

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

NEWSLETTER

June 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

A few years ago I was attending a 'session' of some description. I think it was online and we were asked to write down our three favourite books of the Bible. (maybe you might like to reflect on this)?

My Three were – in no particular order – Isaiah, Psalms and John. A bit later we were informed that when that question is addressed to Christians; Isaiah, Psalms and John are the three most popular choices.

I've always had a love of the 'gospel as brought to us by John' for many years. Note: I was gently corrected very early on in my Local Preacher Training that it is not 'the Gospel (Good News) of John' or 'John's Gospel' but the Good News/ Gospel of Jesus Christ – as told for us by John!

The key verse for me is John 3:3 – 'Jesus answered him [Nicodemus], "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again [or, from above] you cannot see the kingdom of God."'

This verse came very much to my attention while I was listening to a musical called 'The Witness' by Jimmy & Carol Owens. As Peter sang the song, 'Born Again' v1, it was this verse and song that contributed to a significant change in my life and me making a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ.

Another reason why I especially like these three books of the Bible is that I spent quite a while studying them at college while training for my Diaconal Ministry. The lecturers who taught on these books created an interest and intrigue at a deeper level and new truths which both challenged and encouraged.

As some of you will know, June is 'Bible Month' in the Methodist Church Connexionally (Nationally) and this year the

book we are looking at is John. Our Preachers will be looking at a different theme from John over the four Sundays in June and the staff will be offering a weekly study on Thursday evenings, starting Thursday 29th May at 7.30. (Zoom details below).

It's difficult to explain the message in this gospel as there are so many, and for each one John appears to be particularly passionate about it: The divine nature of Jesus and God with us, the work of the Holy Spirit, Loving God as a way of life, the 'I am' statements and our response to the call to discipleship – to name just a few!

My experience from studying John is that the more you discover, the more you want to know. The writer, John, is generally accepted to be 'the disciple who Jesus loved' and the brother of James, the sons of Zebedee; so, we know he was particularly close to Jesus and that offers us an insight that the other gospels might miss.

A helpful piece of advice that was given to me before studying a book in the Bible is to read the whole book from start to finish, if possible, in one go! (no, I haven't!)

On the other hand, there is the option to read one chapter (or a few verses), reflect on it and then read it again and listen to what the Spirit is saying to you through the words you have read. There is always more to discover.

June promises to be an exciting month as together we study the Gospel as brought to us by John. May God's Holy Spirit bless and guide us all as we discover new truths from His Word.

God bless
Andy

Zoom Meeting ID: 926 7109 8929 Passcode: 212939

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to our June Newsletter. I didn't realise that there are two sets of dates that determine the summer season in the UK. If you follow the astrological calendar then it starts on 21st June (see page 16) and ends on 22nd September. However, according to meteorologists summer always starts on 1st June and ends on 31st August. So take your pick but whichever dates you go by I hope you enjoy the warmer weather.



Looking back, May 8th was certainly a day of celebration. See page 9. Our Annual General Church Meeting was different this year. See page 11.

The image on the front of this month's Newsletter of a dove descending refers to Pentecost which this year is on 8th June. See page 11.

Would you like to go to Ghana? Read our Superintendent, Revd Mmasape's invitation and details of the trip on page 26 and 27.

Our next newsletter is a double issue – July/August. It would be good to have a bumper edition so I'd be very grateful to receive your contributions. You could tell us about any interesting places or events you've been to, any hobbies you enjoy, any childhood memories you'd like to share, any of your favourite recipes....the list goes on!

It would be great to hear from you!

Have a good month.

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 and prayers are with those who are unable to come to church because of ongoing illnesses.

We are sorry to hear that **Peter Bendon** is very poorly and currently in hospital. Our prayers are with Peter, Lorraine and all the family at this worrying time.

Janet Brunnen has fractured one of her vertebrae and **Liz Amah** has had a problem with her foot. We pray that Janet and Liz are not in too much pain and wish them both a speedy recovery.

Andrew Taylor has been unwell with Covid. We pray he is soon well enough to return to church.



We think of those who are grieving at this time and particularly remember **Oli Fadojutimi** and all her family. We were shocked to hear that just a few days after her Mum, Caroline, died, Oli's twin brother, Olaitan also passed away.

We were sorry to hear that **Revd Stephen Normanton's** Mum, Nellie passed away recently. Many of you will remember Nellie when she visited The Drive at the time when Stephen was our minister. We remember Stephen, Philippa and all the family in our prayers.

May God's love give all of them strength and ease their pain.

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." – Deuteronomy 31:8



HAPPY  **JUNE BIRTHDAY** to:



Sophia Bampoe on the 3rd

Peter Bendon on the 23rd

Audrey Taylor on the 25th

and to everyone celebrating a birthday this month.

Have a lovely day!

CONGRATULATIONS to...



Andrew Taylor for completing
30 years service at The Drive as our
organist and choirmaster. Thank you
and well done Andrew. May God be
with you as you continue to bring us
the sound of music.



Gila Serrote for passing the Early Years
Educator exam. Well done Gila. God
bless you as you go forward in your
work.

Priya And Joel Inbakumar who celebrated their 24TH
Wedding Anniversary on 5th May. We hope you had
a lovely day together. Special one next year!
God bless.



Tushar Kuwad, whose parents, Shardabai and
Khivraj, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 23rd
May. We hope they had a lovely day celebrating. May God
bless them and grant them many more.

CONGRATULATIONS *contd.*



NEW BABY

Our new great grandson Bohdi was born to our granddaughter Bethany and her husband Chavez, who live in Stambourne in Essex. He is their second son, the first being Ruben. Bethany (Beth) was baptised here at The Drive and her parents, Kelly and Stuart were married here.



Lorraine and Peter Bendon.

Another Bendon baby! We wish God's blessing and every happiness to the proud parents and all the family – Ed.



Collins Frimpong-Manso, former Local Preacher, who has received his first stationing as a Probationary Minister in Birmingham. May God's blessing go with him on his ministerial journey.

Matthew Walton-Thorne And **Alfred Mensah** for completing their Local Preacher training. Well done to both of them and may God guide them in their preaching.



See page 14





8TH MAY – A DAY OF CELEBRATION

Many people in London and other parts of the UK were gathered to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. It was good to watch all the events unfold on television and wonderful to hear all the memories from the Armed Forces veterans who were there. It's hard to believe how young they were, some even lying about their age in order to join up and go to war. It was lovely to see our Royal Family's involvement in the celebrations that day as they chatted to the veterans. The King reflected our feelings of gratitude to all these men and women in his speech:

'Now, as then, we are united in giving utmost thanks to all those who served in the Armed Forces, the uniformed services, the Home Front, - indeed all the people of this country, the Commonwealth and beyond whose firm resolve and fortitude helped destroy Nazism and carry our allied nations through to V.E. Day. That debt can never truly be repaid; but we can, and we will, remember them.'

Meanwhile, in another capital, people were gathering to hear the news they had been waiting for. In St. Peter's Square in Rome, heads were turned towards the sky to witness the moment when white smoke would appear from the chimney above the Sistine Chapel signalling that a new Pope had been elected. Just after 5pm (UK time) the smoke appeared amidst loud cheers and applause. Shortly after, it was very fitting that in his opening speech, the new Pope, Leo XIV, spoke of the need for peace:



'God loves us, all of us, evil will not prevail. We are all in the hands of God. Without fear, united, hand in hand with God and among ourselves, we will go forward. We are disciples of Christ, Christ goes before us, and the world needs His light. Humanity needs Him like a bridge to reach God and His love. You help us to build bridges with dialogue and encounter so we can all be one people always in peace.'

Diane Foster

A PRAYER ON THE ELECTION OF POPE LEO XIV

God of all grace,
we thank you that in every generation you reveal your love for the world, and set before your people your word of life and hope.

Bless and guide your servant, Pope Leo XIV.

Give him the assurance of your love, and pour your Spirit upon him: may his ministry reflect that of your Son Jesus, and let him be a bold witness to your love and truth.

Bless our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church as they welcome their new Holy Father. May he lead their Church with wisdom and grace.

Together with Pope Leo unite all Christians as a holy people, bearing hope and peace within the human family, and always attentive to the most poor and marginalised.

In the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ we pray.

Amen.

Prayer from The Methodist Church website

ANNUAL GENERAL CHURCH MEETING 25TH MAY

Our Annual General Church Meeting was held on 25th May and was integrated within the service led by Revd Jacqui. Some of the office holders, Michelle, Jo, and Jeremy, gave a breakdown of their reports. The full reports of all the sections in the church are in the Annual Report booklet.

Two important matters were discussed and agreed. Firstly, the meeting agreed to proceed with the Church Mission Development Project. Secondly, the meeting agreed to create an accessible children and family area in the east transept.

If you couldn't get to the service you can still see it on our YouTube channel on The Drive website.

PENTECOST 8TH JUNE

Pentecost, when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit comes on the Sunday 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek *pentekoste*, meaning "fiftieth").

It originated from a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot. The apostles were celebrating this festival when the Holy Spirit descended on them. It sounded like a very strong wind, representing the breath of God, and looked like tongues of fire, representing courage. A dove is also a symbol of Pentecost representing peace.



The apostles found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, and the start of the church's mission to the world.

A PRAYER FOR PENTECOST

O God, we give thanks for the power of the Holy Spirit,
poured out on the apostles and disciples
on the Day of Pentecost.

Grant us, too, the same Spirit of boldness, love, and unity.
May we be filled with your Spirit, empowered to share the
good news of Jesus with the world, and to live in a way that
reflects your love and grace.

We pray for the church, that it may be a beacon of hope and
a place of healing. We ask for your guidance, your wisdom,
and your strength, that we might fulfill your mission on earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



CUPPA WITH A COPPER THURSDAY 12th JUNE

Our local Neighbourhood police officers will be available for an
informal chat at The Drive on Thursday 12th June at 12 noon.

Come along and hear about policing initiatives in your local
area. This is also an opportunity to report any concerns you
may have. Refreshments provided.



THE SATURDAY LUNCH 14th JUNE 1PM



For those who don't know much about this monthly event, it is a non-profit making venture, that began soon after the Covid restrictions were lifted in the hope to get people together once again by enjoying inexpensive homemade food.

We welcome friends and neighbours, and encourage all who attend to bring someone along with them. This is why we call it Saturday Lunch as opposed to Church Lunch.

We, Lorraine, Ruth and Anne, try to provide a healthy varied menu each month that always has a vegetarian option. We are mindful of allergies and encourage people to let us know if there is something they must avoid.

In order to keep costs low, if you are interested, we ask that you include your name on the list for each monthly lunch. We then cater to that number of people and avoid wasted food. Please do not include your name unless you are sure to come or contact us if you have changed your mind. As the lunch is on a Saturday, the previous Thursday is the day for 'last orders' as there is shopping to be done!

We are limited with cost and space in the kitchen, but we would like to know if there is something you would like us to cook for you, so do let us know.

We look forward to welcoming you at the next Saturday Lunch on 14th June at 1pm when we will serve Beef or Vegetable Lasagne and Salad.

Lorraine Bendon, Ruth Joyce & Anne Dellow

NEWS FROM OUR CIRCUIT OFFICE

COLLINS FRIMPONG-MANSO

I'm sure I don't need to remind you that Collins Frimpong-Manso, one of our former Local Preachers, has been training for ministry over the past two years. Collins has now received his first stationing to a Circuit as a Probationer, which is in Birmingham, and to celebrate this, and the fact that the Circuit has been instrumental in Collins' journey to this point, there will be a formal 'sending out' for Collins at Barkingside on Sunday 8th June 9.30 am (also Barkingside's Church Anniversary!).

I am aware that it will be difficult for many to attend due to their own service arrangements, however, if you are able to come along to congratulate Collins, then please do so.

Unfortunately, although efforts were made to recognise Collins' achievement in a Circuit service, a mutually convenient date before his departure to Birmingham in August could not be found.

MATTHEW WALTON-THORNE AND ALFRED MENSAH

As you will all now be aware Matthew and Alfred have completed their training as Local Preachers, and a possible date has been identified for their joint Accreditation service. However as the date has not been confirmed I haven't included the details on the plan. It should be in July and as soon as I've been given the go ahead I will circulate the information to stewards.

Jackie Saito, Circuit Administrator

FATHER'S DAY 15TH JUNE

Mother's Day has been celebrated for hundreds of years, but Father's Day is a little more recent. The origins of Father's Day can be traced back to the early 20th century in the United States. In 1909, a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd was listening to a sermon on Mother's Day when she came up with the idea of creating a day to honour fathers. Her father had raised her and her siblings alone after her mother's death, and she wanted to recognise his hard work and dedication.

Several local clergymen accepted the idea and it's believed that the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Washington, on June 19, 1910. Over time, the holiday gained popularity across the United States, and in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a national holiday.

While no specific date marks its first observance, it is believed to have gained popularity in the UK after World War II. This adoption was partly influenced by American culture and soldiers stationed in the UK during the war. However, although Father's Day became more popular in the UK throughout the 20th century, it was not officially recognised until 1972, the same year that US President Nixon declared it an official holiday in the USA and was initially celebrated on 5th June.

Nowadays, Father's Day in the UK, when many people give their fathers cards, gifts, and other tokens of appreciation is always celebrated on the third Sunday in June unlike Mothering Sunday which has historical and religious roots and varies each year as it's linked to the Christian calendar.

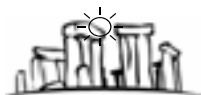
Text adapted from various websites

SUMMER SOLSTICE 21ST JUNE – A MOMENT IN TIME

The word 'solstice' comes from the Latin words *sol* and *sistere* meaning 'Sun' and 'to stand still'. The Summer Solstice occurs in the Northern Hemisphere and marks midsummer: the 'longest day' and 'shortest night' of the year. On this day, the number of hours of daylight are at their maximum, while the number of hours of night are at their minimum.

While most people consider the summer solstice to be a day, it is in reality an exact moment in time that falls upon that day. This moment comes when whichever hemisphere you're in is most tilted towards the Sun. Our Earth rotates on its axis once each day, producing the cycle of day and night. At the same time, the Earth moves around the Sun on its orbit over the course of a year. However, the axis of rotation of the Earth is not lined up with the axis of motion around the Sun. Instead, it is tilted slightly and this tilt means that during one half of the year the North side of the Earth is tilted slightly towards the Sun and the South is tilted away. For the other half of the year the reverse is true.

The observance of Summer Solstice has been an important event for many cultures around the world for centuries. In the UK this day is celebrated with various traditions and festivities that date back to prehistoric times. The ancient Britons celebrated this day with the construction of stone circles and other impressive structures like the famous Stonehenge. According to historians, during the Summer Solstice, the sun perfectly aligns with the 'Heel Stone' and the 'Altar Stone', casting an eerie glow over this mythical place. Nowadays, thousands of visitors come to witness this unique spectacle every year and celebrate the joy of summer.



Text adapted from various websites



GRANGE HILL METHODIST CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE

WEDNESDAYS 10.00AM – 12 NOON

The Warm Welcome Space at Grange Hill Methodist Church Community Centre has become a lot busier since working with the team from Zero Waste Redbridge who offer excess food donated by the supermarkets etc, free to anyone in need.

The registered team of volunteers of this initiative are able to go to various stores at the end of the day to collect left over food items that will not be sold and would otherwise go to landfill.

One of the retailers is a bakery and there are always lots of donuts, cakes, sausage rolls and other pastries. These are left in the café area and after collecting their bits of food people will pop in to have one with a cup of coffee or tea and talk to others.

It's a very friendly atmosphere so even if you don't want any food and you are free on a Wednesday morning, you are still welcome to pop in for a hot or cold drink and a chat!

Diane Foster



FOODBANK

If you are able please support our local foodbank. There is a box in the church entrance for your contributions. Thank you.

A BOOK REVIEW

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

It is only recently that I have discovered the novels by the Bronte sisters. I have now read *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne, *Wuthering Heights* by Emily and have just finished *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. The sisters were mainly educated at their parsonage home in Haworth where they lived a fairly sheltered existence and yet the three sisters each wrote an enduring classic of 19th Century literature.



Jane Eyre was first published in 1847. It is written in the first person and tells the story of the heroine Jane, an orphan who suffers cruelty in the home of her aunt before being sent to a boarding school where she experiences a brutal regime. However, through her determination and selfwill she prospers and on leaving takes a position as governess at a country mansion owned by the cold and cynical Edward Rochester. Their love for each other grows, but Jane's discovery of Rochester's secret forces her to make an awful decision...

Jane Eyre was published under the pen name Currer Bell due to the prejudice against female novelists. At the time there was much speculation on the writer's gender and one reviewer even claimed that a novel of "such passion could not have been written by a woman". The novel was published at a time of great social turbulence due to the economic misery caused by the industrial revolution. Jane's demands for personal freedom and equality were seen by many reviewers as being anti authority even subversive. But others welcomed her freedom of expression and bold narrative style and it was a great success with the public.

Sadly, there are some references in the book to skin colour that are now seen as racist, however, for many *Jane Eyre* is the first novel truly expressing feminist views. It's also a jolly good read.

Jeremy Foster

BOOKS...BOOKS...BOOKS...

I always take a couple of books to read when we go on holiday. What's your holiday read? On one of our holidays a lady sitting near me around the pool was reading the same book as me! We immediately started up a conversation about where we were up to and what we thought of the book. I can't recall what it was called but I remember it was a very good read!



Tell us about any good books you've read – Ed.

ALICE

Our little granddaughter Alice aged 2yrs 9mnths lives in Paisley. Alice loves shopping. Now, their local Morrisons supermarket is just across the road from her house where they provide child size shopping trolleys.....clever ploy. Alice, being a Bendon girl, is supremely busy and bossy, especially with her Dad.

Trying to extract Alice from Morrisons recently, he told her they had to leave as Morrisons was closing. Distraught and with her head in hands, Alice cried "Morrisons is closing! This is the worse day of my life".

Following a lengthy explanation, Alice was reassured to know it would actually still be there.

Lorraine Bendon

Ah...love it! – Ed.

HILARY'S PRAYER COLUMN



Some of you may not have known Hilary Stevens. Hilary had been a member of the Drive for many years. As well as a valued alto singer in the choir she was a steward and undertook many voluntary roles within the church. She was a lady with a strong faith and one of her many talents was writing prayers for all seasons and occasions.

Although Hilary was gifted in many ways, she was not 'tech-savvy'. She did not own a computer or even a mobile phone. She wrote or typed (using a typewriter) all her prayers. When she sadly passed away a folder full of hundreds of pieces of paper of all shapes, sizes and colours were found in her house. These were her prayers. I happily volunteered to take these home to type up and collate into some type of booklet. Unfortunately, this did not turn out to be as easy or as quick a job as I had anticipated. I have made a start and I will continue to work on them but dear Hilary's handwriting, was not as clear as one would expect and I spend a lot of time deciphering!

A couple of her prayers have already appeared in a newsletter but I thought it might be nice to have a regular column for Hilary's prayers. I like to read them and when I do I can't help but hear Hilary's voice.

I hope you enjoy reading them too.

Diane Foster

A PRAYER FOR OUR PLANET



We hear so much about global warming Lord and we don't know what to believe. Once we would have believed what the experts told us but they don't even seem to agree amongst themselves. But we do know Lord that you want us to look after the amazing planet you have given us as our home.

So often we in the developed world have pillaged the lion's share of your gifts which were intended for everyone. Genesis said that man was to have dominion over the animals and some people seem to have taken that to mean that we can use them as we want, but surely it means that we should love and care for them not treat them cruelly as if they were mere objects for our use.

Lord whether we believe in global warming or not we know that you want us to be good stewards of all your gifts so that everyone in the world should have their fair share.

Lord help each of us do what we can to sustain our planet even just by turning off lights that we don't need and recycling what we can.

And make us always conscious of treasuring
our precious planet.

Amen

Hilary Stevens



AN EXHIBITION BY LOCAL ARTIST ANDREW WRIGHT

Andrew would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting his art exhibition. The exhibition was a great success and was extended due to popular demand!

Andrew appreciates all your comments and enthusiasm for his artwork.

Andrew and Jo Wright

*Sorry I wasn't able to make it but I heard it was very good
...when's the next one? - Ed.*

WHAT IS THE METHODIST CONFERENCE?

The Methodist Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church which meets to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation, the world and agrees the Church's policies. The Conference meets annually in June or July and takes place in a different district or group of districts each year. This year Conference will be held in Telford from 26th June – 2nd July.

The Conference first met in 1744 under John Wesley, who gathered together his assistants (both ordained ministers and itinerant lay preachers) to confer together about 'what to teach, how to teach, and what to do, i.e. how to regulate our doctrine, discipline and practice.'

The contemporary Conference is a gathering of representatives from each Methodist district, along with some

who have been elected by the Conference and some ex officio members and representatives of the Youth Assembly.

The Representatives are a mixture of lay people, ordained presbyters and deacons. Presbyters and deacons also have their own separate gatherings before the main, decision-making session.

The business for the Conference to decide upon is prepared by the Methodist Council, an elected body that meets regularly. You can send a message to the Methodist Conference by getting your Circuit or District to send a 'memorial'. A memorial is simply a request from a Circuit or District to the Conference. It asks the Conference to take an action, or change a policy, or make a statement on an issue.

As well as its 225 representatives and 16 associate members, the Methodist Conference welcomes interested visitors and anyone may attend the open Conference sessions, visit the exhibition or attend fringe events.

Visitors do not need a ticket except for certain parts such as the Opening of the Conference. Conference is the time when Ordination Services are held for Probationary Ministers. Tickets, which are free, are required for these services.

The Methodist Church website has lots more details and during the 2025 Conference all public sessions will be available to watch via an embedded Youtube live stream.


The Methodist Church



SUNDAY 6TH JULY 11.15AM
CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE LED BY
REVD MMASAPE THATHANE-TYOLWENI

followed by our usual get together at
The Rodings on Roding Lane South
It's a bring and share lunch where we can sit outside (or in!)
Enjoy the open space, and have fun together
Everyone is invited
For more information and directions to The Rodings
please see Michelle or Jo

SUNDAY 6TH JULY 4PM
LEAVING SERVICE FOR DISTRICT CHAIR
REVD JONGI ZIHLE

At Wesley's Chapel, 49, City Road EC1Y 1AU
If you wish to attend please contact
Jackie Saito, Circuit Administrator
bdicircuitoffice@btconnect.com
020 8517 6159

TUESDAY 8TH JULY 8PM
EVENING PRAYER SERVICE
LED BY THE CHOIR

SATURDAY 12TH JULY
CIRCUIT YOUTH GET-TOGETHER
DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE



**PLEASE SEE THEA, MICHELLE OR JO FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND A PERMISSION SLIP**

GHANA TRIP INVITATION



This year with the support of Barking and Ilford churches, I had the privilege of going to Ghana on a similar mission trip as outlined on the next page. I cannot express how life changing this was for me. On behalf of the churches I made donations towards projects the Methodist Church are involved in.

As our circuit churches include many from Ghana, the experience helped me to gain a much deeper and richer understanding.

I hope to be able to join the next trip to see how our resources have helped, and it will be an honour to have more join in this wonderful missional adventure.

Yours in Mission
Best wishes
Mmasape

APPEAL

Whilst in Ghana, the group visited a number of Methodist projects, and ahead of the next visit, they are requesting donations of clothes (in good condition) and toiletries (including sanitary products) which can be sent to Ghana.

All donations should be received before the end of July, and Mmasape is happy to arrange for the items to be collected from the churches if required. Financial donations are also welcomed; please contact me if you would like to make a donation through the Circuit's bank account.

I am sure that Mmasape would be more than happy to answer any questions in relation to the projects, as well as the visit in 2026.

Jackie Saito, Circuit Administrator

MISSION TRIP TO GHANA 24TH JAN - 5TH FEB 2026

The overall objective is to learn about the life and ministry of the Methodist Church Ghana and explore the faith in the Ghanaian context by interacting with both the clergy and lay in the urban and rural settings, to learn from the dynamic growth of the Methodist Church Ghana and how this has been achieved and understand the concept of mission and evangelism, to engage with the history of Methodism and the history of the slave trade and visit projects that are being or have been sponsored by the Methodist Church Britain as well as visit places of interest.

The brief itinerary includes:

- paying a courtesy call on the staff at the Conference Office in Accra
- *visiting the Methodist Rafiki Satellite Village (Orphanage) in the Winneba Diocese, to have a session with the children.*
- *a visit to Cape Coast Castle, to be briefed about the slave trade and visit Sekondi Diocese*
- *Engagement with young people, men's and women's fellowship*
- *Visits to educational institutions and Health Clinics*
- *In the Northern Region (Tamale/Yendi), we will visit another area to explore the relationship between Christians and Muslims and we will visit some of the rural Methodist Churches to interact with the local people.*

The total cost involved is £2,200, and this is for the flight, hotel accommodation, hiring of air-conditioned coach, meals and other miscellaneous expenses. The payment schedule will be paying £1,000 by Wednesday 15th October 2025 and the remaining amount will be collected at the airport before we depart to Ghana.

Revd William Davis, Crystal Palace Circuit

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.

DIARY		
JUNE		
Sun 1st	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones including Holy Communion
Tues 3rd	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Thurs 5th	7.30pm	LP&WL Study on John's Gospel Zoom Meeting See Minister's Letter
Sun 8th	9.30am	Church Anniversary Service at Barkingside including 'sending out' for Collins Frimpong-Manso See page 14
Sun 8th	11.15am	Pentecost Morning Worship led by Mr Alfred Mensah
Mon 9th	10.00am	Pastoral Team Meeting in The Minister's Vestry
Tues 10th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Wed 11 th	7.30pm	Circuit Meeting at Beacontree Heath MC
Thurs 12th	12 noon	Cuppa with a Copper Church Parlour See page 12
Thurs 12 th	7.30pm	LP&WL Study on John's Gospel Zoom Meeting
Sat 14 th	1.00pm	Saturday Lunch Church Parlour See page 13
Sun 15th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones
Tues 17th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Thurs 19th	7.30pm	LP&WL Study on John's Gospel Zoom Meeting

DIARY Contd.		
JUNE		
Sun 22nd	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Ms Florence Amoah
Tues 24th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Thurs 26th	7.30pm	LP&WL Study on John's Gospel Zoom Meeting
Sun 29th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Members of the Congregation
JULY		
Tues 1st	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sun 6th	11.15am	Church Anniversary Service led by Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni followed by church get-together at The Rodings See page 24
Sun 6th	4.00pm	Leaving Service for Revd Jongi Zihle at Wesley's Chapel See page 24

**Deadline for July / August Newsletter items:
Monday 22nd June 2025**

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
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