

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



# NEWSLETTER

July/August 2026



Minister: Revd Jacqueline Jones  
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[http:// www.drive-methodist.church](http://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.

## **SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER'S LETTER**

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

July has arrived more quickly than I imagined.

As I write my final newsletter letter as Superintendent Minister of the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit, I find myself returning to Paul's words to the Philippians:

"I thank my God every time I remember you."

Gratitude is perhaps the strongest emotion I carry into these final weeks. Gratitude for shared ministry. Gratitude for friendships formed. Gratitude for prayers offered. Gratitude for the countless ways we have witnessed God's faithfulness together.

This month, as we prepare for our second annual Circuit Youth Day, I am reminded that the Church is always at its best when it is looking forward rather than backward. Young people laughing together, learning together, discovering faith together, remind us that the gospel is never simply about preserving what has been. It is about participating in what God is still bringing into being.

Over the past years we have shared much together. We have worshipped in seasons of joy and seasons of grief. We have celebrated baptisms, confirmations, marriages, anniversaries, and new beginnings. We have stood together at hospital bedsides, gravesides, food-banks, community events, school gates and prayer gatherings. We have welcomed newcomers and said farewell to beloved friends.

Together we have sought to be a Circuit that worships deeply, serves generously, and engages courageously with the communities around us.

No ministry is ever the work of one person. It has been my privilege to serve alongside dedicated ministers, local preachers, worship leaders, stewards, pastoral visitors, volunteers, staff, trustees, and congregations who give countless hours in service to Christ. Thank you for your faithfulness, your patience, your prayers, and your willingness to keep showing up even when the road has not always been easy.

As I prepare to move on to a new appointment, I do so with gratitude rather than sadness. For the Church was never ours to own. We are, each of us, temporary custodians of a much larger story.

Paul, when taking leave of the elders at Ephesus, said:

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of God's grace." (Acts 20:32)

Those are the words I offer to you now.

I commend you to God.

Continue to be a people of prayer.

Continue to be a people of welcome.

Continue to be a people who make room for children and young people.

Continue to be a people who seek justice, dignity, and compassion.

Continue to be a people who are unafraid to try new things for the sake of the gospel.

The future of this Circuit does not depend upon any one minister, steward, church council, or superintendent. It rests in the hands of the One who called the Church into being and who remains faithful from generation to generation.

My prayer is that you will continue to dream boldly, love generously and serve courageously.

May you remain rooted in Christ.

May you remain attentive to the Holy Spirit.

May you remain open to the surprising new things God is doing among you.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to walk alongside you for this season.

As I leave, I do so with profound gratitude, many treasured memories, and confidence that the God who has brought us this far is not finished with us yet.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen."  
(Ephesians 3:20–21)

Grace and peace,

Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni  
Superintendent Minister, Barking, Dagenham & Ilford Circuit

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi everyone. Welcome to our July/August Newsletter and many thanks to all of you who have made contributions to this double issue.

There are a few events to look out for in July – our Church Anniversary Service and picnic at The Rodings on the 5<sup>th</sup> – see page 16. We have an own arrangement on the 12<sup>th</sup> when we welcome a speaker from Action for Children – thanks to Jo for arranging this – see page 17. On the 26<sup>th</sup> we say goodbye to our current Superintendent Minister, Revd Mmasape at a Circuit Service at The Drive at 4pm - see page 17.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August we welcome again former Drive minister, Revd Stephen G Normanton to lead our Communion service.

In September we will be welcoming our new Circuit Superintendent, Revd Chris Sandy. His welcome service will be on 30<sup>th</sup> August, venue to be confirmed.

By the time you read this newsletter, England will have finished playing their group stage matches of the World Cup tournament. I don't know about you but even though I'm not greatly interested in football, I like to hear that the England team are doing well. So will they bring it home? We'll see! Read about the Methodist connection to how they nearly didn't bring it home in 1966 and a hero dog on page 24.

Your Newsletter will be back in September, so whether you're home or away keep safe, keep cool and have a lovely summer.

God bless

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aine', followed by a small flourish.

**WE ASK FOR GOD'S BLESSING AND PRAY** for those known to us who are in need of our prayers at this time.

**WE PRAY** for all those unwell, in body and mind. For those in hospital, for those awaiting operations and for those receiving treatment for ongoing illnesses.

**WE PRAY** for all those going through difficult times because of financial worries, family problems or health anxieties.

**WE PRAY** for all those who mourn the loss of loved ones, both recently and in the past.

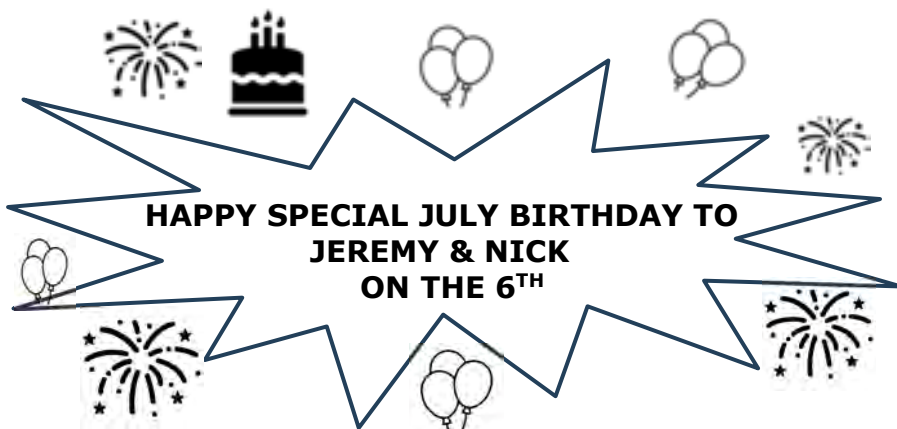
**WE PRAY** for all those taking exams or waiting for results, at school, college or university and for those attending job interviews.

**ALL THE NAMES** of these people are in our hearts Lord and you know who they are. May they all be comforted knowing you are with them all the time.

**AND WE PRAY FOR OURSELVES**, Lord, for those times when we are in need of your healing touch.

*Simply trusting in the saviour,  
Healing virtue now receive;  
You must never doubt or waver,  
His unfailing word believe.  
Casting all your care on Jesus,  
Sickness, sorrow, grief, and pain;  
Oh, believe his blessed promise,  
There is healing in his name.*

Barney E Warren



**HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY ALSO TO:**

**Michelle & Derek on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Lindsey & Riley on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Jemimah on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Jeremy on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
Christina on the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Paisley on the 28<sup>th</sup>  
Tim on the 29<sup>th</sup>**

**HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY TO:**

**Bambo on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Renyl on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Oli on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
Doreen on the 26<sup>th</sup>**

**and Birthday wishes to everyone celebrating a  
birthday over the next couple of months.**

**Have a lovely day!**

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

## **CONGRATULATIONS to:**

All our young people who have finished exams for this year.

As Tahlia said she now feels free!

*Enjoy your summer, Tahlia, after all your hard work – Ed.*



## **A PRAYER FOR OUR GROWING CHILDREN**

Lord, our children have different tastes and ideas  
from our own, show us when not to speak.

When they disagree with us over what we allow them to do,  
give us the wisdom to be neither  
over-protective nor irresponsible.

And when they move away from us,  
help us to welcome their freedom,  
and to be always there for them when they need us.

Amen

*Angela Ashwin*

Submitted by Lorraine Bendon



## **CUPPA WITH A COPPER 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE**



Our June meeting with the local neighbourhood policing team was very useful as they shared information about new scams and how to keep yourself safe when withdrawing money from banks or post offices.

Once again the church CCTV has been able to be of help when needing to track persons or vehicles moving down The Drive.

The officers are well informed about the local area and willingly share appropriate information about their work. You may see them at various events associated with the church as they are keen to be helpful and approachable.

Take a look at the Mets new platform, MET ENGAGE where you can get to know your local officers and help shape how your local area is policed. It's also an opportunity for you to tell the police what concerns you most. [metengage.co.uk](http://metengage.co.uk).

Are you interested in representing our church community at the CRANBROOK WARD PANEL? Two representatives are required. The next meeting will take place on 9th July 18.45-20.00 at The Frenford Club, Cranbrook Road.

If you are interested please contact:  
PC Jason.Marchant@met.police.uk or  
SNTJI-.Cranbrook@met.police.uk

Thank you

Lorraine Bendon



## **BEING A WOMAN IN GOD'S KINGDOM 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

Revd Jacqui, Antonia, Oli and I met at Barking Methodist church to take part in this event. We didn't know what to expect, but we were not disappointed.

Revd Mmasape had called upon her friends and colleagues, Revd Dr Kate Coleman, Revd Charity Tozvepi Nzegwu and Revd Cham Kuar-Mann as guest speakers, to share different interpretations of some familiar Bible stories - the woman at the well, Lots wife, and the five sisters. All stories about women but looked at from another perspective.

Revd Cate, Revd Cham and Revd Charity spoke with such passion and an amazing ability to explain these stories in a way that celebrated these women in the Bible. Many theologians see these women as fallen women and the perpetrators of their stories. How wrong they are!

It was an awe-inspiring day. One that we were all glad we had attended.

Jo Wright



## **SOPHIA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

My Dear Church Family

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for surrounding me with so much love as I celebrated my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

God has blessed me richly through each of you. Your prayers, your kindness, your smiles and your presence in my life mean more than words can say. I am grateful for every hug, every message, and every act of love you've shared with me.

May God continue to bind us together in his grace as we walk forward in faith.

Thank you for making this milestone so joyful and unforgettable.

Lots of love  
Sophia Bampoe

*I'm so sorry Jeremy and I were unable to be with you at your special celebration Sophia. We heard it was a wonderful event – Ed.*



## **ANTIQUES ROADSHOW VALENTINES MANSION 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



For the first time the *Antiques Roadshow* was filmed at Valentines Mansion. We had heard about this a few months previously and had applied for tickets without success. Out of the blue a friend contacted me and said she had two spare tickets and would we like them!

My friend Jo Perrett and I, along with her dog Teddy, set off to arrive at the Mansion at 11am on the day. Luckily it was a dry day as it had rained nonstop the previous day. We joined the queue to gain entry and after our tickets were checked we were given a special armband. I did not take any items which meant I did not have to wait in long queues but could wander around all the experts' tables etc and witness the meticulous way in which everything was filmed.

Everything was very informal. We got to meet Fiona Bruce and all the experts. We happened to be at the front when they were filming a "*basic, better, best*". Hopefully we will be seen when it is eventually screened (probably September). Apparently that one day's filming was sufficient for three episodes hence they filmed three different "*basic, better, best*".

Great interest was shown in Teddy and all the other dogs there by the film crews and experts so we expect they will also feature in the episodes.

The stewards were from the Mansion's volunteers and Friends of the Mansion. What an experience for them all with many memories being made.

Our last VIP visit to Valentines Mansion and the Park was when the Queen visited in March 2012.

Maggie Smith

## **CIRCUIT MEETING 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



The Circuit Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June was the last meeting to be chaired by our current Superintendent, Revd Mmasape, before she leaves the circuit this year.

Here are a few items from the meeting:

- **Circuit Senior Steward report:**
  - Deacon Andy Packer, who is due to move next year, has asked for an extension to remain in the circuit from 2027 – 2030.
  - Arrangements are being made for the arrival of the new Circuit Superintendent, Revd Chris Sandy.
- **Circuit Vision/Priorities: -**
  - **Communication** – Information from Circuit Office was not always being shared with congregations. A low turnout at the Women's Conference held at Barking Methodist Church on 6<sup>th</sup> June resulted in a shortfall for the cost of the conference which the Circuit Meeting agreed to meet.

- **Children & Youth** – Circuit Youth event to be held at Barking in June. Handbills were given out.
- **Worship** – Three people had indicated that they were called to ministry.
- **Evangelism** – There were events in the circuit and Bible studies.
- **Pastoral** – Sharon Grundy was recently appointed as Pastoral Lay Worker to assist churches. On 4<sup>th</sup> July she will be holding a meeting focussing on grief from a pastoral visitors aspect.

➤ **Circuit Advance Fund:**

Applications from Ilford Church and Grange Hill were considered. Grange Hill was approved; Ilford to resubmit.

➤ **Property:**

The meeting agreed a significant expenditure to bring the Lyndhurst Gardens manse up to standard for the new superintendent.

The tenancy at 19 Bethell Avenue has been renewed.

➤ **Old Dagenham New Build project:**

Currently waiting for revised proposal from the developer.

➤ **Finance:**

New Circuit Treasurer still to be appointed.

Finance reports and accounts for 2024/25 which were put together by Jackie Saito were presented.

It was agreed that the allocation of the circuit assessment would be recalculated based on the

formula previously adopted but amended to exclude reserves.

Diane Foster



## VALENTINE SINGERS

### CONCERT

**SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 7:30PM**

### BRAHMS REQUIEM

Not a conventional requiem –

Brahms chose texts from the German Luther Bible rather than the Latin text of the Catholic Requiem Mass. Concert also includes music by Bruckner and Stanford.

St Mary's Church, High Road, South Woodford E18 2PA  
£18 (£9 students/benefit holders)

(buy in advance - £20/£10 on the door!)

Free admission for under 16s!

phone 01277 364772 or visit our website [valentinesingers.org](http://valentinesingers.org)  
or see Andrew Taylor



### CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE & PICNIC

**5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 11.15AM**

Our Church Anniversary service will be led by our own minister, Revd Jacqui Jones.

The service will be followed by our annual get-together at The Rodings, Roding Lane South from 1.30pm onwards. The Rodings is an outdoor space, but it does have a hall too.

Everyone is welcome to join in our bring and share lunch. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

For more information and directions please speak to Jo, Michelle, or any of the stewards.

**SATURDAY LUNCH 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY AND 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 1.00PM  
THE DRIVE CHURCH PARLOUR**

All are welcome at our church lunches. The menus for July and August are still to be decided but you can be sure of good food and good company. Cost is £5.



Lists will be put at the back of the church soon for you to add your name or you can sign up via a Whatsapp message.

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***ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY***

TDY will be taking part in this service provided by *Action for Children*.



Rosie Knight, Action for Children representative, will talk to the congregation about the charity.

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**FAREWELL SERVICE for  
REVD MMASAPE THATHANE-TYOLWENI  
SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026 at 4pm  
at THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH**



Revd Mmasape will be leaving the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit to take up her appointment in Exeter, Devon.

Mmasape arrived in the circuit in September 2019 and served as our minister for five years before becoming Superintendent for the circuit.

We shall be very sorry to see her go but wish her well for her future ministry in Devon.

Join us at The Drive for a Circuit service to bid her farewell. Refreshments provided.

## **SOLAR ECLIPSE 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August there will be a total solar eclipse visible over the Arctic Ocean, Greenland, Iceland, Spain and a narrow region of northern Portugal.



Elsewhere in Europe, the UK and Ireland, observers will get to see an impressive partial solar eclipse, with over 90% of the Sun obscured in many places. This is the first total solar eclipse in mainland Europe since 1999, making it a rare and spectacular event for observers. The Moon will pass between the Earth and the Sun, blocking sunlight for over two minutes. Europe won't see a total eclipse again until 2090.

The partial solar eclipse will occur between 6.00pm and 8.00pm on Wednesday 12 August, with peak obscuration soon after 7.00pm. The moon will obscure between 90 and 95 per cent of the sun (with greater totality in the South

West), causing the sky to go almost completely dark for a few minutes in what would usually be daylight.

There will be other partial solar eclipses in future years, but this is the most significant one most people in Western Europe will have the chance to see in their lifetimes, which means there will be significant public interest.

*Text taken from various websites*



**THE DRIVE CENTENARY MISSION  
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2026**

**SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**



If you have any ideas and are willing to run a stall please let Jeremy know. We are also collecting, bric-a-brac items, books, DVDs, jigsaws, china (i.e. anything we might be able to sell) I shall be running a home produce stall – jams, chutney etc. Any donations of fruit, vegetables or tomatoes (green or otherwise) would be very much appreciated. Thank you, Diane.

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**



*Come along and join the **BIG** Sing – more details to follow.*

## **FOOD DONATIONS AT THE DRIVE**

We are so fortunate that we have regular donors to our food collection which is donated to our local food banks.

As we have frequent visitors and some new regular attendees to the services and activities within the church, I thought it might prove useful to remind donors that:

All food items given must be in date and this must be visible.  
Packets must not have previously been opened or used.  
We cannot accept fresh fruit or vegetables.  
Loose biscuits or sweets cannot be passed on to the food banks as there is no visible use by date.

Please continue to provide food and toiletries as your donations are much appreciated.

Most urgently needed are: cereals, tinned fruit, vegetarian food items, jams/spreads, biscuits, shower gel, long life milk, tinned tomatoes, pasta, rice pudding, custard, tinned fish.

For more information, [redbridge.foodbank.org.uk](http://redbridge.foodbank.org.uk)

Thank you

Lorraine Bendon



## **GORDON**

The McIlwain family were members of The Drive Church at the start of the Second World War. There were two sons Albert and Gordon. Albert wasn't able to join the forces because of his eyesight but Gordon did join and was captured in Burma. Towards the end of the war he was taken from Burma to Japan by sea in a fleet of ships and the fleet was bombed by the Americans. Gordon was cast into the sea and swam. I don't know how far he swam but he finished up absolutely exhausted on the north coast of Australia where he was discovered laying on the beach. The Australians took good care of him and it took six months to get him in a fit enough state to be able to come back to this country.

His parents had moved to Bournemouth so when he arrived in Ilford, he knocked on my mother's door in Lincoln Gardens where we were living at the time. He asked her if she knew anywhere he could stay because he needed to go to work at the Town Hall where he had a job and was undertaking the Institute of Secretaries exams. We had a spare room and my mother invited him to stay with us. When I was about 15, he took me

with him to Bournemouth to see his parents over a very hot weekend.

He ended up staying with us for a few years before he got married and moved into Cowley Road with his wife who was a physiotherapist. One thing I do remember was that there was an occasion when we were invited to their home for a cup of tea. I had been in agony with fibrositis in my shoulder. When Gordon's wife saw the pain I was in she got her fingers working in my shoulder and within about five minutes I was completely pain-free and able to move normally. What a wonderful relief! Unfortunately, I lost contact with Gordon and his wife so do not know any more details about his marriage or whether he had a family.

Brian Grinham

## **SPOTLIGHT ON ESSEX**

I was given a book token for a "landmark" birthday last year and an appointment with my solicitor in Brentwood gave me the chance to spend useful time in Waterstones. (Yes there used to be one in Ilford).



There was an interesting section on Essex. I bought three books – *Essex-40 Favourite Walks* by Neil D'arcy Jones, *The Little Book of Essex* by Dee Gordon and *111 Places in Essex That You Shouldn't Miss* by Ed Glinert.

There is even a chapter on Valentines Park or is it Little Ilford Park in Manor Park? What is the real Itchycoo Park which features in a song written by Steve Marriott and Ronnie Lane?

As I write this at home I look out of the window across the road to the trees of Valentines Park. This still has Essex in the address, even if it is part of the London Borough of Redbridge.

Susan Ruckes

*Those books sound very interesting Sue. The Fundraising Committee have applied to the Methodist Churches in the Historic County of Essex Fund for a grant towards our Centenary Mission Development Project. Sometimes it's good to have Essex in our address! – Ed.*

## **THE WESLEY BEECHES**

I wonder how many of you stop to take a look at what's on the walls in our church foyer?

I do look at the noticeboard but it wasn't until I was going into the Parlour with our young people from TDY that Dayane, asked about the picture of the beech tree in the foyer. Jo and I looked at each other but didn't know what she was referring to.

So Dayane led me back into the foyer and pointed to the framed drawing of a tree. It was only then that I read the text about it. I don't know who put it on the wall but I found it very interesting.

Apparently, when John Wesley was staying with friends in Northern Ireland in 1787, he twined two beech saplings together to represent the unity of Methodism and Anglicanism.



There is more to the story but I'm not going to type all the text out here – you can stop in the foyer and read it for yourself!

Diane Foster

## **THE STRANGE CASE OF THE MISSING WORLD CUP AND A DOG NAMED PICKLES**



World Cup fever has hit Britain once again, with football fans glued to their TVs and cheering on England and Scotland as they take part in the world's biggest sporting tournament.

Today, the connection to Methodism of one of the World Cup's most intriguing episodes is little-known – six decades on from the strange series of events.

The 1966 World Cup marked the England team's biggest triumph. Bobby Moore hoisted the world-famous Jules Rimet Trophy after England beat West Germany in the final, in front of a crowd of nearly 100,000 people inside Wembley Stadium and more than 33 million watching at home.

But it was a moment that almost never happened. Four months earlier, the silver-gilt statue was stolen from Methodist Central Hall in Westminster, where it was being exhibited alongside rare stamps.

The story began in January 1966, when the Jules Rimet trophy was taken to England – the host nation for that year's World Cup. A month later, the Stanley Gibbons stamp company were allowed to put the cup on display as part of their Stampex exhibition at Methodist Central Hall library, on the condition that the trophy be kept under constant guard.

Although guards kept watch around the clock, with additional guards standing beside the display cabinet while the exhibition was open, the thief found a hole in the defences. The Central Hall was used for Methodist services on Sundays, when the trophy was not so heavily guarded. Just after midday on Sunday 20 March, the guards noticed that the prized trophy had been stolen from the library.

In a case worthy of Sherlock Holmes, Scotland Yard detectives conducted interviews, with one churchgoer describing seeing a suspicious man in the vicinity. The day after the heist, Football Association chairman, Joe Mears, received an anonymous phone call saying a parcel would be delivered to him at Chelsea Football Club the next

day. When it arrived, inside was the lining from the top of the trophy along with a ransom demand for £150,000.

Accompanied by police, Mr Mears went to meet the thief in Battersea Park, where a pursuit ensued. The culprit was arrested. At the station, he was recognised as a known petty thief who said he had been paid to act as a go-between for the real robber. Seemingly at a dead end, the police could not find the location of the stolen trophy.

But a week after the theft, which had caused headlines around the globe, collie dog Pickles, walking with his owner David Corbett, began sniffing at a package under the hedge of Mr Corbett's house in the Beulah Hill area of London. To the astonishment of Mr Corbett, it contained the missing World Cup. He promptly handed it to the police, who retained it as evidence until 18 April.

They returned it to the FA before the opening of the 1966 tournament in July, with England subsequently claiming victory.

After his historic find, Pickles was treated like a celebrity – he was presented with a medal, appeared on Blue Peter, was invited to shop openings and received a year's supply of dog food. There is now a blue plaque in London marking the spot where he made his discovery.



*Read more about the World Cup trophy on the Methodist Church website.*

## **ENGLISH CHURCH, FUNCHAL, MADEIRA**

Every August we spend three weeks on this beautiful island at our time share with family and friends. Whilst there we visit the English Church which is Church of England in the diocese of Europe.

We go to their service on a Sunday morning after which they serve coffee etc in their beautiful gardens! Over the years we have made some good friends amongst their congregation.

Maggie Smith

*Thanks for this Maggie. I found the church's website – here's a shortened version of its history: – Ed.*



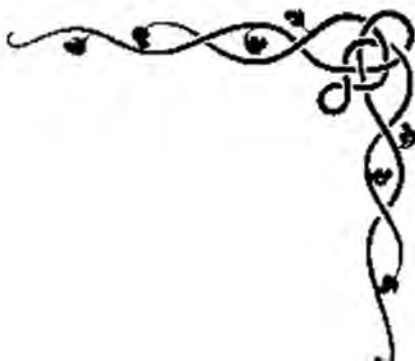
The earliest record of an Anglican church service on Madeira dates from 1774, when the chaplain of a passing ship was prevailed upon to hold a service for the residents.

Then in 1807, Madeira was host to a garrison of British troops detached to the island to support it during the Napoleonic wars. The chaplain attached to the garrison, Revd Cautley, provided regular services for the residents in the consular chapel and was so popular that he could well have been a principal reason for the residents to consider building their own church. The consul, Henry Veitch, was tasked with the work. A fund was opened to finance the build. The amount required was £10,000 and subscribers included King George III, the Duke of Wellington and the family of Lord Nelson.

The building started in 1816 and was finished in 1822. The initial service attended by its first regular chaplain took place on 22 October.

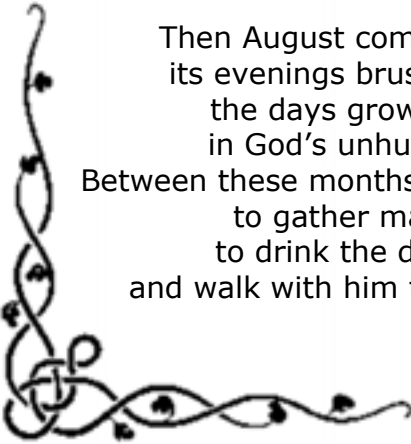
To read the full history see: [holytrinitymadeira.org](http://holytrinitymadeira.org)

## *POETRY CORNER*



## **BETWEEN JULY AND AUGUST, THE LORD WALKS**

July wakes in a hymn of gold,  
fields bowed beneath the psalm of wheat,  
and every breeze, a whispered prayer  
that stirs the heart to lift its gaze.  
The sun, like a steadfast lamp of grace,  
pours blessing on the ripened earth;  
each blossom leans toward heaven's light,  
each river hums a quiet trust.



Then August comes with deeper tones,  
its evenings brushed in amber peace;  
the days grow slow, as if to rest  
in God's unhurried, gentle hand.  
Between these months, the soul learns stillness—  
to gather manna in the heat,  
to drink the dew of early dawn,  
and walk with him through summer's gate.

*Anon*

## **HELPLINES**

### **SAMARITANS**

Available 24 hours a day provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal

thoughts. [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org) 116 123 (free to call from within the UK and Ireland), 24 hours Email: [jo@samaritans.org](mailto: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](http://www.mind.org.uk) InfoLine: 0300 123 3393 to call, or text 86463 Email [info@mind.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.papyrusuk.org) Helpline: 0800 068 4141 Email: [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org)

### **YOUNGMINDS**

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://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](http://thecalmzone.net) Helpline: 0800 58 58 58 [thecalmzone.net/help/webchat/](http://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](http://brook.org).

### **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](http://gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage)

**NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION**

0808 800 5000 email:[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.ageuk.org.uk) Information and advice for older people.

| <b>DIARY</b>                                                  |                |                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JULY</b>                                                   |                |                                                                                                 |
| Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>                                           | 7.30pm         | Valentine Singers Concert see page 16                                                           |
| <b>Sun 5<sup>TH</sup></b>                                     | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Church Anniversary Service with Holy Communion led by Revd Jacqui Jones</b>                  |
| Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>                                           | from 1.30pm    | Church Anniversary Picnic at The Rodings see page 16                                            |
| Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>                                          | 1.00pm         | Church Lunch<br>Church Parlour see page 17                                                      |
| <b>Sun 12<sup>th</sup><br/>Action for<br/>Children Sunday</b> | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by TDY &amp; Rosie Knight<br/>See page 17</b>                            |
| <b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup></b>                                    | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by Mr Alfred Mensah</b>                                                  |
| <b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup></b>                                    | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by Mr Matthew Walton-Thorne</b>                                          |
| <b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup></b>                                    | <b>4.00pm</b>  | <b>Circuit Farewell Service at the Drive for Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni<br/>See page 17</b> |
| <b>AUGUST</b>                                                 |                |                                                                                                 |
| <b>Sun 2<sup>nd</sup></b>                                     | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Stephen G Normanton</b>                      |
| Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>                                           | 1.00pm         | Church Lunch<br>Church Parlour see page 17                                                      |
| <b>Sun 9<sup>th</sup></b>                                     | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones</b>                                                 |
| <b>Sun 16<sup>th</sup></b>                                    | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by Mrs Sharon Grundy</b>                                                 |
| <b>Sun 23<sup>rd</sup></b>                                    | <b>11.15am</b> | <b>Morning Worship led by Mrs Lynn Packer</b>                                                   |

| DIARY contd.         |                                                            |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| AUGUST               |                                                            |                                    |
| Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> | 11.15am                                                    | Morning Worship<br>Own Arrangement |
| Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> | Welcome service for Revd Chris Sandy<br>Time and venue tbc |                                    |

***DEADLINE FOR ITEMS***

***FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE:***

***SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2026***

***I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU***

***THANK YOU & HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!***



## **Services every Sunday at 11.15 am**

Communion services as announced

**Senior Church Stewards:** Michelle Garner, Diane Foster  
[stewards@drive-methodist.church](mailto:stewards@drive-methodist.church)

**Property Steward and Bookings:** Jeremy Foster  
[property@drive-methodist.church](mailto:property@drive-methodist.church)  
[bookings@drive-methodist.church](mailto:bookings@drive-methodist.church)

**Church Council Secretary:** Theodora Garner  
[secretary@drive-methodist.church](mailto:secretary@drive-methodist.church)

**Music@The Drive:** Andrew Taylor  
[music@drive-methodist.church](mailto:music@drive-methodist.church)

**Pastoral Secretary:** Lorraine Bendon  
[pastoral@drive-methodist.church](mailto:pastoral@drive-methodist.church)

**The Drive Youth:** Jo Wright  
[junior-church@drive-methodist.church](mailto:junior-church@drive-methodist.church)

**Flower Rota Secretary:** Anne Dellow  
[flowers@drive-methodist.church](mailto:flowers@drive-methodist.church)

**Safeguarding@The Drive:** Lorraine Bendon  
[safeguarding@drive-methodist.church](mailto:safeguarding@drive-methodist.church)

**JMA Secretary:** Diane Foster  
[jma@drive-methodist.church](mailto:jma@drive-methodist.church)

**Newsletter Editor:** Diane Foster  
[newsletter@drive-methodist.church](mailto:newsletter@drive-methodist.church)

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