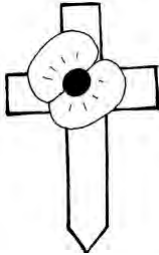


The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

November 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

"We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..."

Hebrews 12:1

Siblings in Christ

November always feels like a bridge between the fading light of autumn and the first whispers of Advent hope. It is a month that invites us to pause, remember, and look forward with quiet expectation. As a circuit we are delighted to welcome Sharon Grundy, our Circuit Lay Pastoral Worker; and look forward to her collegiate in the circuit team. Sharon will be supporting the ministers in her role and not replacing local pastoral teams.

We began this month with the solemnity and beauty of All Saints, remembering the faithful who have gone before us; those whose lives witnessed to the light of Christ. This time of remembrance stands alongside the colour and cultural noise of Halloween, a reminder that even when shadows dance around us, the light of Christ remains steadfast.

Remembrance and Memorial

This season of reflection continues as we observe Remembrance Sunday, honouring all who gave their lives in service and sacrifice.

On Sunday 9 November at 4.00pm, at Ilford Methodist Church, we will hold our Annual Memorial Service, a space to name, remember, and give thanks for the lives of those we love who have died. Whether your loss is recent or many years past, this service is a gentle invitation to bring our stories of love and grief before God's tender presence.

Advent Approaches

As the month draws to a close, we turn our hearts towards Advent - that sacred season of longing, preparation, and holy waiting. We will gather as a circuit for our Circuit Advent Service on Sunday 30 November, marking the beginning of a new Christian year and lighting the first candle of Hope. Please look out for further Advent news on Bible Studies for the season.

This Advent will hold a particular poignancy for me. It marks the beginning of my “lasts” in this beloved circuit I have had the privilege of serving for nearly seven years. Each service, conversation, and shared moment between now and next August will be part of my own season of thanksgiving for all that God has done in and through us.

As we step into this season together, may we be strengthened by the great cloud of witnesses, anchored by remembrance, and inspired by the hope that Advent brings.

With every blessing in Christ,

Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni
Superintendent Minister



EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello and welcome to the November Newsletter. As the seasons change and the weather gets colder we start to think of the coming winter and the festive season. I'm already looking forward to choir practices in November when I'm sure Andrew will have Christmas anthems and carols on the agenda!

In November there will be services of remembrance held around the country for those who died in both World Wars and other conflicts. Armistice (literally meaning 'a cessation of arms') Day is marked on 11th November and services are held on the nearest Sunday, this year being the 9th. Instead of our usual 11.15am start, our own Remembrance Day service will begin at 10.45am so that we are able to observe the 2 minute silence at 11.00am (see page 15).

I have been looking at The Royal British Legion's website. On the home page we read:

"The Royal British Legion is here to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families. And we're not going anywhere."

We remember all those who have served, and who lost their lives on active service, from the beginning of the First World War to the present day. We remember their families. And we honour the contribution of those currently serving. Our support starts after one day of service and continues through life, long after service is over."

Having family members in the Armed Forces this is a comforting thought.

Have a peaceful month

Diane Foster



WE PRAY for those known to us who are unwell and those we have concerns for at this time.



We pray for those who are unable to come to church because of ongoing illnesses.



We pray for those in hospital or about to have operations.



We pray for those going through difficult times because of financial worries.



We pray for those in a time of grief following the loss of loved ones.



*We ask for God's blessing to give us all peace
in our mind, body, soul and spirit.*

*We ask for God's blessing to heal and remove everything
that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives.*

*We ask for God's blessing to guide our path through life,
to give us strength and comfort to ease our pain.*

TDY SERVICE 28TH SEPTEMBER

Generosity was the theme for TDY's recent service. Michelle and I wrote down some of your responses to questions you were asked. Thank you for taking part.

1)How can we show generosity?

- By Welcoming people in, supporting charities, supporting each other, and by being generous with our time.

2)What can we do this week to show love and kindness?

- Give up your seat on the bus when someone else needs it more than you.
- Connect homeless people to pathways where they can be offered specialised help and support.
- Call a friend or speak to someone and ask how they're doing. Do things for people and not expect anything in return.
- Give your time to truly listen. Write someone a letter. Serve at Grange Hill warm space.

3)How to practice kindness etc at school, college, university and the workplace?

- Be nice to friends and share toys at breaktime. Share sweets.
- Bring in homemade cake to share.
- Share what you have with friends, encourage them if they are upset.
- Give advice, share your own experiences, understand what they're going through.
- Be kind, God's watching.
- Look after each other, talk nicely if people do things you don't like.
- Be open and honest when you are finding things difficult.

- Speak to a trusted adult if you need support.
- Listen and pay attention to teachers, colleagues and others who are leading or helping us.

Jo Wright and Team TDY

It was a lovely service, Jo. Certainly made us think about what we can do to help others. Thank you TDY. – Ed.

3RD OCTOBER – AN HISTORICAL DAY



It was on 8th May this year that Catholics around the world celebrated the election of Pope Leo. Now Church of England Christians are celebrating the naming of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. However, this was no ordinary appointment for the Church of England. It is an historical moment as Dame Sarah Mullally became the first woman to hold this post. This was the second time she had been appointed the first woman to a senior position within the Church. In 2018 she was appointed Bishop of London.

In 2003, The Church of England and The Methodist Church entered into an Anglican-Methodist Covenant. After hearing the news of the appointment, Methodist leaders said “We warmly welcome the news of Bishop Sarah Mullally’s appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray God’s blessing upon her for this profoundly important ministry.”

Bishop Sarah Mullally spoke of when she visits schools:

"Being the first woman is historic, and I often go to schools, and particularly the young women sit up and listen, and they don't want to be the Bishop of London or the Archbishop of Canterbury, but it does allow them to think there are possibilities for them to fulfil their dreams".

Diane Foster

Text adapted from the BBC and Methodist Church websites

GOLDEN WEDDING – MR & MRS SMITH!



On Saturday 18th October 1975 at 3 pm at Eastern Avenue Methodist Church (now The Drive Methodist Church) Graham and I were married. Our wedding ceremony was conducted by the Revd G Thompson Brake. Frank Sayers was our organist and the church was full with our families and friends. It was a beautiful sunny autumn day. The reception was held at Redbridge Social Centre.

Fifty years on we have three wonderfully caring and hardworking sons, their partners, eight grandchildren (three boys and five girls). We give thanks that we have been blessed to have our family and so many dear friends.

On Sunday 5th October 2025 we, along with two of our granddaughters, came to The Drive to the Harvest Service and Holy Communion. The Revd Jacqui Jones welcomed us and gave us a blessing for our Golden Wedding.

On Saturday 11th October 2025 we had a party to celebrate with family and friends (a week early as our son Jeremy and his family were visiting from Australia and he had to return the next day).

We particularly value our connections to The Drive Methodist Church as my grandparents were founder members. Graham and I met in the youth club and our three sons were members of The Drive Scout and Guide Group.

Our love and blessings to you all

Maggie and Graham Smith

Thank you both and here's to the next 50! – Ed.

**TDY LIGHT PARTY
SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
4PM - 6PM
IN THE CHURCH PARLOUR**



FOOD! FUN! GAMES!

**FOR ALL TDY MEMBERS, LEADERS AND PARENTS
ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE SPEAK TO MICHELLE OR JO**

ALL SAINTS' DAY 1ST NOVEMBER

All Saints' Day (also known as All Hallows' Day or Hallowmas) is a feast day celebrated on 1st November by Christians.

Remembering saints and martyrs and dedicating a specific day to them each year has been a Christian tradition since the 4th century AD, but it wasn't until 609AD that Pope Boniface IV decided to remember *all* martyrs. Originally 13th May was designated as the Feast of All Holy Martyrs. Later, in 837AD, Pope Gregory IV extended the festival to remember all the saints, changed its name to Feast of All Saints and changed the date to 1st November.

"We celebrate today the solemnity of All Saints. This invites us to turn our gaze to the immense multitude of those who have already reached the blessed land, and points us on the path that will lead us to that destination."

Pope John Paul II, All Saints' Day 2003.

Text taken from the BBC website.



**REDBRIDGE FAITH FORUM
TOURS OF PLACES OF WORSHIP
IN REDBRIDGE**



**TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2025, 12.30PM TO 2PM
ST LUKES CHURCH, BAXTER ROAD, ILFORD, IG1 2HN**

The Redbridge Faith Forum's 3rd tour in this series is taking place at the C of E Parish Church of St Luke's, Great Ilford.

It is a beautiful and fascinating church with a lot of history dating back to 1908. The church roof was destroyed during World War 2 when it was hit by a bomb and it was 14 years before it was able to be replaced. There are 3 lovely stained glass windows in the East Wall which are the work of Sir William Reynolds.

As well as exploring the church and finding more about Christian Values and worship, there will be an opportunity to visit a wonderful and very moving exhibition that is being hosted by St Luke's Church. The exhibition is called The Forgiveness Project. Through arresting images and personal stories it explores forgiveness in the face of atrocity.

Text taken from the Redbridge Faith Forum website



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

led by
THE REVD JACQUI JONES



STARTING AT 10.45AM

TO OBSERVE

THE TWO MINUTE SILENCE

AT 11.00AM



Lest We Forget



THE POPPY - A SYMBOL OF REMEMBRANCE

During WW1, much of the fighting took place in Western Europe. The countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over repeatedly. Previously beautiful landscapes turned to mud; bleak and barren where little or nothing could grow. There was a notable and striking exception to the bleakness - the bright red Flanders poppies. These resilient flowers flourished in the middle of so much chaos and destruction, growing in their thousands upon thousands.



In the Spring of 1915 shortly after losing a friend in Ypres, a Canadian doctor, Lt. Col. John McCrae was moved by the sight of these poppies and that inspiration led him to write the now famous poem '*In Flanders Fields*':

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.



We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.



Text adapted from The Royal British Legion website.



HILARY'S PRAYER COLUMN

A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Sunday is a bittersweet day Lord.

Thoughts of bravery and courage jostle together
with thoughts of the horror and misery of war.

Recently TV has brought into our living rooms wars with
so many dead and injured and so many forced to leave
their homes with nothing and no hope for the future.

The futility of it all and centuries of civilisation
seem to have taught us nothing.

There are people today whose loss is recent, sharp and
unbearable and there are those whose loss was many
years ago but has affected their whole lives ever since.

Lord as we remember this month, remind us that we are to
be peacemakers. And that if peace does not start
in the lives of each one of us then it doesn't start as all.

Bless us as we worship you.

Amen.

Hilary Stevens

SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

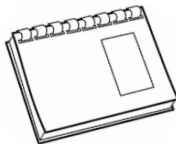
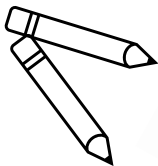
SHOE BOXES AND ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT TO CHURCH BY 9TH NOVEMBER



Thank you to all who have donated items and shoe boxes for this appeal. It is really appreciated. The last day to bring in items and boxes is Sunday 9th November. More information and flat pack boxes are on the table at the back of the church. You can also go on to the Samaritan's Purse website: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

These boxes are sent all over the world to children who are in desperate need and gives them some comfort and joy during the Christmas season. The Samaritan's Purse is always grateful for your generosity and support.

Jo Wright





EVENTS AROUND THE CIRCUIT

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE
SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 4.00PM
AT ILFORD METHODIST CHURCH**



**POP-UP FAIR - VENDOR CALLOUT!
SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 12PM – 6PM
GOODMAYES METHODIST CHURCH
AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Are you a small business selling Christmas gift items, fashion, crafts, cakes, food or festive treats?

Would you like to showcase your products to hundreds of shoppers looking for something special this holiday season?

Then why not purchase a table at this pop-up fair?

Contact details are on the poster in the church foyer.



**CIRCUIT ADVENT SERVICE
SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER**



MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

ADVENT SUNDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

This year the Advent candle liturgy produced by the Methodist Church is entitled **Gifted** - a message of good news to a weary world.

Together, all districts, circuits, local churches and fellowships of the Methodist Church are invited to remind people of their inherent worth and beauty – not because of what they've done, or what they can give – but because of who they are.

Gifted:

- is for everyone in our churches and beyond: both believers rejoicing at God's gift of Jesus, and those who might find the season more wearying than wonderful.
- reaches out to people longing for transformation but feeling stuck. For those searching for something more, something real – but unsure where to look.

Gifted is the Methodist Church's open invitation, speaking the good news to people that they matter. That they are Beloved. Created with infinite care. A gift to the world, just as they are.

Text taken from the Methodist Church website.

(We will be following the **Gifted** candle liturgy over the four Sundays from 30th November to 21st December and Christmas Day. – Ed)



ST.ANDREW'S DAY 30TH NOVEMBER



St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland, and has been for over 1,000 years. On the 30th November each year, Scots come together to celebrate St Andrew's Day to commemorate St Andrew and Scotland's history.

St Andrew was a fisherman and one of Jesus' first Apostles. He was sentenced to death by crucifixion by the Romans in Greece, but asked to be crucified on a diagonal cross as he felt he wasn't worthy to die on the same shape of cross as Jesus. This diagonal cross is now used on the Scottish flag - the Saltire and is believed to be the oldest flag in Europe.

There is a legend that says in the ninth century, the Pictish king, Angus mac Fergus, adopted St Andrew as the patron saint after seeing a Saltire appear in the sky, immediately before his victory at Athelstaneford.

St Andrew's Day celebrates the very best of Scottish culture with lots of music and ceilidh (traditional folk) dancing. Scotland's food also plays a big part on St Andrew's Day. Dishes such as: cullen skink a soup dish made of smoked haddock, potatoes and onions; haggis, neeps (turnip) and tatties (mashed potato); clootie dumpling and custard, a Scottish dessert made of dried fruit, spices, oatmeal or breadcrumbs, flour and beef suet. The word "clootie" derives from the Old Scots word "cloth", where the dumpling was traditionally boiled.

In 2006 the Scottish Parliament made the day a bank holiday with many organisations giving their staff the day off work.

Diane Foster

Text adapted from Visit Scotland website.

AUTUMN FAYRE

As part of the fundraising for our Centenary Development Project we will be organising an Autumn Fayre in 2026.



Although it is still some way off we would like to start collecting bric-a-brac, books, DVDs, CDs etc.

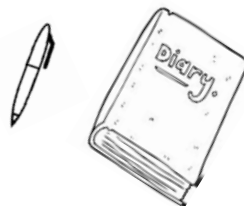
So if you are having a turnout before Christmas (or at anytime) please let us have your unwanted items.



Jeremy and Diane Foster



TDY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



SATURDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Light party 4-6pm in the Parlour at The Drive. (See page 12)

Over the next few Sundays, during our normal session time, we will be rehearsing our Nativity play. Yes, it's that time of year again!

SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER

Nativity rehearsal and TDY Christmas party 2-5pm.



SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER

Nativity and toy service 11.15am.

Jo Wright

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 Hopeline UK 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		
NOVEMBER		
Sat 1 st	4pm – 6pm	TDY Light Party Church Parlour (see page 12)
Sun 2nd	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones with Holy Communion
Tues 4 th	12.30pm – 2pm	Redbridge Faith Forum Tour of Places of Worship in Redbridge, St. Luke's Gt. Ilford (see page 14)
Tues 4 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Wed 5 th	7.30pm	Development Fundraising Committee Meeting Church Parlour
Sun 9th	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones (see page 15)
Sun 9th	4pm	Annual Memorial Service Ilford Methodist Church
Sun 9th	Deadline for receipt of shoeboxes/items (See page 18)	
Tues 11 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sun 16th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Dr Anthony Russell
Tues 18 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sat 22 nd	12pm – 6pm	Pop-Up Fair Goodmayes Methodist Church (see page 19)

DIARY Contd.		
NOVEMBER		
Sun 23rd	11.15am	Women Against Violence Sunday Morning Worship led by Mr Robert Debrah
Tues 25 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sun 30th	11.15am	Advent Sunday Morning Worship led by Mrs Lynn Packer (see page 20)
Sun 30th	Details tbc	Circuit Advent Service
DECEMBER		
Tues 2 nd	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sun 7th	11.15am	2nd Sunday in Advent Morning Worship led by The Revd Jacqui Jones with Holy Communion

DOUBLE ISSUE ALERT!



The next edition of our Newsletter will be a double issue for December 2025 and January 2026. Help me to make it a **BUMPER** one!

Send me your news – achievements, articles, celebrations, events, stories...the list goes on!
I look forward to hearing from you – Ed.

**Deadline for items:
Monday 24th November 2025 - Thank you!**

***To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose
under the heaven.***

Ecclesiastes 3:1



happy
NOVEMBER

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: Theodora Garner
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