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

NEWSLETTER

November 2026



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

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.

CIRCUIT LETTER

Dear Friends

After a glorious summer, autumn is well under way and as I write this letter, the leaves on the trees are beginning to change to beautiful reds, golds and yellows as the trees prepare to enter the dormancy of winter. More about autumn later… in the meantime…

I can't quite believe that it is now a year since I took up the post of pastoral lay worker in the circuit, and this seemed an appropriate time to reflect on that year and what has happened.

It has been a year of learning to work in a very different environment to any that I have worked in before, following a strong sense of call from God to work in the church and in this circuit in a new way.

As I have spent time with pastoral visitors, I have come to more fully appreciate how vital their role is to the church. It happens quietly, week after week, and is hugely valued by the members of our congregations who feel heard and noticed because of the contact received.

There is now a regular forum where pastoral visitors can share good practice and support each other. A workshop on grief, drawing on the huge knowledge and experience of our pastoral visitors was held in the summer, and later this autumn will be a workshop around dementia. Although these are geared to the role of pastoral visitors, anyone is welcome to attend, my email can be found on the front of the circuit plan.

Back to autumn… The days are growing shorter and the nights longer, the weather is getting colder and wetter (though we desperately need the rain). It can be easy to get disheartened, to long for those long, hot summer days (which so many of us complained about!). I find myself reminded of the words of God, after the flood when the land is once again dry and God promises never again to destroy every living thing. Instead, God says: 'As long as the earth continues, planting and harvest, cold and hot, summer and winter, day and night will never cease' (Genesis 8:22).

Despite all the things that are happening in the world, the seasons will continue to turn, the earth will rest now, ready to burst back into life in spring. We are thankful that God is faithful and is in control.

Wishing you all every blessing.

Sharon

Sharon Grundy
Barking, Dagenham & Ilford Circuit Pastoral Layworker

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello everyone and welcome to our November Newsletter.

November - the month that conjures up thoughts of bonfires, fireworks, the excitement of the approaching Advent season but perhaps most importantly poppies and remembering.



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 8th.

Our service will be led by members of the congregation. Please note the service will start at 10.45 in order for us to observe the 2 minute silence at 11.00am - see page 13.

Looking back to October, the Autumn Fayre was a great success – huge thanks to all involved - see Jeremy's report and update starting on page 9. We hope you will continue to support the fundraising for our Centenary Mission Development Project by coming along to Andrew's Sing Hallelujah event on 14th November – see page 14. Whether you are an experienced choir member or a complete beginner, rest assured there will be a part for you to sing. It's going to be a great afternoon!

Looking ahead, the first Sunday in Advent is 29th November when our service will be led by TDY – see page 16. Throughout the Advent season we will be following the Methodist Church Advent candle opening liturgy at the start of the services leading up to Christmas. More about that special time of year in our next newsletter which will be a double issue for December and January.

Have a peaceful 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 in all that they do - at school, college, university, workplace and leisure.

WE PRAY for all people caught up in conflicts around the world – military and civilian.

AT THIS TIME OF REMEMBRANCE WE PRAY for the families of all those who have passed as a result of war.

YOU KNOW THE NAMES OF ALL THESE PEOPLE LORD 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.

In our sickness or our health,
In our want or in our wealth,
If we look to God in prayer,
God is present ev' rywhere.

HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:





PRIYA ON 2ND
ROHIT 0N 2ND
FEYI ON 3RD
ANDY ON 16TH







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

CONGRATULATIONS to…





Revd Jacqui who has been accepted to be received into Full Connexion in The Methodist Church in Britain – *Great news Jacqui* – Ed.

Gila for passing with merit the Certificate of Higher Education, Health and Social Care exam from The University of Wales – *Excellent Gila, well done* – Ed.





Marlene for winning the 'Name the Dog' competition at the Autumn Fayre – *well done Marlene, hope you enjoyed the chocolates!* – Ed.

Philippa and Stephen on the occasion of their recent Ruby Anniversary – *Many congratulations to you both* – Ed.





AUTUMN FAYRE

By 10.00am on Saturday 10th October, the tills were ringing at our Autumn Fayre! Together with donations given in support of the Fayre we raised the amazing sum of £3609.20 for our Centenary Mission Development Fund.

Thank you to all those who donated items to sell and helped to ensure that the Fayre was such a success. It was a real team effort by The Drive family and demonstrated the strong connection we maintain with both our community user groups and the local community.

THE DRIVE CENTENARY MISSION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Following our very successful Autumn Fayre I thought this would be a good opportunity to provide an update regarding the fund-raising appeal and the plans for our Centenary Mission Development Project.

Firstly, the fund raising is going very well. We have a church target to raise £50,000 and there has been an amazing response from you, past members and friends. The total sum of donations, pledges and fund raising now stands at £43,494. The Fund Raising Committee are confident that with donations still to come and future fundraising events we will meet our target.

In terms of the overall target of £600,000 we have received grants from Awards for All, the Circuit, the District and TMCP which, together with the land sale monies, means that the project is currently 92% funded. However, this still leaves a funding gap of £49,747 which we need to close.

Grant applications are currently with Benefact Trust, Gibbs Trust and Garfield Weston Foundation. In the next few weeks, we will also submit an application to the Joseph Rank Trust.

Detailed planning of the project is now well underway.
The Catering Team recently met with our architect to discuss the equipment and facilities required in our new kitchens. It was a productive meeting and the architect is now updating the plans. We anticipate going out to competitive tender for a main contractor before the end of the year.

The next fund-raising event is *Sing Hallelujah* on Saturday 14 November. Details are on the leaflet in the hymn book and tickets are available from Diane.

If you have any questions about the Project or the appeal please ask me. Finally, I wish to express my thanks to all members of the Fund Raising Committee and to everyone in the Church family who has contributed to our fund-raising appeal.

Jeremy Foster

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL



Thank you to all who have donated items and packed shoe boxes. The last date for collecting them at church is **Sunday 8th November.**

Thank you again for supporting this appeal.

Jo Wright

40 YEARS OF CHILDLINE

At the end of September we heard of the sad death of Dame Esther Rantzen. Many of us will remember her as presenter of the television programme *That's Life.* However, Dame Esther was a prominent advocate for child welfare.

She produced and presented a TV programme called *Childwatch* which was about child abuse. Following the programme there were many calls from children which showed the need for a children's helpline. *Childline* (which is listed in the Helplines in our newsletter) was launched on 30th October 1986, in a room provided by British Telecom in London. That night there were 50,000 attempted calls. Dame Esther than secured a London office for *Childline* from BT, a

free phone number and for a *Childline* sticker to be placed in every telephone box in the country.

Childline will help any young person in the UK. It is free to call, confidential and is available at anytime, day or night. In 1989 Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited the office and famously said 'You call this *Childline*, I call it a lifeline.'

2006 *Childline* became part of the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) to help even more young people.

Adapted from BBC and Childline websites

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

BEACONTREE HEATH METHODIST CHURCH
THE BROADWAY RM8 IDZ

7TH NOVEMBER 10.30am-1.30pm





Why not pop in to see what there is on offer
or just for a drink and sandwich







Raffle - Cakes - Books - Cards

There will be a stall for 'Solving Kids Cancer'

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

led by

MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

STARTING AT 10.45AM

TO OBSERVE

THE TWO MINUTE SILENCE

AT 11.00AM

Lest We Forget



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! 

SATURDAY LUNCH

We are always pleased to welcome new guests to lunch, and should you be a new visitor to The Drive and not clear about the whys and wherefores of joining lunch, we thought we would enlighten you.

Saturday Lunch began soon after Covid restrictions were lifted as many people were still apprehensive about being in groups. Keeping to the rules, we thought a fellowship lunch would help to bring people together again…and it did.

Almost six years have passed and each month we have welcomed and cooked for many.

We strive to keep the cost of lunch low which lately is becoming a real challenge. Occasionally we fundraise and on these occasions lunch is free with all donations being sent to the charity of choice.

Grace is said prior to lunch which starts at 1.00pm and whether you are a new guest or one of the regulars you are warmly welcomed.

We have put our Afternoon Tea charity fundraiser for Breast Cancer Now on hold as will not have a full complement of helpers available on 21st November. We will give you plenty of notice – so watch this space!

THE NEXT SATURDAY LUNCH WILL BE HELD ON 21ST NOVEMBER 1.00pm

We will be serving jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings and salad. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

Lorraine Bendon, Anne Dellow and Ruth Joyce





TDY DIARY DATES

Please join us on:

29TH NOVEMBER ADVENT SUNDAY 11.15am
TDY service which begins Advent for this year.





SATURDAY 12TH DECEMBER
2.30pm – 5.30pm
TDY Nativity rehearsal and party.

13TH DECEMBER 11.15am
Nativity and Toy Service – if you are able to contribute, please bring a new and packaged toy or even some wrapping paper.





Thank you.

Michelle Garner

MAGGIE IS 80!

At the beginning of this year I decided that as I was going to have my 80th birthday on 20th October I would spread out my celebrations throughout the year.

The first occasion was in June when all our sons and their families were together as our son Jeremy and his family were over from their home in Sydney. Our son Chris organised a Sunday lunch for all of us at The Barley Mow in Mayfair where he is head chef. All 16 of us all sat down together to enjoy a most delicious lunch.

We go to Madeira every August with family and friends so I organised a cocktail party with canapes in a lounge in our hotel. This coincided with the evening that the Madeiran Folklore musicians and dancers come to the hotel to entertain the guests. On their way out they stopped and entertained us and had most of us dancing with them, a very memorable evening.

My birthday party was on Saturday 17th October at our tennis club where we all enjoyed delicious food, drinks, speeches, birthday cakes etc. I am most thankful for all the cards and gifts I received but most of all I value the love and friendship from my family and friends.

On 20th October, my actual birthday, Graham and myself enjoyed afternoon tea with champagne at Fortnum & Mason at their restaurant at the Royal Exchange in the city. Highly recommended!

As many of you know my grandparents were founder members of our church when it opened in 1928. My parents were married there in 1942 so myself and my brother were born into the church!

Maggie
Sounds like lovely celebrations Maggie – it's good to make special birthdays last! – Ed

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



The Grave of the Unknown Warrior

At the west end of the Nave of Westminster Abbey is the grave of the Unknown Warrior, whose body was brought from France to be buried on 11th November 1920, representing all service personnel who were killed in war and who have no known grave.

No one knows the identity of the person buried here. The body of the Unknown Warrior may be from any of the three services, Army, Navy or Air Force, and from any part of the British Isles, Dominions or Colonies. The Unknown Warrior

represents all those who died who have no other memorial or known grave. It is the only gravestone in the Abbey that people cannot walk on out of respect.

The idea of such a burial seems first to have come to a chaplain at the Front, the Revd David Railton (1884-1955), when he noticed in 1916 in a back garden at Armentières, France, a grave with a rough cross on which were pencilled the words "An Unknown British Soldier". In August 1920 he wrote to the Dean of Westminster, Herbert Ryle, through whose energies this memorial was carried into effect.



Adapted from Westminster Abbey website

MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II

I remember when WW11 was announced. Families joined each other in their back gardens to hear the news, War has been declared. This was a huge shock. I was 12 years old, us young ones did not really understand what this meant at the time. Families helped each other build air raid shelters in their gardens.

When the war started, I was still going to school as normal. When the sirens sounded, which it did quite often, we were moved to a safe place, which we enjoyed as it meant no school work. When at school, a few children were chosen and given a small amount of ground to look after. We managed to grow just a few vegetables. That was fun. As we tended our land we were told to 'Dig for Victory.

Most evenings after our tea, we went down into our shelter that was me my brother and sister and mum. Dad was at work on the railways. At first it was fun, until we heard the first bomb. There was a railway at the back of the garden. Next day we were told a landmine had fallen, fortunately for us it got caught in a tree and we were safe.

When I was 14, I left school, and for my first job I worked for British Home Stores on the record counter which I loved. I was born in Southend and we had to move back for about 3 years.

Each day I caught a train from Southend to Ilford at 7am every morning to be in work on time. One morning I was walking to the station and there was a huge bang which I suspected was a bomb, and I ran home quicker than I had ever run before. No work that day.

by Josie Jiggins submitted by Ruth Joyce

LOST HEROES

As each Remembrance Day passes, there are fewer and fewer WW11 veterans still alive. The following are the stories of just some of these veterans who have died this year.



Harry Francis aged 101
Harry joined the Royal Navy in 1942 at 16, having lied about his age to serve. He went on to join the Royal Marines and became one of the first men to join the Special Boat Service (SBS), carrying out covert operations in Italy, Lebanon and Burma (now known as Myanmar), where he was wounded.

Kenneth Hay aged 101

Kenneth, served in the 4th Dorset Infantry Regiment. He was captured a month after the allied invasion of northern France and survived a 1,000-mile (1,609km) forced march in eastern Europe until he was liberated by US forces.



Geoffrey Doyle aged 105

Geoffrey Born served in the Royal Corps of Signals during the war was part of the Allied invasion of Italy in 1943. His family said he was a person with "strong determination and conviction" and preferred to "dive in and do it, then ask for forgiveness later".



Roy Minter Hall aged 104

Roy the Royal Air Force in 1941 at 19. He trained as a navigator, flying in Beaufighters and Mosquitos during the conflict, including operations in North Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.



Norman Irwin aged 107

Norman was born in 1918 and was understood to be Northern Ireland's oldest living person before his passing. He served in eight countries during WW2 and played a vital role in protecting the Suez Canal from German attacks.



Tony Winterburn aged 100
Tony was an officer during D-Day and survived bomb raids and other attacks while serving in the Merchant Navy, taking part in the perilous Arctic convoys of 1943 that transported aid to Russia, and later carrying troops to the Normandy landings on 6 June 1944.

Ron Gumbley aged 101
Ron was 18 when he joined the war, serving with the RAF in the Far East. In a statement released earlier this year to confirm his death, his family described him as their hero. "A proud veteran, who lived life to the full, he will always be our hero, greatly missed and forever in our hearts," they said. More than 100 people turned out for the service. There was also a full guard of honour and representatives from RAF Cosford were also in attendance.

Adapted from the BBC News website



May these brave servicemen rest in peace.

POETRY CORNER

WE SHALL KEEP THE FAITH

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,

Sleep sweet - to rise anew!

We caught the torch you threw

And holding high, we keep the Faith

With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red

That grows on fields where valour led;

It seems to signal to the skies

That blood of heroes never dies,

But lends a lustre to the red

Of the flower that blooms above the dead

In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red

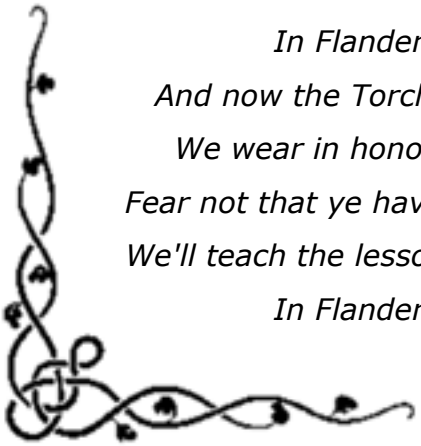
We wear in honour of our dead.

Fear not that ye have died for naught;

We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought

In Flanders Fields.

Moira Michael, November 1918



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.orguk 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 problemdrinkers, 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		
Sun 1ST All Saints Day	**11.15am**	**Morning Worship led by Revd Prashanth-Babu**
Tues 3rd	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sat 7th	10.30am – 1.30pm	Christmas Bazaar at Beacontree Hth MC–see pge 12
Sun 8th Remembrance Sunday	**10.45am**	**Remembrance Service led by Members of the Congregation - see page 13**
Sun 8th	Deadline For Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes – see page 11	
Tues 10th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sat 14th	1.00pm	Sing Hallelujah at The Drive - see page 14
Sun 15th	**11.15am**	**Morning Worship led by Ms Janet Tweedale**
Tues 17th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sat 21st	1.00pm	Saturday Lunch – see page 15
Sun 22nd Women Against Violence Sunday	**11.15am**	**Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Jacqui Jones**
Sun 22nd	**Church Council Mtg after service**	
Tues 24th	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Sun 29th Advent Sunday	**11.15am**	**Morning Worship led by TDY – see page 16**

DOUBLE ISSUE!

Deadline for items for December/January Newsletter: SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER



I look forward to hearing from you – Ed.

STOP PRESS…

A REQUEST FROM GRANGE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE LOCATED AT GRANGE HILL METHODIST CHURCH BURROW RD, CHIGWELL IG7 4HQ

We have lost a number of volunteers over the past few months, and as things aren't getting any quieter, we need more people to help! If anyone is interested in volunteering at Grange Hill on a Saturday (Foodbank) or Wednesday (Warm Space) morning, or if anyone with a car would be able to help transporting goods from the Foodbank Warehouse in Woodford to Grange Hill during the week, please contact Jackie Saito at the Circuit Office for further information.

Thank you

Jackie Saito
Administrator
Barking, Dagenham & Ilford Circuit Office
c/o Beacontree Heath Methodist Church, The Broadway,
Dagenham RM8 1DZ
bdicircuitoffice@btconnect.com
020 8517 6159

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