

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



NEWSLETTER

October 2026



Minister: Revd Jacqueline Jones
Email: rev.jacquelinejones@outlook.com

[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.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

It is a joy to write as we enter autumn and celebrate the life of the Barking, Dagenham and Ilford Circuit. After a wonderful summer, I hope the sunshine has blessed you. As the light softens, I pray that the Michaelmas term will bring warmth and celebration.

Since returning from our autumn Synod, I have been reflecting on its focus: Faith-Rooted Community Organising. It recalled my time in South Africa in the late 1980s, as the struggle against apartheid moved towards its end. Faith organising played an important role across the country, and listening was at its heart.

In recent weeks, I have enjoyed reflecting with our churches on how, why and to whom we listen—and what distracts us. During October, traditionally Black History Month, we will honour the people, stories and everyday contributions that sustain Black life in our communities, recognising Black history as part of our shared British and Christian story throughout the year. This connects with the London District's commitment to Faith-Rooted Community Organising (FRCO): listening deeply, building relationships, sharing lived experience and acting together for justice.

Following the District's recent FRCO training day, the monthly "Rooted with Renée" gatherings will explore power, justice, spiritual grounding and practical organising, with autumn sessions on 28 September, 26 October and 30 November. As we discern the new work God has laid before the Circuit, I invite you to consider: whose voices are we hearing, whose stories have been overlooked, and how might our listening help us become a more inclusive, justice-seeking Church?

On a personal note, I am grateful that my grandchildren are well. One of the babies has been unwell, but everyone is now safely at home. My house has been full of family this summer, and I am looking forward to visits from special friends. It has been a full and wonderful season, and I pray that, as the leaves fall this autumn, our souls will be enlivened.

Wishing you all every blessing,

Revd Jacqui

EDITOR'S NOTE

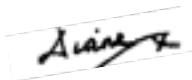
Hello everyone and welcome to our October Newsletter. 2026 is rushing along. The choir will soon be rehearsing Christmas anthems and carols at their Tuesday evening practices! But after the heat of the summer, we can welcome the autumn with its cooler weather and rich autumnal colours.

It's also an important time of the year for farmers as they gather the crops they have been growing for food and animal feed. Along with many churches holding their Harvest Thanksgiving services around this time, we will be having our own service of thanks on 4th October. Following the service you are all invited to our Harvest Lunch – see page 11.

A FINAL REQUEST for any items that can be sold at the Autumn Fayre on 10th October – see page 13. Any contributions would be very much appreciated – bric-a-brac, books, Christmas decorations etc. It's taken a lot of time and planning for many people so we hope it will be a joyful and successful event. Don't forget to tell your family and friends!

Staying on the subject of our Centenary Fundraising, Andrew's Sing Hallelujah event is on 14th November. See page 16 for details and how you can register.

Have a good month



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 our young people as they start new schools, college or university and for all 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.

*O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.*

*How can we fail to be restored,
when reached by love that never ends?*

Fred Pratt Green (1967)

HAPPY **OCTOBER** BIRTHDAY TO:



JANET ON 1ST
SHEELA SELWYN ON 3RD
YETUNDE ON 6TH
and



SPECIAL ZERO BIRTHDAY
CONGRATULATIONS TO:



MAGGIE ON THE 20th
and
LOUISE ON THE 22ND



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

CONGRATULATIONS to...



Audrey and her Team at the Redbridge Social Centre for raising £ at the Macmillan Coffee Morning on 25th September.

Another splendid achievement Audrey – Ed.

Moji who has now become a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

That's excellent Moji, well done – Ed.





Mike for maintaining his title of Mens Singles Champion for a second year at The Billericay Bowling Club. *Well done Mike!* – Ed.

ANNE WARDEN

Those of us who knew her were very sad to hear of the passing of Anne Warden. Anne was a well-loved and valued member of our church. Here, Jo and I share some fond memories of Anne:

It was with great sadness that we heard about the death of Anne.

I first met Anne when she moved to Ilford. I was a teenager, so it was quite some time ago! Anne and my dad, Frank, had both been at the same Methodist teacher training college, Westminster College. Dad attended when it was in London. It then moved to Oxford, and this is where Anne trained to become a history teacher. Funnily enough a few years later I worked at the college in Oxford too.

We had many happy outings and dinners with Anne as she was settling into life in Ilford and subsequently joined The Drive Church, became a member of the choir, and a Guide Leader. Some of you may remember that Anne's Guide leader name was "Rusty".

Anne was my Guide leader and with her help and support, along with Sandra Runeckles and Barbara Norcaro – who were both leaders with Anne- I managed to achieve my Queen's Guide award. Something that I was always grateful for.



After leaving Rangers I joined Anne and her team to become a Guide leader too. I have so many happy memories of Guide

camps, sports days, craft events, sleep overs and many, many more occasions that Anne so diligently organised. She

was a great organiser, singer and such a kind and compassionate leader. She always seemed so cheerful and positive even when standing in a muddy field in the pouring rain at midnight, checking to see the Guides were safe and sleeping.

Many Guide leaders in this district will still remember Anne and all the wonderful work she did for the Guide Association by supporting and nurturing young girls.

Whilst at The Drive, Anne organised so many social and fundraising events. One of them was called "Drive Alive". This was a celebration and fund-raising event that had different categories for people to join in with. This included the chance to win competitions and enjoy fun and fellowship. It was such a great success.

Anne was an alto in The Drive choir; she had a lovely voice. Soft but confident with a hint of her Yorkshire roots. I sat opposite her in the soprano section and we would often make each other laugh!

It was so wonderful that Anne married Ian, a Cub Scout leader at The Drive. They have enjoyed many happy years together and Ian has cared for Anne with such love and compassion.

Anne was a big part of The Drive family. We remember with gratitude all that Anne did and hold Ian in our prayers at this sad time.

I first met Anne when I became a member of the Foster family and attended church parade with Jeremy when he was a Scout Leader. At that time Anne was the Guide Leader.

I got to know her better when I shared a tent with her at my first Cub Camp to help the service crew of which Jeremy was in charge. I have a vivid memory of Anne with her sleeves rolled up scrubbing away at billy cans covering her hands in blackened soot.

I became closer to Anne when I became a steward under her very efficient leadership as senior steward. She was always full of ideas for our church, one of which was 'Drive Alive' an initiative to showcase talents in celebration of one of our anniversary milestones. I remember I got first prize for my Victoria Sponge! Looking back through old editions of the newsletter, I came across a piece written by Anne in December 2006 about the idea of a website for The Drive. I had forgotten that Anne was one of the people alongside Mike and Andrew who were instrumental in setting it up.

And of course she was a very valued alto member of our choir. Anne had a bit of a giggly streak and there was a particular hymn we practiced which, for some reason, when we got to the chorus would set her off into fits of laughter. Then of course that would set the rest of us off. I'm not sure if Andrew found it funny! It's strange though that I don't think we've sung that hymn since! We missed Anne so much in the choir when, because of health reasons, she was unable to be a part of it anymore.

Anne had been very ill for many years and her husband, Ian, committed his time tirelessly to care for her. May he find

comfort now as he continues to live his life knowing that at last Anne is no longer suffering and is at peace.

Diane Foster



A PRAYER FOR HARVEST

*God of the Harvest,
just as you planned flowers to bloom,
trees to blossom
and the earth to bring forth fruit,
so too might goodness grow in us
that we might not only be blessed,
but also become a blessing to others,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen*

Martyn Payne, BRF volunteer





HARVEST
at
THE DRIVE
on

SUNDAY
4TH October

11.15am
led by
Revd Jacqui
Jones

LUNCH at 1pm

Come and join the service on this joyful celebration which will be followed by a delicious lunch in the Church Hall at 1pm.

ALL ARE MOST WELCOME

If you would like to contribute, gifts of food for Harvest can be brought to the church on Saturday morning 3rd October between 10am – 12noon or to the Sunday service.

Please see the notice from the
Circuit Office on the next page
regarding suitable and
necessary food.

If you prefer, there will also be a monetary collection at the service.

If you plan to join the lunch, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.
There is no cost.

FROM THE CIRCUIT OFFICE:



Urgent Request for Foodbank Supplies.

The Grange Hill Management Committee thank you for your ongoing support of the Redbridge Foodbank either through your donations made directly to them or given via the Grange Hill project.

Over several months the amount of donations received by the Redbridge Foodbank has reduced, and as a result the amount supplied to Grange Hill has also been reduced. Some weeks we have not received items, even essentials such as long-life milk and toilet rolls.

We currently are short of the following items: deodorant, washing tabs, washing up liquid, toothpaste, biscuits, dried noodles, toilet paper, treats, ie crisps, small bags of sweets or multi-pack biscuits like Penguins or KitKats, long-life milk, squash.

The Grange Hill Management Committee would be grateful for donations of the above goods for the Foodbank - if you require further information, then please contact me in the Circuit Office. Thank you, as always, for the help you give to the project.

Our new Superintendent, Revd Chris Sandy, plans to be working from the Circuit Office every Monday between 10 and 12, and is available for people to come and speak to him during those hours if they have issues to discuss. (If anybody plans to just turn up, it might be worth checking with me first that he is here).

Jackie Saito, Administrator,
Barking, Dagenham & Ilford Circuit Office
bdicircuitoffice@btconnect.com 020 8517 6159



Autumn Fayre

Saturday 10th October 2026

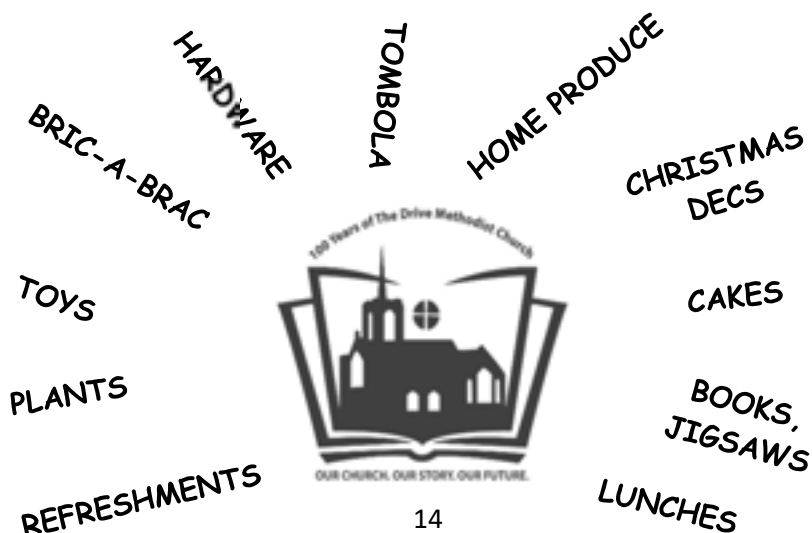
10.00am – 3.00pm

at

The Drive Methodist Church

to support the

CENTENARY MISSION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



SATURDAY LUNCH

Hello to all our loyal Saturday lunchers. As October is proving to be a particularly busy time at church, we will not be holding our usual Saturday Lunch.

We hope that you will support a Charity Afternoon Tea in aid of Breast Cancer Now on November 21ST.
Time to be confirmed.

Lorraine Bendon

HOMELESS SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER



The ecumenical charity, Housing Justice, holds Homelessness Sunday each year. Their aim is to raise awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness among churches and their congregations. Their hope is that by taking time to reflect on Homelessness Sunday, church congregations will consider what they can do in their own community to alleviate homelessness, suffering and poverty.
www.housingjustice.org.uk

PRISON WEEK 11TH – 17TH OCTOBER

Prisons Week is an annual ecumenical initiative in the UK, continuing a tradition begun in 1975, encouraging churches to pray for everyone affected by imprisonment.

This year's campaign "All Are Invited" takes its inspiration from Matthew 22:1-14, which says *'the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find,*

the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests'. The theme highlights radical hospitality and God's inclusive call, drawing on the parable of the wedding banquet.

The week runs from Sunday 11th October and focuses on prayer and action for prisoners, victims, families, and all working in the criminal justice system.

FREEDOM SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER

Initiated by International Justice Mission, a global organisation working to stop slavery and violence, Freedom Sunday is a chance to join with many thousands of churches around the world to pray, give, and advocate for this cause. It is held on the Sunday closest to EU Anti-Trafficking Day which is observed annually on 18th October. www.ijmuk.org



BIBLE SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER

Bible Sunday is a day set aside in the church calendar to celebrate the gift of God's word. Bible Sunday, as its promoters rightly point out, may be marked on any (or every!) Sunday. Of the more than 7,000 documented languages in the world today, over half do not have written Christian scriptures. This means that 209 million people do



not, or cannot, possess any part of the Bible in their own language. Those of us who do are fortunate.

www.biblesociety.org.uk



SING HALLELUJAH



in support of

The Drive Centenary Mission Development Project

at

THE DRIVE METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2026

A chance to sing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus and other pieces from our choir cupboard.

All singers welcome whether you've been a choral singer all your life or just want to have a go - there will be parts for everyone.



Arrive:1.00pm; Rehearse:1.30pm

Informal performance:4.00pm

Finish by 4.30pm

Cost to take part: £10

including refreshments

to register for a ticket please email:

singhal@drive-methodist.church

or let Andrew or Diane know.

Payment to be made on the door by cash or card.

We look forward to singing with you!



POETRY CORNER



October's Grace

As October paints the trees in gold and red,
We pause to thank the Lord for daily bread.

The crisp air whispers of his gentle care,
And falling leaves remind us of his prayer.
The harvest gathers, fruits of toil and love,
A gift from heaven, blessings from above.

In every sunset, in each twilight hue,
We see his mercy, faithful, strong, and true.
Through shorter days and nights that softly fall,
We hear God's voice, the greatest gift of all.

Our hearts uplifted, in his presence stay,
Giving thanks for October, and his way.

Anon

BOOK REVIEW

On the front garden wall of a house in the village of Horning, Norfolk there is a 'pop-up' second hand bookshop with all proceeds given to charity. When I pass by I always take a look to see what's in stock. A few months ago I picked up *The Power and The Glory* by Graham Greene published in 1940.



Although a work of fiction, the book relates to the true events in the Mexican state of Tobasco in the 1930s, when the government attempted to suppress the Catholic Church. The suppression was brutal with priests forced to marry and renounce their faith. Those refusing or just being troublesome were summarily executed.

The Power and The Glory tells the story of a renegade priest who travels the countryside keeping one step ahead of the police. He hears confessions, gives Communion and tends the sick and dying. But he is a flawed man having fathered a child and his drinking has earned him the title 'The Whisky Priest'. He is constantly torn by self-doubt and guilt.

Time and again the priest could escape over the border but defers to the needs of his people. He is finally betrayed by a man who persuades him to hear the confession of a dying man only to find the police waiting for him. The priest is executed by firing squad.

The priest's life and death mirrors the life of Jesus. He travels in poverty from village to village, tending the poor and oppressed. He is unjustly pursued by the state and is ultimately betrayed and executed.

For me the two messages from the book are:

- That God's grace can work through all people despite their human flaws and failings,
- That faith cannot be suppressed, and the Church will ultimately triumph.

Jeremy Foster



OPERATION SHOEBOX APPEAL 2026

Yes it's almost time to start packing shoeboxes again!



For the first time ever, Operation Christmas Child UK will be sending shoebox gifts to Ghana! They are thrilled to partner with local churches across this West African nation in sharing joy, hope, and the message of Jesus with children in their communities.

If you are able to help, please take a box and leaflet from the back of the church or bring an individual item to be added to a box. There is a box for these items at the back of the

church too. The leaflet gives you gift ideas along with items that cannot be sent.

Thank you

Jo Wright

SOAP OPERA



During my childhood in post-war Ilford, a bar of *Sunlight* soap was a familiar sight by the butler sink in our kitchen. The soap had a distinctive smell and was yellow as the name *Sunlight* might suggest. The soap is still available in other countries such as

Canada and the Netherlands. As I was reminded during the morning service at The Drive on Sunday 2nd August, other soaps are available!

Also in my kitchen cupboard is a box of *Fairy* green household 'pre-treatment' bars of soap. I am not sure if this is still available. I understand the traditional picture of the *Fairy* baby has very important connections with the Drive Church. (*The original Fairy baby was designed by Eddie Seviour, Mike's father* – Ed.)



Unlike many who ran factories at the time, the owner of *Sunlight* had strong religious beliefs and was concerned about the health and well-being of his staff. The town of Port Sunlight was created as a pleasant place for people to live and work. The importance of the environment influenced how things were planned.

Susan Ruckes

Thanks for sharing this Sue, I took a look at the Port Sunlight website – portsunlightvillage.com Very interesting – Ed.

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 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.

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

DIARY		
SEPTEMBER		
Sun 27th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Sharon Grundy
Tues 29 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
OCTOBER		
Sat 3 rd	10.00am – 12 noon	Collection of Harvest Gifts in the church – see page 11
Sun 4th Homeless Sunday	11.15am	Harvest Festival Service led by Revd Jacqui Jones
	1.00pm	Harvest Lunch in the Church Hall – see page 11
Tues 7 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sat 10 th	10.30am – 3.00pm	Autumn Fayre – see page 13
Sun 11th Prisons Week	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Foluso Famoyin
Tues 13 th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sun 18th Freedom Sunday	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones
Sun 25th Bible Sunday	11.15am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Chris Sandy
NOVEMBER		
Sun 1st	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Revd Prashanth-Babu

<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.

**DEADLINE FOR ITEMS FOR
THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER:
SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2026**
I look forward to hearing from you
Thank you! – Ed.



Services every Sunday at 11.15 am

Communion services as announced

Senior Church Steward: 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: Michelle Garner, Lola Fadojutimi
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