscroft Road as there were beautiful trees on either side of the street that reached across and formed an archway. The houses were large and spacious with gardens, so unlike the houses and backyards that she was used to. With the needs of wartime those trees were chopped down and the ornate railings that surrounded the properties were taken away and melted down to make weapons.

In 1942 my parents were offered rooms to rent in Powerscroft Road and so it was several years later in 1950 that I became a member of the Sunday School in the Round Chapel. Along with my friends I would go to the Round Chapel every Sunday but I do not recall seeing the inside of the church. We young ones had to navigate the steep steps that led us down into the old school rooms, which I remember as being very dark and dismal. We sat on benches that were not comfortable but I liked the colourful stamps we were given for our Bibles. When I was six years old I had to go into Great Ormond

Street Hospital, following which I never went back to the Round Chapel.

In 1991, Hackney Historic Buildings Trust agreed with the Clapton Park URC that HHBT would take over the main auditorium and ancillary rooms while the adjoining Old School Rooms would be kept by the church. HHBT owns and manages the Round Chapel as an arts and community venue. The Old School Rooms are now vibrant and host many events for the whole community.

The Chapel of St Christopher Great Ormond St Hospital London

Great Ormond Street Hospital has been constantly evolving since it opened in a Georgian townhouse on Great Ormond Street in 1852 and was known as The Hospital for Sick Children. There were just ten beds and two physicians. The hospital was founded by Dr Charles West. St Christophers Chapel was originally an integral part of the old hospital building and was completed in 1875. It was designed by Edward Barry, third son of Sir Charles Barry (architect with A.W.N.Pugin of the Houses of Parliament).

The Chapel is dedicated to the memory of Caroline, wife of Henry Barry (eldest son of Sir Charles Barry) who gave £40,000 for the building of the Chapel and provided a stipend for the Chaplain. The Chapel is of modest dimensions though the immediate impression is of a much larger building.

The Sanctuary is approached through a magnificent pair of fine brass gates with glass ornamentation in a low marble screen. The stained glass depicts the Nativity, the childhood of Christ and biblical scenes connected with children. The

terrazzo floor is by the Italian mosaicist Antonio Salviati. The stained glass murals and decorative work is by Clayton & Bell, a name renowned in the field of church decoration since 1855.

My introduction to this beautiful chapel came after my admittance to the hospital during the summer of 1951. The operation on my foot was planned to take place during the school holidays and I can remember feeling quite pleased that the classes, which were held for children of school age, were closed during August. I was not happy to find that children had to wear clothes provided by the hospital; they felt so uncomfortable. I can remember feeling weepy as my Mum left me that day as she had to take my clothes with her. The nurses were lovely and they would take us out onto the long balconies that surrounded the hospital. I can still recall how sunny it was outside.

On the Sunday after my operation, I was told that I would be going to church and was then taken in a wheelchair downstairs into what seemed like a long dark tunnel. Thoughts of the old school rooms at the Round Chapel were soon dispelled as I remember going through an entrance where before me were the most beautiful colours. I seemed to be surrounded by shiny brass ornaments and pictures of Jesus. To a six year old it was magical and I have never forgotten that moment.

When I returned home my foot was encased in plaster and a special boot had been made for me, which I had to wear for quite a few weeks. My foot seemed so heavy and it took me a while to get anywhere, not least back to the steep steps at the Round Chapel. These steps would have been impossible for me to access and so it was that I never went back to Sunday school in Powerscroft Road. Eventually I joined a

Brownie pack in All Saints Church, which was in a street near my home and thereby lies another story...

The Chapel Move

As the Chapel is a grade II listed building it could not be demolished along with the old hospital in the late 1980s, nor was it practicable to incorporate it on its previous site in the redevelopment plans. In association with English Heritage it was therefore decided to move it 'en bloc' to the position it occupies today. The whole building was heavily braced to withstand any possible movement, and all the inner surfaces fully protected (the stained glass and furniture were removed beforehand for repair and restoration).

After underpinning by a huge concrete raft, the Chapel was enclosed in an enormous waterproof box and lowered to the ground. It was then moved on greased 'slides' by hydraulic rams to its new position where it arrived without mishap. The interior has been completely restored and returned to its original condition as far as possible. After six years almost to the day since work first started on the restoration, the Chapel was reopened along with other new buildings on February 14th 1994 by HRH Diana the Princess of Wales.

The Chapel remains open for patients and their families, but not for the general public. I doubt that I will ever see it again.

Anne Dellow





THE CHOIR AND THE CASE OF THE MISSING KEYS



PART ONE

The evening began like any other would, the sun had set, and the breeze had taken on a slight chill, a far cry from the warmth previously displayed that same afternoon. The stars were bright in the sky and the moon cast a silky glow upon the church pinnacles.

It was a Tuesday, the same as any other when the choir would congregate in the parlour and muddle through the hymns for the coming Sunday. They all greeted each other the same as they usually would, gleefully and exclaiming their excitement for learning the new anthems Andrew had put forward for Easter. Diane and Michelle hug, Thea and Jo speak of their weeks briefly and Brian and Sue listen fondly as Andrew tinkers on piano, all of them setting up the chairs for the evening.

Andrew leaves to unlock the choir vestry and collate the various books and sheet music for the evening and when he returns the choir begins. Just as they usually would. For an hour the choir rehearses the anthems, Andrew transposes and they all laugh when certain notes Bob Chilcott did not include in his melody, were sung accidentally. They really do have fun together the choir, and as they sing the final few bars of a hymn, a peacefulness descends. Just as usual.

With the final note on the piano, comes an air of change, however. The quiet seemed to echo, the lights dimmed and the temperature dropped. The seven of them, didn't know exactly what or why, but something had changed with the

playing of that final note. A frisson rippled across the room and to all within it. It was a Tuesday, the same as any other. But that...feeling. How very unusual.

“Thank you for coming, there were some really good things about today! Hope to see you back next week.” Andrew says. The choir all voice their thank you’s and declare their happiness at the progress they made this week. The room seems to brighten again and the chill that had advanced on the room, returns to the cozy atmosphere of the past hour. The feeling is forgotten as they all look towards packing up and going home. Michelle and Andrew start putting the piano back in place, Sue packs up the chairs and Brian, Thea and Jo make piles of the books, before transporting them back to the choir vestry.

The church, nearing its centenary, has corridors that can be dark and cold. The light from the moon filters through the windows and casts an eerie glow even in the short walk from the parlour to the vestry. Much like Snow White in the forest, even the most ordinary shapes can cast a sinister shadow. “Is that a...” Jo suddenly exclaims. Brian and Thea’s eyes flick to her, unsure of how she would finish the sentence. “No, never mind”. Their hairs stand on end and the unease returns for a moment, just a moment. Jo shakes her head as if to clear a fog and they continue into the vestry, putting the books away and returning to the parlour.

With the church packed up and the seven ready to go, Michelle asks if Andrew had locked the vestry up. Six heads turn to look at Andrew as he pats down his pockets. His hand moves to each pocket methodically from top to bottom, checking each one in turn. Before long his movements become frantic and it’s clear to the room that there’s an issue. The warmth and laughter melts away, a subdued glow

coming through the curtains seems to be the only source of light and the quiet becomes suffocating. Andrew lifts his head slowly, his eyes meeting each of the six in turn, the terror evident on his face.

“The keys...they’re missing.”

....to be continued...

Thea Garner



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

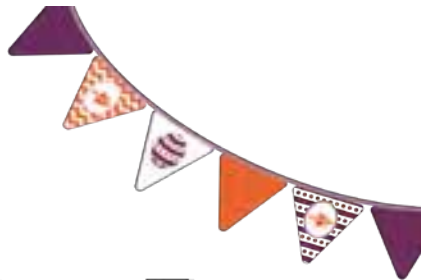
CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

<https://capuk.org/> Free help getting out of debt, budgeting and making your money go further.

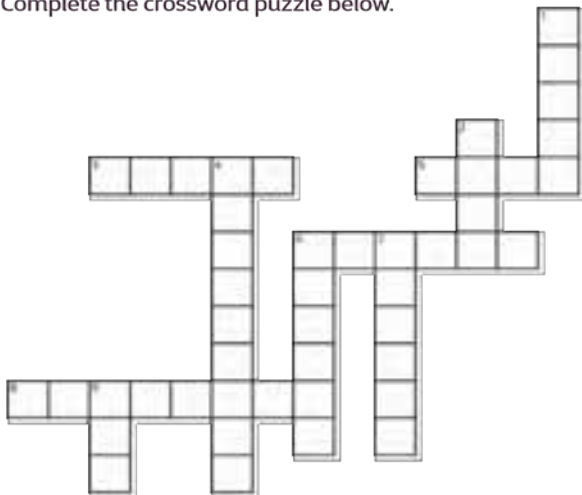
AGE UK ADVICE

0800 678 1602 www.ageuk.org.uk Information and advice for older people.

Easter crossword



Complete the crossword puzzle below.



ACROSS

3. Hatches out of an egg
5. An Easter Flower
6. You need this to collect your eggs
8. You might do this to eggs at Easter

DOWN

1. A young rabbit
2. Put or keep out of sight
4. We eat a lot of this at Easter
6. A hat usually tied under the chin
7. Easter is in what season?
9. A holder for eggs



from MS Society websit 

A PRAYER FOR EASTER

Risen Lord,

In Your victory over death, You bring life to the weary, hope to the broken, and salvation to all who call on Your name.

As we stand at the empty tomb, may we be filled with resurrection joy.

Empower us to be bearers of Your light in our homes, our church, and our community.

Bless our church family, our Circuit, and all who seek You this Easter season.

In Your glorious name, we pray

Amen.

Submitted by Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni

DIARY

APRIL

Tues 1st	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Wed 2nd	10.30am	Cuppa with a Copper Church Parlour see page 12
Thur 3rd	7.30pm	Circuit Lent Study Course Week 4 on Zoom For link see page 30
Sun 6th	11.15am	Passion Sunday Morning Service led by Miss Janet Tweedale
Tues 8th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Thurs 10th	7.30pm	Circuit Lent Study Course Week 5 on Zoom For link see page 30
Sun 13th	11.15am	Palm Sunday Morning Worship including Holy Communion led by The Revd Jacqui Jones
Mon 14th	7.30pm	Circuit Service at Barkingside MC
Tues 15th	7.30pm	Circuit Service at Beacontree Heath MC
Tues 15th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Wed 16th	7.30pm	Circuit Service at Goodmayes MC
Thurs 17th	7.30pm	Circuit Maundy Thursday Service at The Drive MC including supper
Fri 18th	3.00pm	Circuit Good Friday Service At Old Dagenham

DIARY contd.		
APRIL		
Sat 19th	10.30am-12.30pm	Easter Egg Hunt and Craft Morning in Church Hall see page 13
Sun 20th	11.00am *	Easter Sunday Service led by Mr Kenneth Samuel Agyekum see page 14
Wed 23rd	7.30pm	Centenary Project Whole Church Meeting Church Parlour see page 8
Sun 27th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by The Revd Jacqui Jones
MAY		
Sun 4th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Mr Alfred Mensah

***please note earlier time to enable decorating the cross outside with flowers before start of the service**

Updated Lent Study Course link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96278447185?pwd=r9KvaC3uBkJt9UtJnSEmqphUfwvMlp.1>

Meeting ID: 962 7844 7185

Passcode: LENT25)

***Deadline for May Newsletter items:
Monday 21st April 2025***

HAPPY EASTER



Services every Sunday at 11.15am

Communion services as announced

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

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

Church Council Secretary: Roxanne Lashley
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Music@The Drive: Andrew Taylor
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Pastoral Secretary: Lorraine Bendon
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The Drive Youth: Jo Wright
junior-church@drive-methodist.church

Flower Rota Secretary: Anne Dellow
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Safeguarding@The Drive: Lorraine Bendon
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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