

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

NEWSLETTER

September 2025



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<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

For the Methodist Church in Britain, the 2025-2026 Connexional year will focus on themes of transformation, grace, hope, and renewal, encouraging a deeper engagement with faith and the Church's role in God's Kingdom. The year invites Methodists to consider their story and song, moving beyond mere survival to embrace transformation and a fresh expression of faith.

Our Stories are an exquisite tapestry of life's experiences. They carry a beat and a rhythm, and as I write to you on the first anniversary of my appointment in the BDI Circuit, I am deeply grateful that I have been privileged to serve this Community and discover the "beat" of the Circuit. Thank you for your generous and kind welcome.

Thinking about songs and stories, we are practising a mother-son dance (yes, a virtual one for now) as we prepare for my son Daniel and his fiancée Isabella's wedding in October. I am not a great dancer, but this moment carries something more than the dance, a sacred pause that celebrates hope, grace and a time to thank God for the privilege of love. We cross many crucibles of transformation throughout our lives, birth, loss, marriage and for me, all these have happened in this year.

I am reminded of Julian of Norwich's wisdom, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and every kind of thing shall be well,"

which encapsulates her radical optimism in the face of despair. Her ultimate message is one of steadfast faith in a benevolent God, offering a roadmap to finding peace and hope even when life is filled with hardship and uncertainty.

As this new Connexional year dawns, and strife and war plague our human family, let us not lose faith but find strength in God's enduring compassion to give us courage, and lead us into actions that offer our human family the ability to find peace and even joy amid chaos, trusting in something transcendent over impermanence and suffering.

Let's celebrate and share our "Story and Song" for our collective beat is magnificent.

In Christ's Love

Jacqui



This years Methodist Prayer Handbook, is entitled Our Story, Our Song. It's priced at £4.50 and can be ordered from Methodist Publishing:
01603 785928
orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk
-Ed.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello everyone and welcome to our September newsletter. I hope you all enjoyed the summer months and now look forward to the approaching autumn. After reading the first line of Hilary's prayer (see page 7) "*September, Lord, a time of new beginnings*", I thought I'd Google some other quotes about September. Here are just a few of the many I found:

"September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours, but in their lengthening evenings a prophetic breath of autumn" (Rowland E. Robinson) • *"Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures"* – (Henry David Thoreau) • *"It was a lovely afternoon, such an afternoon as only September can produce when summer has stolen back for one more day of dream and glamour"* (L.M. Montgomery) • *"All the months are crude experiments, out of which the perfect September is made"* (Virginia Woolf) • *"Autumn seemed to arrive suddenly that year. The morning of the first September was crisp and golden as an apple"* (JK Rowling).

Such lovely poetic words that conjure up images of warmth and hope. Sadly, by contrast, the words in Ruth Beechers' item about the housing problems in the UK (see page 19) give feelings of desperation and stress. We pray the people facing these issues may also find the warmth and hope they crave.

Many of our young people have started new classes, schools, colleges and universities, some people may have started new jobs, whilst some Methodist ministers have moved to a new church and congregation. A new beginning for a lot of people. May they all experience feelings of warmth and hope together.

Enjoy your September

Diane Foster



WE ASK FOR GOD'S BLESSING
on all those who are unwell and
that we have concerns for at this time.

We particularly remember in our prayers all those who are unable to come to church because of ongoing illnesses. May they all feel the love of God's healing hands on them.

We are pleased to hear that **Brian Grinham** who is still recovering from a broken femur is now home. We hope to see you in church very soon, Brian.

Andrew Taylor has undergone a medical procedure which we are very pleased to hear went well.

Janet Brunnen has had various health issues but is now on the road to recovery. It's good to see Janet back in church again.

We pray for all those still in a time of grief following the loss of loved ones. May knowing that God's love is with them give them strength and comfort to ease their pain.

It seems incredible that almost 3 months have passed since our dear Peter died. My family and I are so grateful for the loving care and support we were given in arranging Peters funeral. Apart from the organisation of the service and the music which Revd. Jacque and Andrew delivered beautifully, the presence of all who attended meant a great deal to us all.

Lorraine Bendon

"The Lord himself will lead you and be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you, so do not lose courage or be afraid."

Deuteronomy 31:8



HILARY'S PRAYER COLUMN

September, Lord, a time of new beginnings.

Children starting school or moving to a new class.
Ministers meeting new congregations and struggling to
remember names.

A new beginning is a lovely thing Lord.
We remember our joy and enthusiasm when we first met you.
But that can grow a bit dim as the years
and life get in the way.

Lord we thank you that you give us a new beginning,
not just on 1st September or the 1st January but everyday.
The slate wiped clean from yesterday and a new start.

Lord we come to worship you now.
Fill us with joy in our worship.
May that joy be so great that we cannot contain it.

May it overflow from us to all we shall meet.

Amen.

Hilary Stevens

HAPPY

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAY to:

**THEA GARNER ON THE 7TH
LIZ AMAH ON THE 12TH**



**SPECIAL ZERO BIRTHDAY
CONGRATULATIONS TO
ANNE DELLOW ON THE 28TH**



**AND BELATED SPECIAL ZERO BIRTHDAY
CONGRATULATIONS TO
JOHN HIGGINS ON THE 23RD AUGUST!**



**AND TO EVERYONE CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY
IN SEPTEMBER**

HAVE A LOVELY DAY!



*(If you would like yours or somebody else's birthday
mentioned then please let me know! – Ed.)*

CONGRATULATIONS to...



Yetunde Fadojutimi for graduating from The London School of Economics and Political Science and

Renyl Selwyn for graduating from Bristol University.

Well done to them both. It was lovely to see photos of Renyl and Yetunde on their graduation days. We wish them every success for the future.

Sanjay Marreddi for securing a new job in London. Well done Sanjay - we are so pleased to have you back in our church family.

Mike Seviour for winning the 2025 Mens Singles Championship at The Billericay Bowling Club.

Well done Mike!

Revd Collins Frimpong-Manso, former Local Preacher, for being welcomed to his new circuit as a probation minister on 3rd September. Please remember Revd Collins and his family in your prayers as they settle into their new surroundings.

Liz Amah is travelling to Ghana with her niece. We wish them safe travels and a lovely holiday.



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY BBQ 6TH JULY

The weather was kind, after a little shower and food was scrumptious!



the

Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments to share and especially to Amy and her team who made us delicious food that we all tucked into.

Here's to another year at The Drive!



Jo Wright

CIRCUIT YOUTH DAY 12TH JULY

After many months of planning with youth leaders in other churches around the circuit, we all came together for a fun day at Chigwell Row. Friendships were formed and many happy memories were made. Revd Mmasape organised the food and drinks and led the closing acts of worship. The circuit leadership team, local preachers and worship leaders also attended and played music and said prayers too.

We have also reflected on what worked well and what needed tweaking. This will hopefully inform the next circuit event planning. Here are some memories from the day written by Lola, Jemimah, Niamah and Dayane:

There were lots of happy children running around the field playing football. I was able to participate in archery, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I could not hit the bullseye, but I did get close! – Lola

I had lots of fun and enjoyed wood crafting, drawing, lunch, and meeting friends. Next year I would like to go in the swimming pool, have more races, and eat chicken and rice for dinner. – Jemimah

I loved it! It was great fun, and it was my sister Jemimah's birthday too. We all sang happy birthday. There were lots of prayers, art activities, and crafts. I met many people from the circuit. Next year I would like to do swimming, the obstacle course and the zip line – Niamah

On the 12th July I went to Chigwell Row and played lots of games and there were lots of activities such as bushcraft, crafting and sports. I won the bush craft, and I was really happy. – Dayane

Jo Wright

It sounds like a happy time was had by all - Ed.



THE DRIVE YOUTH

September brings a time of change and new beginnings. We wish all our children, youth and young adults, here at The Drive, all the best as they journey forward in their education, job searches, jobs and new jobs. We ask you all for prayers and support for The Drive Youth.



THE TECH TEAM

Revd Jacqui requested that a tech team should be formed at The Drive. I'm really excited to say that we now have a tech team of very willing and highly skilled volunteers in all thing's tech!

Over the course of the next few months (and years), they will be looking at, and developing, social media platforms for The Drive, some of which we currently have, and updating and designing new areas. Watch this space!

Jo Wright

OLD DAGENHAM FUNDRAISING BBQ 2ND AUGUST

Diane and I attended this event which was held to raise money for the proposed development at Old Dagenham Methodist Church. The event was well attended by church members and three local councillors, with everyone enjoying the delicious food. It was also an opportunity for the prospective developer to outline the plans with a Powerpoint presentation.

Old Dagenham Church has suffered in recent years following the demolition of their community hall due to serious structural problems. The proposed development will deliver a new suite of church facilities including a café, community hall and sanctuary together with 40 affordable homes for local people. Ruth's article (see page 19) entitled "The UK's Housing Crisis" really underlines the importance of completing this project.

Jeremy Foster



MMASAPE'S SERVICE AT ST PAUL'S 17th AUGUST

Some of our members attended the Evensong service at St Paul's Cathedral on 17th August which was led by our Superintendent Minister, Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni. Mmasape sent our Drive Whatsapp group this message:

Today at St Paul's Cathedral...

An awe-inspiring place where generations have gathered to pray, to mourn, to celebrate, and to seek God. Today, I was humbled to stand in that pulpit, not alone, but surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.



I honour the ancestors who planted fields with weary hands, who marched township streets with steady feet, who sang freedom songs through their tears. I honour Archbishop Desmond Tutu, whose voice once rang in that same place with laughter and justice. And I honour each of you who hold me in prayer, friendship, and encouragement.

Your words of affirmation are a reminder that when we show up in the places God calls us, we carry not just our own voice, but the hopes and histories of many.

Thank you for every message, every prayer, every whisper of encouragement. May we all keep walking by God's plumbline of justice, giving by Christ's grace, and building in the Spirit's wisdom.

Mmasape

FROM THE CIRCUIT OFFICE:

NEW DISTRICT CHAIR

The Revd Faith Nyota will be welcomed as District Chair on Sunday 7th September at Westminster Methodist Central Hall.

PILGRIMAGE TO WESLEY'S CHAPEL FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 1.00PM – 4.30PM



**The London Methodist Lunch Club invites you to
Wesley's Chapel to hear a talk by
Revd Canon Dr John Pursehouse on
"What would John Wesley's message be today?"**

Freewill donations will be collected. The programme will include a guided walk (free) to places of significance to John Wesley or a guided visit to the house (£10).

Where:

Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission, 49 City Road, London EC1 1AU (nearest tube-Old Street, nearest rail-Liverpool St.)
To book via phone 07928 016681
or you can scan the QR code on the poster in the foyer.

THE DETS (DRAMA AND ENTERTAINMENT TEAM) AND CHOIR PRESENT CLASSIC MUSICALS AND THE 2 RONNIES SKETCHES



**SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025 2PM
BEACONTREE HEATH METHODIST CHURCH**
Donations For Solving Kids' Cancer Uk Charity

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Our Superintendent, Revd Mmasape is running membership classes this autumn. If you would like to know what being a member of the Methodist Church means please speak to one of your church stewards. You can also find a lot of information on the Methodist Church website.



Join us!

Harvest International Evening

Free Entry!
(donations welcome)

27 Sat Sept 2023

5:30pm - 10pm

Barkingside Methodist Church
Freemantle Road
IG6 2AZ

Enjoy... International World Food, Steel Band, Fashion Show, Dancing, Raffle, Auction, Chinese Calligraphy and more!

National costume welcome!

For more information contact:
June: 07956 49909
Daisy: 07590 455940

*all proceeds go to China Mission

For any further information you require about Circuit events please contact:

Jackie Saito
Circuit Meeting Secretary
Barking, Dagenham & Ilford Circuit Office
c/o Beacontree Heath Methodist Church
The Broadway, Dagenham RM8 1DZ
Email: bdicircuitoffice@btconnect.com
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**BREAST
CANCER
NOW**
The research &
support charity

**PINK AFTERNOON TEA FOR
BREAST CANCER NOW CHARITY
SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER
CHURCH PARLOUR 3PM COST £5
GIFT STALL - RAFFLE - GAMES**

In order to raise as much as possible for Breast Cancer Now, we will be holding a Raffle and a Gift Table. If you have any unused gift or raffle items you would like to donate, please hand to Ruth, Lorraine or Anne.

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR PINK.

All welcome - Please book your place! Thank you.

Lorraine Bendon



**AUDREY'S MARVELLOUS
MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING
FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER**



**It's time for the Macmillan Coffee Morning.
Please come and join me in the conservatory at
Redbridge Social Centre Beehive Lane.**

**Friday 26th September
10.30am – 1pm.**

Audrey Taylor

EDUCATION SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER



Education Sunday is an annual ecumenical event held by churches in the UK on the second Sunday in September to coincide with the beginning of the school year.

It is a nationwide day of prayer and celebration for everyone involved in education, from school students to education employees. It is organised and promoted by an ecumenical working group with The Methodist Church being one of the members of the group. English and Welsh churches have been observing Education Sunday for over a century.



The **Methodist Church**



*Text taken from
The Methodist Church and
Churches Together in England websites.*

PEACE SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER



For many years, the United Nations has encouraged the observance of 21st September as the International Day of Peace. The World Council of Churches calls on churches to make the Sunday before or after this a day of prayer for peace.

Peacemaking lies at the heart of the biblical story and remains a central Christian vocation. Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, both in terms of preventing bloodshed, and building constructive links with God, ourselves, and other people. Peace Sunday is a chance for the church to pause and reflect on what it means to follow the Prince of Peace today.



The Fellowship of Reconciliation
Building Peace, Serving Justice, Bringing Hope



JOINT PUBLIC
ISSUES TEAM

CHURCHES WORKING
FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

*Text taken from The Fellowship of
Reconciliation and the Joint Public Issues
Team of The Methodist Church,
The Baptist Union of GB and
The United Reformed Church websites.*



ADVANCED NOTICE!

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE AND LUNCH

If you are able to donate some harvest gifts please bring them to the church on
Sat 4th October between 10am–12pm
or bring them along to our
HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE on

SUNDAY 5TH OCTOBER 11.15AM
led by REVD JACQUI JONES

Our service will be followed by a
BRING AND SHARE LUNCH AT 1PM

A list will be at the back of the church for you
to add your name and any food you will be
contributing.

***Please note that you do not need to bring
food to attend. There will be plenty for all
and everyone is welcome.***

THE UK'S HOUSING CRISIS

The housing crisis in the UK is so bad. You more people queuing up to view a small studio one in for a few minutes to view and then another one in. Shared houses can be overcrowded and in very deplorable conditions. Some of the tenants that you have to live with are very rude, threatening and abusive. There are also tenants with mental health, drugs and alcohol issues.

Landlords are charging a significant amount of money in rent for very poor housing. Most of the time you don't even know who the landlord is or the landlord doesn't even bother to answer your calls or come to deal with any problems or issues that need to be dealt with. The only time he will contact you is if the housing benefit is late or you haven't paid the rent.

It is difficult for older tenants to live with younger tenants because of the noise they make and worse if they are alcohol or drug addicts. Going to view a property you are being told you can't get it because you don't qualify because you are not on a higher rate of benefits. So what must a person who is on a lower rate do? Are they not supposed to have a home like anyone else or is it just about the amount of money a landlord can make in rent? Other private landlords don't accept housing benefits and they also ask for a deposit.

Ruth Beecher

Thank you for bringing this to our attention Ruth. This is a stressful situation to be in and we are concerned to hear of the difficulties that many people in the UK face. We pray our Government will address this issue so that matters improve – Ed.

CHANGING RESPONSIBILITIES

When we sit in church on a Sunday morning it's easy to forget just how many duties and responsibilities go on behind the scenes to keep our church running smoothly. One of these duties is to ensure that the users of our premises are invoiced and pay for the time they have used.

Brian Taylor has undertaken this vital role for many years with great dedication and commitment. However Brian feels now is the time to pass this responsibility on. I would like to record my personal thanks and those of the church for Brian's unstinting service.

I am pleased to report that Mike Seviour has agreed to take on the invoicing responsibility with effect from 1st Sept. Thank you Mike.

Jeremy Foster.

On behalf of the church I'd like to record thanks to Roxanne Lashley who has been our very efficient Church Council Secretary but has found it necessary to step down.

I was very pleased to learn that Thea Garner has agreed to take on this role. It's good to see our young people stepping up to some of the roles and responsibilities necessary to keep our church running smoothly. Thank you Thea.

Diane Foster

LITTER CLEARANCE

A big thank you to our local Redbridge Council who have always responded promptly to any reports I have made of unusually large amounts of litter being left or items dumped or abandoned around the church and bus stop. They also make a point of contacting to inform it has been cleared. Well done, to the Refuse Team.

Lorraine Bendon

SUMMER IN MANCHESTER

At the end of July, I spent a week kitten sitting at my son's flat in Manchester. It is in a lovely area called Chorlton Cum Hardy. While I was there, I attended Withington Methodist church. The service was led by the Rev'd. Dr. Caroline Wickens. It was her farewell service as she was taking up a new post in Watford. The senior steward called Watford the "deep south". I told him afterwards that I was from the deep south too!

The sermon was very interesting. It was about standing at a gate and wondering what was on the other side. Would you go through it? Would you stay on the side of the gate that was familiar to you? Would you take the risk of going through, knowing that God would always be with you wherever you ended up. Food for thought!

In true Methodist style there was tea and a farewell cake at the end of the service. I spoke to many people who were kind and friendly.

Sadly, the main church building is not used anymore, and they meet in a small room. They have amalgamated once, and they fear that the church may have to amalgamate again or be closed.



I hope the next time I go to Manchester I can visit again.

Jo Wright

A TALE OF GOOD SAMARITANS



We so often see on the TV and hear on the radio of the awful things people can do to other people - strangers hurting strangers. Thankfully there are also a lot of people willing to help others - strangers *helping* strangers. Many of us will have experienced a time when we have been helped by a stranger. Our own good Samaritans.

Some weeks ago, I was travelling to South London to stay with my daughter. It was a Friday evening and many people were travelling home from work. I arrived at Farringdon Station pulling my suitcase behind me. As I approached the escalator I was about to turn towards the lift but against my better judgement I joined the queue of people at the foot of the escalator. As I went to step on, the wheel of my case got caught around the bottom of the escalator. I turned to try and dislodge it forgetting it was a moving staircase. I fell heavily backwards and only made things worse by trying to turn around to stand upright.

People were curious to see what the commotion was all about but were mostly only interested in their own journeys. It was really scary and I called out for someone to help me. Out of nowhere a man appeared - my Samaritan. He couldn't speak English but he could tell I needed help and took my arm and hand, steadied me and stayed with me to the top. I thanked him profusely and with a kind smile to make sure I was alright he continued on his way.

By this time I had calmed down only to realise I hadn't got my case! I looked at the escalator in trepidation and there about to step off was a young lady with my case. Handing it to me she assured me I didn't need to feel silly or embarrassed as it can happen to anyone and that she had once fallen in similar circumstances.

So I had two good Samaritans. Two complete strangers who, like the Samaritan in Jesus' parable in Luke's Gospel, didn't need to get involved. Thank goodness they did!

Let me know if you've had a similar experience you would like to share.

Diane Foster

NEWS OF MY SISTER, SUSAN

Many of you know my sister, Susan so I thought I would let you know her news. She was recently moved from her care home in Brightlingsea where she had lived for almost 40 years to another care home in Walton-on-the-Naze. The move happened very suddenly and Jeremy and I were abroad at the time so were not able to go with her. Having to leave people she had known a long time who were like family to her was very traumatic for Susan and caused her a lot of distress.

However, the new home is very nice, it's near the sea and the staff are lovely. The first time we visited her she became very upset when we left but by the second time, which was only a couple of weeks later, she was so much happier and more settled. Apart from the people at her last care home the one thing she missed the most was the dogs. Most of the carers there had dogs and they would bring them to work with them. So when we saw her she was delighted to tell us that two of the carers at the new home had dogs and they would bring them in to meet her. That made her very happy!



We are very grateful for the wonderful people who work in care homes looking after our loved ones. May God grant them patience and compassion as they go about their daily tasks.

Diane Foster

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS CHAMBERLAIN CBE / OSTJ / KSG

As many of you know, Peter Bendon was a keen ambassador for the installation of defibrillators into public places. However, this was only possible because of the work and dedication of one man – Douglas Chamberlain.



Professor Chamberlain died on Thursday (22 May 2025) at the age of 94, having spent most of his career working at Royal Sussex County Hospital, in Brighton. But his reach was worldwide and – as the father of the paramedic profession and a pioneering teacher of life-saving techniques – he became something of a hero to patients and even fellow professionals.

A&E consultant Rob Galloway, who works at the Royal Sussex, said that he was “the most inspirational of doctors I’ve ever met. There are countless that owe their life to him, but he was so humble he would never recognise that. He was the definition of a hero and legend to so many of us. The world is a better place because of him.”

Douglas’s work in the early 1970s led to the birth of the UK paramedic profession in Brighton, as the first ‘ambulance men’, who had been selected for additional training by him, began to respond to patients equipped with the first ambulance defibrillators.

The idea wasn’t popular with everyone but it was inspired by his own experience. In 1970 Douglas was doing what consultant cardiologists do, conducting a home visit to see an NHS patient and do some cardiac studies in their lounge.

Unfortunately, mid-examination his patient goes into sudden cardiac arrest ... so he starts CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) and tells the patient's wife to call for an ambulance. At this time this meant a couple of ambulance men from Brighton Ambulance Service, but what Douglas needed was a portable defibrillator.

After much delay and confusion over this request, two ambulance men eventually arrived and (carrying the giant device between them) plugged it into the mains. The unit exploded and then caught fire, the patient died and Professor Chamberlain summarised the situation in the usual NHS understated way: 'We ought to be able to do better.'

He then started training ambulance crew, nurses and fellow doctors and then others in resuscitation techniques and emergency first aid with an almost missionary zeal. Professor Chamberlain helped to refine and spread the techniques of resuscitation and the training of professionals and the public. He didn't just save lives. He transformed how we save them.

He also played a central role in creating the European Resuscitation Council (ERC) and helped establish the first public AED in the 1970s. His unwavering dedication to improving pre-hospital care leaves a profound legacy that continues to inspire. He didn't ask for permission to train the first paramedics. He didn't worry about the personal or professional ramifications. He just recognised a need and he did it.

John Higgins

Thank you John, that's really interesting. I hadn't heard of him before. We shall miss Peter's training sessions – Ed.

A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES contd.

I recall writing a piece for the January edition of our magazine, it came under the heading above and the two churches were namely The Drive and St. Edmunds in Suffolk. St Edmunds was the first church that Ray and I attended together unbeknown to us that it would become a place we would return to throughout our lives.

Ray's parents lived in the East End of London all their lives, they never left their home except to take refuge in an air raid shelter at the bottom of their garden. A few years after WW11, all the old wartorn houses were pulled down and Ray's parents decided to seek the solitude of Suffolk and take the opportunity to purchase a property in Kessingland, an old fishing village.

St Edmunds Church, Kessingland, Suffolk

The village of Kessingland is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 as being divided into four manors. St Edmunds is actually in the Diocese of Norwich although it is situated in Suffolk.

Its 30m (98ft) Tower was built around 1436 for the Franciscans of London. Like many coastal churches it was built to act as a beacon for passing ships out at sea. The remaining parts of the building have been rebuilt in the ensuing centuries. The main entrance to Kessingland church is through a wooden Lychgate erected in 1930 and for which a small trust was set up for its maintenance in 1931.

The West doorway is carved with various designs such as a Tudor Rose, an anchor and a fish.

The exterior of the church is a mix of styles. The Tower and South Side are built in 15th century flint whilst the chancel, also flint was erected in the 20th century. The North Side is of red brick built in 1695. Through the centuries parts of the church have been rebuilt and repaired. A distinguishing feature is the roof, the nave being thatched which is common in East Anglican churches. The rest of the roof is tiled except for the Tower which has two feet of parapeting built onto the old brickwork.

The Bellfry holds six bells which ring out every Thursday evening and Sunday morning. During the pandemic the bells rang periodically. The 15th century font was designed by Richard Russell, the architect of the Tower. An interesting fact is that the great grandmother of the author J K Rowling was born in Kesslingland and was baptised in St Edmunds on 26th August 1874.

I recommend a visit to Kessingland which has mainly been left untouched by progress. The beach is as it was when I first saw it with my seven year old daughter in the 70s and offers a breath of fresh air, albeit North sea air, so take a warm jumper!.

Anne Dellow

Thank you Anne, it certainly sounds worth a visit. Perhaps a church outing...? – Ed.



ANNIVERSARIES

Now we've started talking about the centenary celebrations for our church building, it got me thinking about our obsession with anniversaries, especially those ending with a zero!

I spend much of the summer travelling backwards and forwards to Kensington to hear many of the BBC Proms concerts. At the time of writing, there are still a couple of weeks to go, so a few more trips to the Royal Albert Hall are in the diary. The team that organises the Proms is always looking for themes to focus on during the season, and anniversaries of composers are always a feature. This year they've marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Johann Strauss II (the Viennese waltz king), Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's 90th birthday and the 50th anniversary of the deaths of Dimitri Shostakovich and film composer Bernard Hermann, famous for his scores for Alfred Hitchcock movies.

A quick search on the old interweb reveals a few significant 2025 anniversaries among church music composers as well – Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina was born 500 years ago, Orlando Gibbons died 400 years ago, and bringing us more up to date, Bob Chilcott is 70 this year. Our choir has sung music by all of these.

Another significant church anniversary I found online is the First Council of Nicea in 325 – 1700 years ago this year. This was a gathering of over 200 bishops from across the whole of Christendom at the time, called by the Roman Emperor Constantine I who had converted to Christianity. The main focus of the council was to clear up a dispute about the nature of Jesus, his origin, and relation to God the Father. This resulted in the first version of the Nicene Creed,

summing up the core beliefs of the church which we still use in worship today. They also decided to separate the calculation of the date of Easter from the Jewish calendar which had been relied on up until then. There's not enough room in these pages to go into detail of lunar vs calendar months, the date of the spring equinox, the subsequent adoption of the Gregorian calendar resulting in differing Easter dates between the "Western" and "Eastern" churches to this day – you can all do your own googling! Even though it was 1700 years ago, I can well imagine what it was like around the table thrashing out these matters. I'm sure we've all sat through similar meetings in our working lives, perhaps on a slightly smaller scale...

I find it fascinating how when we look back at history, we recognise so many situations that we experience in modern life – there's nothing new under the sun. I look forward to what we will learn from our upcoming centenary, and how it will affect the future at The Drive.

Oh, and if anyone of a certain age wants to feel any older, this year also marks 50 years since the release of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody. Sorry.

Andrew Taylor

*I was enjoying reading this interesting article, Andrew....
...until that last paragraph...Ed.*



JULY/AUGUST PUZZLE ANSWERS

Wordsearch



Spot the differences



Crossword:

Across: 3-holiday;5-bucket;7-tennis;8-deckchair;11-flipflops;12-cricket;13-hotel

Down: 1-spade;2-sunhat;4:tent;5-beach;6-kite;9-costume;10-icecream

Dingbats:

Head over heels; foreign language; together forever; icing on the cake; Big Ben; broken leg

Four Groups of Four

Group 1: Beach toys:

beachball; frisbee; kite; yoyo

Group 2- Summer games:

tennis; cricket; volley-ball; rounders

Group 3-Places to stay in on holiday:

caravan; tent; hotel; chalet

Group 4-Things to do at the seaside:

sunbathe; picnic; sandcastles; swim

Hidden Objects

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		
SEPTEMBER		
Tues 2 ND	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sun 7th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones with Holy Communion
Sun 7 th	6.00pm	Welcome Service for Revd. Faith Nyota at Westminster Methodist Central Hall
Tues 9 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Fri 12 th	1.00pm – 4.30pm	Pilgrimage at Wesley's Chapel see page 14
Sat 13 th	2.00pm	The Dets and Choir Presentation Beacontree Heath MC See page 14
Sun 14th	11.15am	Education Sunday Morning Worship led by Mr Alfred Mensah
Tues 16 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Wed 17 th	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting Church Parlour
Thur 18 th	7.00pm	Centenary Development Fund Committee Meeting Church Parlour
Sat 20 th	3.00pm	Breast Cancer Afternoon Tea Church Parlour See page 16
Sun 21st	11.15am	Peace Sunday Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones
Tues 23 rd	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour

DIARY Contd.		
SEPTEMBER		
Thurs 25 th	8.00pm	Property and Finance Committee Meeting Church Parlour
Fri 26 th	10.30am – 1.00pm	MacMillan Coffee Morning Redbridge Social Centre see page 16
Sat 27 th	5.30pm - 10.00pm	Harvest International Evening Barkingside MC see page 15
Sun 28th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Members of the Congregation
Tues 30 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
OCTOBER		
Sun 5th	11.15am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service led by Revd Jacqui Jones with Holy Communion see page 18
Sun 5 th	1.00pm	Harvest Church Lunch see page 18

***Deadline for October Newsletter items:
Monday 22nd September 2025***

THANK YOU!

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