



The Way

Editor's News

Please keep all the articles rolling in! Remember articles do not have to be three pages long as every little article helps make The Way more enjoyable for all to read. Don't forget if you need the article typed just give it to Danny Gibson or leave it in an envelope at the church marked "The Way". So put your thinking caps on and get writing!

NOTE

Please note that our Minister, Revd Tony Graff, will be away on sabbatical from 6th April to 7th July 2015. All church matters that arise during this period should be passed to Church Stewards.

Equalities & Diversity Statement

St Luke's Methodist Church Centre is committed to eliminating discrimination and creating an environment where all people, regardless of gender, cultural or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, are treated with dignity and respect. We have procedures in place which enable complaints of discrimination to be dealt with promptly and fairly. If any person has a complaint about discrimination they can approach the Minister, Revd Tony Graff or any of the Church Stewards. Complaints will be dealt with in a sensitive manner and in the strictest confidence.

Hall available in City Way

For classes, parties, playgroups.

Reasonable rates.

Please contact Jean Wahanchuk on

01634 406466.

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Donations

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of producing this magazine please place it in the Building Project jar at back of church.

Tony's Scribbling's



Dear Friends,

I drive into Hospital car parks more in hope than expectation. Frequently I will spend a few minutes travelling up and down between the many occupied spaces, searching in vain for one that is free. Then I give up; find the nearest option on the main road and walk back, giving myself a bit of much needed exercise along the way.

But this week it was different. As the barrier was raised to allow me to enter I saw a car being reversed out of a space. Surely this one had my name on it. Behind me was another car. Their need may well have been greater than mine. It is rumoured that I am a follower of Jesus who often talks about the importance of being generous and putting the other person first. Here was a golden opportunity for me to show a bit of courtesy, and say "After you" to another driver.

Disappointingly, my eyes turned red as they fixed upon my goal, no one else was going to have it. I drove forcefully into the empty space, only pausing to whip my collar out of my shirt, so that my display of aggression did not bring the Church into disrepute.

I then walked to the ward to see the patient I had come to visit. I know that there are some who see the gift of car parking spaces as a blessing. They pray for them, their prayers are answered and they thank God for the kindness that he shows. It might be my problem, but I can't quite bring myself to make that kind of request. However, as I paced along the corridor, I wondered whether God did actually work in that sort of way. Were my reservations about such an approach

to God, disappointing him, and holding me back from receiving his blessings?

Soon, I was sitting at the patient's bedside. We were joined by another member of the church. He looked a bit weary and sat down in a chair with some relief. No car parking space had been provided for him. He had looked, given up, found somewhere on the road and walked back. We toyed with the idea that perhaps my great virtue had been rewarded while he was clearly in need of a bit more prayer. But we didn't mean it. I certainly am keenly aware that if I got what I deserved in life I would not escape whipping.

In the same week that I made this Hospital visit I had a conversation on the theme of "Blessing." Some see religion as being a way of earning God's favour so that good things will happen and life will go smoothly. When bad things happen and life's way becomes rough, they become confused and ask "Why me?" While there is a strand in the Bible that suggests that if you do well you will prosper and if you do ill you will perish, yet there are other strands that remind us that there is a lot more to be said. What comes across to me is that blessing is at the heart of our relationship with God. So, first of all God blesses us, by sharing his life with us and by enabling us to share with him in his work. And second we respond to this generosity by blessing God with expressions of thankfulness, in the Bible this is through song, dance and music.

It is clear from first to last that receiving God's blessing is not at all about being given a cosy life free from hardships. There is a rather strange and wonderful story in which Jacob wrestles all night with a being that he believes to be God. In the middle of the struggle Jacob

says "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." As the night comes to an end God does bless him. But Jacob goes away from the experience with a limp. He has been wounded. The encounter with God has left its mark.

For us Jesus is the prime example of a life lived in God's blessing. And yet during Lent we will watch him wrestling with and overcoming dark forces. Even more in Holy Week we will go with him to the cross where he will be tortured and crucified. On the surface that doesn't look much like being blessed, it looks like being cursed. But on the third day he will rise with God's seal of

approval placed firmly upon all that he has been, done and said. He will then turn to his friends and say, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." His disciples know what it has meant for him to be sent by God. The wounds of crucifixion are still visible on his risen body. They have no doubt that the future that lies before them of sharing with God in his work will be costly. But they also have every confidence that getting caught up in God's activity is what it really means to be blessed.

May God bless you as you travel with him through Lent, Holy Week and Easter. **Tony**

LENT Course

This will run on Wednesday mornings from 25th February until 1st April. Each session will begin at 11am with tea/coffee and end with a soup and roll lunch. We will be studying a course entitled 'Transformed by the Presence of Jesus'. The venue will alternate between Strood and St Luke's churches beginning on the 25th at Strood. You are welcome to join us for all or any of the sessions. If you would like a copy of the booklet please see Fran Shepherd.

Prayer Chain

As we have some new members in our congregation I thought I would take the opportunity to tell you about the Prayer Chain at St Luke's. The Prayer Chain has been going for some years now and is basically the place to go if you have a prayer need, which you would like to

share with others who are prepared to pray for you. It might be for yourself or for someone you know and you can share as little or as much as you want – it is usually better to just have a few basic details so that it is easier to pass on. There is a list of people involved on the notice board at the back of the church and it is best to contact either Fran Shepherd on 811129 or Pearl on 867204 who will then pass the request on. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain please see Fran Shepherd.



December commenced with the meeting that every organisation loves(!) – its Annual General Meeting. We waded through Hilary's excellent account of the meeting last year which we enthusiastically endorsed in spite of our questionable powers of memory. More wading pursued with reports from various office holders and the customary unintelligible yearly accounts.

Suggestions were made concerning possible speakers and events and it was unquestionably a happy little meeting – as always.

You will know that we held our Carol Service on the 17th December because Danny very kindly included us in the notices concerning Christmas happenings, which was appreciated. At our Carol Services everybody plays a part with various readings, introducing the carols, giving the prayers. Even Roger Eastwood's son Simon took part this year as we sang some of the carols with the Tamesis Chamber Choir playing their CD, 'Remembrance', Simon being one of the choir's talented tenors.

At the end of the service, we each received a Christmas present and lovely calendar for 2015, followed, of course, by mince pies and sausage rolls washed down by the inevitable cuppa. Great event.

Well – 2015 came rushing in and because of unforeseen circumstances we regrettably had to cancel our New Year Celebration meeting. This is a celebration we always enjoy and sincere apologies are expressed again to our Fellowship followers. Thank you all for being so gracious about it.

So then, we actually started our Fellowship new year on the 21st January – joy oh joy – we had Revd. Tony Graff with us talking about the Feeding of the Five Thousand and the Last Supper and their many implications. There were many thoughts to consider which he so ably brought out, inspiring each one of us to think about and to emulate. Thank you Tony for making it all so understandable to each one of us.

On 4th February, Roger Eastwood joined us to speak about a once-in-a-lifetime cruise, which he and Maureen undertook last Autumn. They sailed on the good ship Arcadia across the Atlantic to North America, a journey of 7 days. At 11 decks, this was a mid-size ship and Roger and Maureen's cabin was somewhere near the top overlooking the sea. There were plenty of facilities to keep people amused and an abundance of food! Their first port of call was New York where they had several guided tours including a trip up the tallest building called the Top of the Rock, which took 47 seconds in a lift up 67 floors! Apparently it was so smooth they didn't leave their stomachs on the ground floor!

Another memorable visit was to the 9/11 memorial site and Roger provided us with photos of this and many of the other places he spoke about. The cruise also took them to Rhode Island, Boston, Portland and then to Canada where they stopped at Nova Scotia and Quebec, which is part way up the St. Lawrence River. It was a very interesting afternoon and we thank Roger, again, for the preparation he put into it.

So onwards we go and look forward to having Joan Johnson, one of our faithful speakers, to join us on the 18th February.

You might like to join us too – 2.30 p.m. in the Faith Hall. *Pauline*

News Updates From Joseph in Malawi/Mozambique

December 9th 2014

I am still in Mozambique, this time with all the necessary documentation to qualify me being a legal immigrant. I finally got a national identity card. As I mentioned in my messages, life here is a bit promising although, at the moment, it is in political limbo. You remember we had general elections last October but I tell you now, there is no sign of an inaugural ceremony for the State President. This follows claims by the losing party that they were robbed and as such they are suggesting that they divide the country to enable them to rule the provinces where they got many votes. Many operations are at a stand still. Many companies are shut and donors are being very silent as they are reluctant to donate. I, nonetheless, have a hope that things will be alright. All I am doing is to keep learning Portuguese because that is the only obstacle to me getting a good job. Am wishing you all God's blessing.

December 12th 2014

Happy Christmas and prosperous New year to you all. Let your memory verse be Joshua 3: 3-4. Let God guide us always as we know not the way. Surely we have no idea as to what next year holds for us but God does.

Keep thanking God at all times in whatever circumstances is another key. Sometimes God prepares us through hard times. He created us to rule not to be ruled, hence as rulers we have to be strong, being able to meet challenges, we have a shepherd Jesus who shall always make us more than conquerors.

May I ask you to join us pray for my old Dad, who emphatically denies to stay with any of us. This is making it very difficult for us to support him. He is too old to stay by himself. I am very worried for what is happening. He insists can

not stay anywhere away from the church which God asked him to construct.

I am well, growing faster than my age though. Too many things to think about.

January 14th 2015

I am still in Mozambique, a country, which has a very promising economic future but a deadly political one. From the look of things we could be heading for another Sudan where they had to split the country following grave misunderstandings between political parties. You can imagine ever since the October elections, which were characterized by severe rigging, we don't have a State President recognized by all. The leader of one of the major parties, which lost, is even threatening to either fight until he becomes President or he rules the provinces where he had more votes. We have too much rain and most people are left homeless with no food and with water-borne diseases. Unfortunately, with the political chaos, no one is taking responsibility as a government to help as no one has that political power to rule without some serious opposition.

I have no plans to move, nonetheless. I think I need to settle but where I don't know. We are having problems to get funding from donors as they have so many unanswered questions about the political future of the country. Hence that job with the blind is still in limbo. May you all be blessed and keep praying for peace in the world.

January 30th 2015 (it was Joseph's birthday on 27th):

Thank you for the reminder. I usually forget my birthday and either you or my sister remind me! I am getting too old now (Joseph is only early 40s!). I wonder how those older than me are feeling. If life at my age doesn't feel good than how must it be for them?

There has been heavy downpour in this region with Malawi not exempted. My family is safe although some close relatives have been affected but thank God, no loss of life. Mozambiquan politics is now very shaky and signs of civil war are imminent. This has affected the economy seriously. I can foresee Mozambique becoming another Zimbabwe

soon. This situation is leaving me in limbo because when I think of Malawi, it doesn't appeal to me either, although politically it is better. I am just praying for God's guidance. My boy is back to school and is doing well. I hope he will continue. Wishing you God's blessing and good health.

Joseph

GUIDE DOGS

Variety Show in aid of Guide Dogs

Starring
Geoff Clark - BBC Radio Kent Presenter
Oliver Tabor - a multi award winning Magician & Illusionist
Bye George UK - Boy George lookalike
Chris Wheeler - Top Comedian & Impressionist
Sharon Kennard - School of Dance
Plus many more acts!

At Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone
Saturday 21 March 2015 at 7.30pm

Contact: Hazlitt Theatre Box Office on 01622 758611
Further Information from Guide Dogs Maidstone 0845 372 7422

Tickets £15 each

I just thought you might be interested to see the sort of courses that we at school can go on. Tim

COURSES AVAILABLE FOR ALL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

SELF IMPROVEMENT COURSES

SI 1	Creative suffering
SI 2	Overcoming peace of mind
SI 3	Ego gratification through violence
SI 4	Overcoming self-doubt through pretence and ostentation
SI 5	Whine your way to alienation
SI 6	Feigning knowledge – a career advancement strategy
SI 7	Developing sadism through Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
SI 8	Children – an avoidable distraction in educational decision making
SI 9	Carrying a piece of paper whilst walking briskly
SI 10	Developing the primal shrug
SI 11	Keeping facts out of your management structure
ST 12	Study the ‘Theory of Relativity’ in relation to the ‘Big Bang Theory’ using the two times table

BUSINESS AND CAREER COURSES

BC 1	Money can make you rich
BC 2	Starting a property-boom with the petty cash in your school office
BC 3	Career opportunities in corporate health
BC 4	Controlling the playground – gaining respect through fear (mid-day meal supervisors only)
BC 5	The under-achievers guide to very small business opportunities
BC 6	Supply teaching in the Orkneys
BC 7	Tattooing your colleagues as an income supplement
BC 8	Credit purchasing with your organ-donor card
BC 9	Becoming the dominant military power in Year 6
BC 10	Pushing an empty supermarket trolley and looking very busy

CRAFT COURSES

C 1	Bonsai your pet
C 2	Self-activation through macramé
C 3	Needlecraft for beginners (making a ball gown from ripped plastic bags)
C 4	Testing home-made parachutes using household pets
C 5	Artistic chicken trussing (course participants to supply their own chicken)
C 6	Breaking and entering colleague’s lockers without getting caught
C 7	How to convert your granddad’s wheelchair into a dune buggy
C 8	Plasticine miniature figure making and the art of voodoo
C 9	Origami - how to make the best paper aeroplanes in the world
C 10	How to become invisi . . .

FITNESS AND HEALTH COURSES

FH 1	The joys of hypochondria
FH 2	Creative tooth-decay
FH 3	Roller skate your way to regularity
FH 4	Obesity and trampolining
FH 5	Tap-dance your way to social ridicule
FH 6	Developing bubonic plague in order to avoid playground duty
FH 7	Exercise and acne
FH 8	Baked beans and the contortionist
FH 9	How to stop children biting their nails by keeping their socks on

HOME ECONOMIC COURSES

HE 1	Cultivating viruses in the home refrigerator
HE 2	Sinus drainage in the modern kitchen
HE 3	How to tell if the green bits on bread are good for you
HE 4	Basic kitchen taxidermy: e.g. stuffed prawn curry
HE 5	How to catch, kill and cook wild Haggis
HE 6	Khmer Rouge cookery for beginners
HE 7	Cannibalism and self-catering holidays
HE 8	Why dust provides a good protective coating for furniture
HE 9	'Pop goes the Hamster' and other great microwave recipes
HE 10	Encourage and breed bed-bugs in your duvet
HE 11	How to tell if the blue bits on cheese are good for you (would-be candidates must have completed course HE 3 in order to attend this course)

DEVELOPING PHOBIA COURSES

DP 1	Verminophobia – Fear of germs/year 3 children (not for the faint-hearted)
DP 2	Athazgoraphobia – Fear of being ignored (open to teaching staff only)
DP 3	Bathphobia – Fear of washing (<u>postal course only</u>)
DP 4	Venustraphobia – Fear of beautiful women (open to male candidates only)
DP 5	Tachophobia – Fear of speed (helping out on sports day avoidance techniques)
DP 6	Blennophobia – Fear of slime (useful for overseeing children eating their packed-lunch dinners – not for the squeamish)
DP 7	Arachibutyrophia – Fear of being asked to get rid of the spider hanging from the ceiling (not suitable for employees scared of heights)



St Luke's Methodist Church Centre
COFFEE MORNING
In Church
28th March, 25th April and 30th May
at 10am



ALL WELCOME

Come in for a cup of Fair-trade tea or
coffee, cake and a chat.



TRAIDCRAFT

Fighting poverty through trade

**New Traidcraft catalogues now
available at rear of church**

Offertory Envelopes and

giftaid it

The offertory envelope system is one simple way of financially supporting St Luke's by encouraging regular weekly giving. The system is simple, a set of fifty-two weekly dated and numbered envelopes are issued. The number identifies the person to whom the envelope has been issued and the dates are for each Sunday, so that if you are unable to attend St Luke's for any reason the offering can be put in the envelope each week and given at the next visit to church. The advantage of church members using this system helps the Treasurer when preparing the budgets and Angie Rastall who administers the Gift Aid Scheme. As the Envelope Secretary my role is to administer, order and supply the envelopes and I am not present when the envelopes are opened or aware of the contents. In 1982, 71 members of St Luke's were using the envelope system, today it is down to 18 members. If you would like more information or wish to be provided with a set please do not hesitate to speak to a Steward or contact me direct on 01634 201429

Gift Aid it! If you are a UK taxpayer, your donation will be worth up to a **quarter more at no extra cost to you**, Gift Aid means that for every-£1 you-give,-St Luke's can claim up to 25p from the Government. This means a donation of £10 can be worth up to £12.50 and it doesn't cost you a penny more! If you would like more information regarding Gift Aid please do not hesitate to speak to Angie Rastall.

Grant Crayden

ANGIES OVER 55`s EXERCISE CLASS

Do you have any of the warning signs below?

* Tiredness Breathless Frustrated Irritable *
* No Energy Lonely Loss of Appetite *
* Aches & Pains Insomnia Stiff *

Then take note and react, come and join us at
St Luke's Methodist Church Centre
City Way, Rochester
Every Tuesday and Thursday
from 2pm till 3pm

Enjoy gentle exercises to music



a chat and finish with cup of tea

**For further information contact ANGIE on 01634 325747
or just come along and meet us**

A Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my shape to keep,
Please no wrinkles, please no bags
Please lift my butt before it sags

Please no age spots, please no grey
As for my belly please take it away
Please keep me healthy, please keep me young
And thank you, Dear Lord, for all you've done.

Passing Through.

We are only passing through --- Passing through this way.
So let us try to do our very best, from day to day ----
Doing everything we can for loved ones while they're here.
Let us prove the heart's affection while we have them near.

We are only passing through and life is very short ---
So strive to make the most of it. By word and deed and thought,
to smooth the path for others, and to cause them no distress.
Giving only joy and comfort, help and happiness.

Always keep your promises no matter what the cost,
You can't patch up a friendship once the confidence is lost ---
Do your duty - so that none can ever point at you -
And say you failed or faltered in the tasks you had to do.

Life upon this little world is just an episode.
A journey - And we pass but once along this bit of road --
So do to others as you would that they should do to you.
You will not come this way again.
You're only Passing Through.

Patience Strong.



When you're in trouble and your knees knock,
kneel on them

St Luke's Methodist Church Centre
City Way, Rochester, Kent

St Luke's Pre-School
Monday and Tuesday
 9am to 3.30pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
 9am to 12.15pm



THURSDAY at 8pm
HOME makers



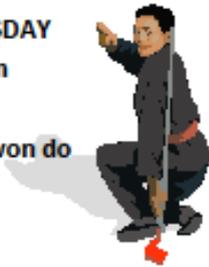
MONDAY
Rainbows and Brownies
 See leaders for details



La Leche League
 Every 2nd and
 4th Tuesday at
 10am

THURSDAY
At 8pm

Tae kwon do



Craft Club
Every Friday at 12.30pm

Monday, Tuesday and Friday
 at 7.30pm
Medway Towns
Bridge Club



Amethyst School of Dance



Mondays at 7.30pm
HOUSE GROUP

WEDNESDAY
Beaver Cubs and Scouts
 5pm to 8.30pm



Coffee Morning
Last Saturday in month
At 10am



COLLECTION BOXES

As some of you will know, I have taken over the distribution and collection of the Action for Children collecting boxes. Unfortunately, the number of people at St Luke’s who have these boxes has seriously reduced recently and it would be lovely if any of you who do not as yet have one would be prepared to take one home. I shall be collecting them in and opening them annually around August/September time. You do not have to give a lot. To quote from a well-known super-store “Every little helps!”

The branch of Action for Children which deals with the collecting boxes is known as the League of Light and I quote from their literature below.

About the League of Light:

- The League of Light was born in 1932, when Action for Children was known as the National Children’s Home.
- It was a nationwide campaign to raise money for the UK’s most vulnerable and neglected children.
- The campaign asked for members to fill lantern-style home collection boxes with change. By the 1950s, there were 110,000 members.

About home collection boxes:

- In 2010, home collection boxes raised £500,000 for Action for Children.
- We are very grateful for whatever amount you are able to raise, as every penny will make a difference to the children we support.
- For 2014 we have raised and banked £145-11.

***If you would like to have a collecting box please speak to me
Rosemary Moss in church or on 813643***

News from Alyson Good

Alyson is an ex member of St Luke’s who moved to Wales. She is on my contacts list to receive copies of events, monthly news sheets and our magazine. She sent through the following news which she wished to share with all at St Luke’s. Rather than reply to her by e-mail I have inserted it in this quarter’s magazine and send our regards and love from all at St Luke’s.

We had a big surprise about 5 weeks ago as Henrys girlfriend, Sophie, found out she was 35 weeks pregnant!!! On the 12th February a healthy Joseph David made his appearance into the world. He weighed 7lb 12 oz. Mother and baby are doing very well. Henry is overjoyed and is doing a brilliant job at being a dad. He is continuing his studies as he only has a year left at Uni. He certainly doesn't do things by half!



They're back!

Those wonderful Church Bulletins!

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

- ◆ The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- ◆ Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- ◆ The Sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The Sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'.
- ◆ Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping round the house. Bring your husbands.
- ◆ Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help.
- ◆ Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- ◆ For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- ◆ Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- ◆ Irving Benson and Jessie Carried were married on 24th October. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- ◆ A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- ◆ At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?'. Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- ◆ Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- ◆ Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- ◆ The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.
- ◆ Pot-luck Supper Sunday at 5pm—prayer and medication to follow.
- ◆ The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- ◆ This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- ◆ The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- ◆ Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.
- ◆ The eight-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- ◆ Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the Church. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- ◆ And this one just about sums them all up: The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday—'I Upped My Pledge—Up Yours'.

When I say, “I am a Christian”

When I say, “I am a Christian,” I’m not shouting, ‘I’ve been saved’”
I’m whispering, “I get Lost’ That’s why I chose this way”

When I say, “I am a Christian,” I don’t speak with human pride
I’m confessing that I stumble — needing God to be my guide

When I say, “I am a Christian,” I’m not trying to be strong
I’m professing that I’m weak and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, “I am a Christian,” I’m not bragging of success
I’m admitting that I’ve failed and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, “I am a Christian,” I don’t think I know it all
I submit to my confusion asking humbly to be taught

When I say, “I am a Christian,” I’m not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are far too visible but God believes I’m worth it

When I say, “I am a Christian,” I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache which is why I seek His name

When I say, “I am a Christian,” I do not wish to judge
I have no authority — I only know I’m loved *by Carol Wimmer*



AFTER-SERVICE TEA and COFFEE

First of all a big apology for those who had to suffer the rather weak coffee a few weeks back. There was a slight hic-cup on the preparation side of the operation and one thing led to another and ... well, you know how it goes. (I was just glad that I always have tea so it didn’t bother me!). Sorry and I hope it won’t happen again.

The money you contribute in the saucer goes to pay for the coffee machines so I want to give a very warm, but belated, thank you to the anonymous (to you anyway) person who quite regularly slips me some money to help pay for the milk, biscuits, tea-bags and squash that is used each week. Many thanks to you my

friend. And also a big thank you to the people donating biscuits, etc.

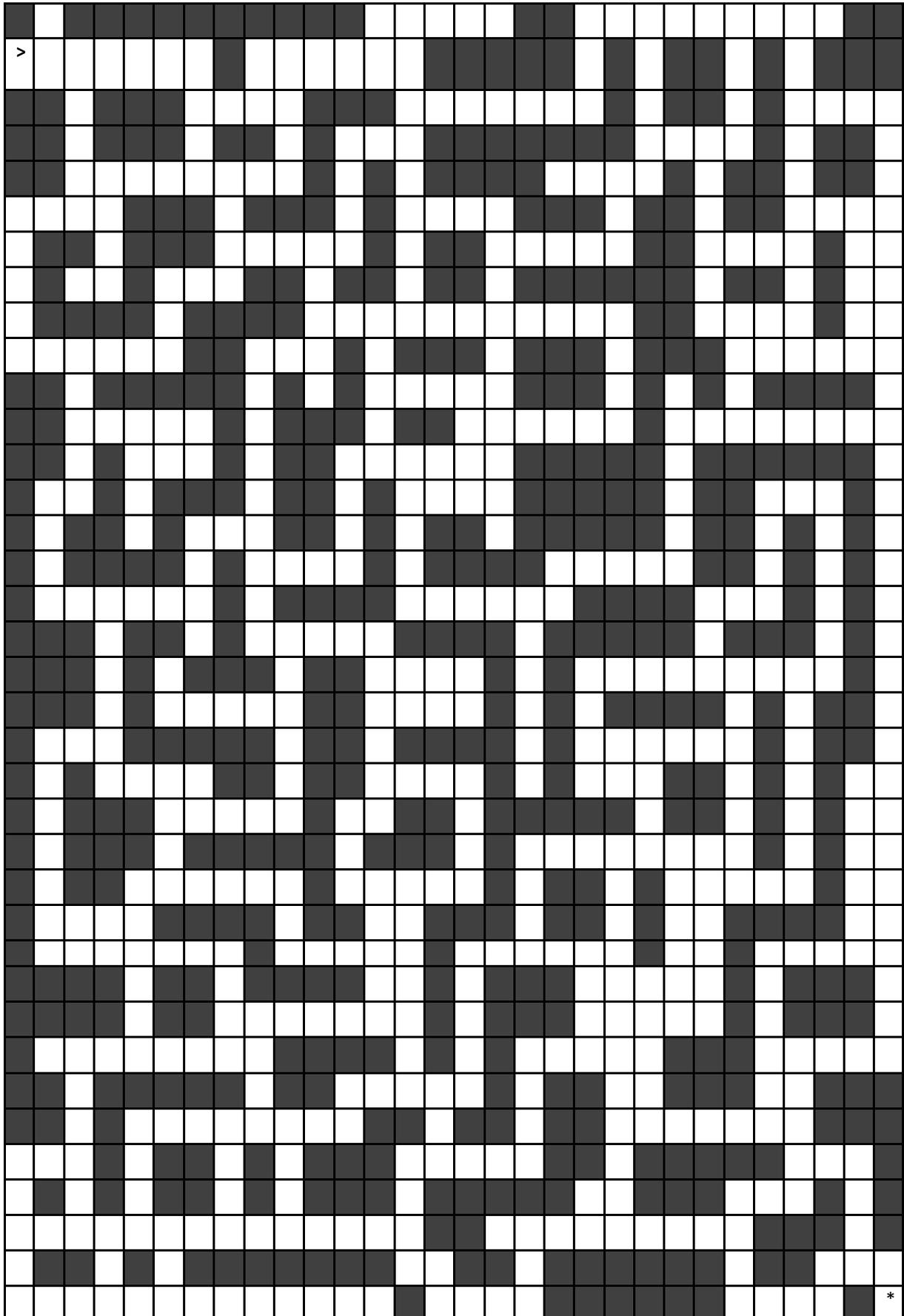
Changing the subject, I shall shortly be passing on some more money that you have wonderfully given to purchase a puzzle book. I have lost count of how much altogether you have contributed, but I think it will be in the region of over £200 once I pass this next lot of money over (assuming I remember of course – it’s not enough for a holiday in the Bahamas so there is no point in me keeping it, never mind). Well done and thank you.

Hopefully there will be a new puzzle book out for Easter (I know – I promised one by Christmas last year, but it obviously didn’t happen) so keep reminding me to get on with it.

Tim

AN AMAZING MAZE

I'm trying my hand at designing some mazes for future puzzles. If you do this please let me know if you find it easy, hard or neither. Thanking you in advance. Tim.



Patterns of Life

We met we married a long time ago
We worked long hours when wages were low
No T.V., no wireless, no bath, times were hard
Just a cold water tap and a walk down the yard

No holidays abroad no posh carpets on the floor
But we had coal on the fire and we didn't lock doors
Our children arrived no pills in those days
And we brought them up without any state aid

They were quite safe to go and play in the park
And the old folks could go for a walk in the dark
No valium no drugs and no L.S.D.
We cured most of our ills with a nice cup of tea
But if you were sick you were treated at once
Not fill out the form and come back in six months

No vandals no mugging there was nothing to rob
And we were quite rich on a couple of bob
People were happy in those far off days
Kinder and caring in so many ways

Milkmen and paper boys used to whistle and sing
A night at the picture was our mad fling
We all got our share of trouble and strife
And we just had to face it, 'the pattern of life'

But now I'm alone and look back through the years
I don't think of the bad times, the troubles and tears
I remember the blessings our home and our love
And that we could share them together

And thank God above

Request for Sponsorship from Jan Sellings



On Sunday 26th April I will be 'doing' the London Marathon for the very last time—I have done two before but the last one was 11 years ago! This time I will be walking-power walking for as long as I am able as my body (especially my hips) won't take the running any more.

I will be trying to raise money for the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity which encompasses the hospital and the research facility. The hospital has been a major part of my life since my dad died there when I was 4 years old. I was the eldest of three sisters—my mum had just given birth to my youngest sister. When I was 11 my mum was also diagnosed with cancer and she had treatment at the Marsden

on and off for 10 years until she also died there. I have now been going up for regular appointments since I was 15 and am, at the moment taking part in a clinical trial for them.

The hospital has always been brilliant and very caring and I would like to give something back to them now. I would like to ask, if anyone feels able, if you could sponsor me. I am waiting for some sponsor forms to be sent to me and will bring them in as soon as I can. In the meantime, for those of you who are technically minded, I have set up a Just Giving page for on-line sponsorship and Just Text Giving for sponsoring by text on your mobile. The web address is www.justgiving.com/Jan-Sellings and to text a donation you can text JAQM47(space)£5 (or however much you would like to donate) to 70070.

Thank you in advance for your support. I will do the best I can for everybody. *Jan*

**Laugh alone and the world thinks you're an idiot.
Sometimes I wake up grumpy; other times I let him sleep.**

YOU REALLY WONDER...

- * Why women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- * Why you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- * Why "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- * Why doctors call what they do "practice"?
- * Why you have to click on "Start" to stop Windows 98?
- * Why lemon juice is made with artificial flavour, while dish-washing liquid is made with real lemons?
- * Why the man who invests all your money is called a broker?
- * Why there isn't mouse-flavoured cat food?
- * Who tastes dog food when it has a "new & improved" flavour?
- * Why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?
- * Why they sterilise the needle for lethal injections?
- * Why they don't make the whole plane out of the material used for the indestructible black box?
- * Why sheep don't shrink when it rains?
- * Why they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- * If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
- * Why they call the airport "the terminal" if flying is so safe?



Age May Weary Them!

Ageing is when

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work;
The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals;
You feel as if it's the morning after the night before, but you haven't been anywhere;
Your little black book contains only names prefixed by Dr;
Your children begin to look middle-aged;
You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there;
You know all the answers, but no one asks the questions;
You look forward to a quiet evening, sit in your rocking chair, but can't get it going;
You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist and 96 around the golf course;
After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying a second coat;
Your knees buckle, but your belt won't, and
The little grey-haired old lady that you help across the street is your wife!

Marriages may be made in HEAVEN but you have to do your own maintenance.



February 2015

Most people are kind natured and leave others to get on with what they do. But sadly there is a slight chance that someone might try and take advantage or put you in danger. That's why it's important to have a Personal Safety Plan in place.

See www.methodistinsurance.co.uk/churchriskplanner for details.

So if a problem ever arises, you know what to do.

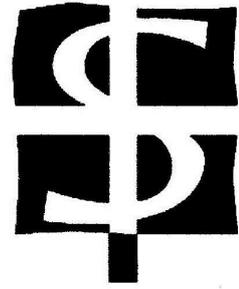
Some practical tips to help with your personal safety plan:

- Always know how to get out of a situation. If you're at home, in the church or visiting others, try not to be alone, and make a mental note of where the doors are
- Always have your mobile phone to hand, and programme emergency contacts in on speed dial
- If you're meeting someone you don't know, take along a personal attack alarm.
- Try to meet in a public place, or somewhere where trusted friends or relatives can check on you
- At the meeting, make sure you know your surroundings. Check if there are locks near the door, and have an excuse prepared in case you start feeling worried and want to leave
- Have your car parked and your keys available if you need to get away quickly.

At the end of the day, it's perfectly fine to put you and you family's personal safety above the needs of others. But with a well thought out personal safety plan, you can stay safe in any situation



Re – Christmas Parcel Appeal.



**The
Salvation
Army**

**United Kingdom
Territory**
with the Republic of
Ireland

Date

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Chatham Corps of the Salvation Army to express our thanks for your participation in this year's Christmas Parcel Appeal. You may be assured that all gifts donated have made a significant difference for many people and children this year, who would otherwise have received nothing. Once again on behalf of Chatham Corps a very big thank you.

God Bless You

Yours sincerely

Alec G Still
Major

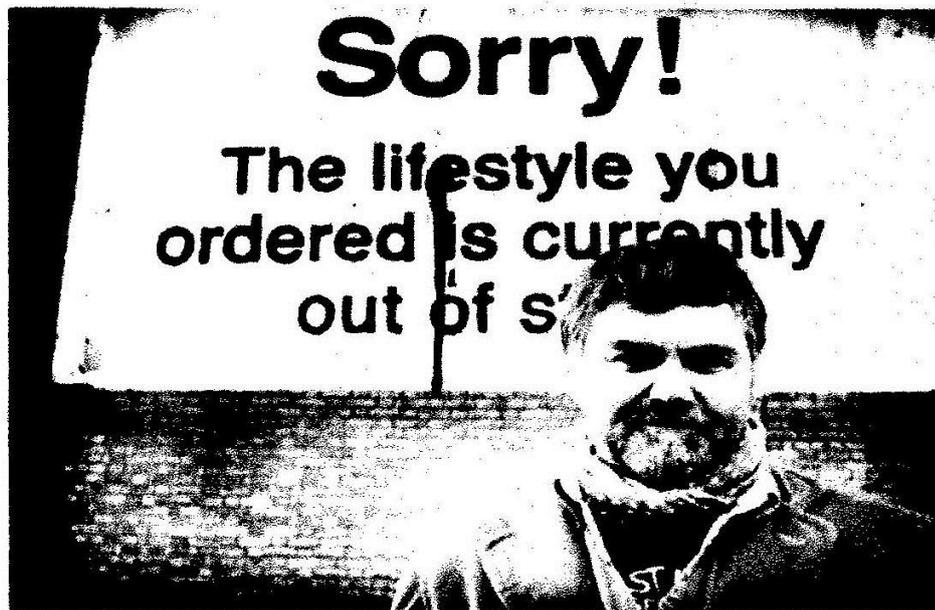
Corps Officers: Major Alec Still and Major Andrea Still

Registered Charity No. 214779 and in Scotland SC009359; Social Trust Registered Charity No. 215274 and in Scotland SC037691
Republic of Ireland Registered Charity No. CHY6399; Guernsey Registered Charity No. CH318; Jersey NP00840
General: Andre Cox. Territorial Commander for the United Kingdom with the Republic of Ireland: Commissioner Clive Adams

Cantiana
M&C

presents

CHRIS WOOD



**Friday 13th March 2015 at 7.30 pm
at Sheppey Little Theatre ME12 2NX
Supported by**

*S2 Fiddle
Fall*

**Tickets £12.50 available from:
music@cantiana.co.uk
07960315227 / 01795 886392**

Joke

A young relative recently joined the Police Force. Near the end of his training, an officer asked him: "What would you do if you had to arrest your own mother?" He replied: "I'd definitely need to call you for back up!"

Summary of Church Council Meeting- 25th February 2015

The following is a summary of the Church Council Meeting, which was held recently:

- **Junior Church** – it was agreed that we would start using some newly purchased resources in the coming months.
- **Property**
 - Re the Building Project – Ian thanked all those who have helped with getting us to this stage and the fund raising committee whose work is just beginning. He is currently applying to various bodies for grants. Planning permission is now being sought from the Council.
 - Ian also thanked those who help in the maintenance of the buildings and surrounding land.
 - There will be a work day on 28th March, which will include the painting of three disabled bays in the car park, removing the polystyrene from the Church boiler room so that maintenance work can be carried out and relocating the items stored in the ladies' toilet boiler room.
 - A proposal to change some of the signatures at the bank was agreed. The authorised people to sign cheques on behalf of the church are Ian Smith, Pauline Conway, Dorothy Odell and Angie Rastall.
 - It was decided that any funds raised from the Coffee Mornings, Tim's quiz books, the Church Anniversary and Harvest Festival for this year should go to the Building Project. This will be reviewed next year.
- **Fund Raising for the Building Project** – there is a separate article about this.
- **Finance** – the accounts for 2013-14 have now been finished and inspected, with grateful thanks to Ian & Rachel and Angie. There was a proposal to transfer £2,853 from the Carried Forward Balance to the Building Fund, which was agreed. We also looked at the balance sheet for the period September to December 2014 a copy of which is available. Ian noted that our assessment would be rising by 2% in September so we need to review our giving.
- **Mission & Worship** – Life Shapes Course. Ian and Angie have been attending some meetings led by Simon Curry and Karen Willing about this. It is a Circuit initiative and Ian has an information sheet, which he will copy and distribute.
- **Circuit & Conference** – the following appointments have been made:
 - Bonni-Belle Pickard to replace Clifford Newman.
 - Kan Yu, a Probationer, to replace John Yap at the Chinese Church in Gillingham and also to do some work in the Circuit.
- Revd Will Grady will be undergoing a review of his appointment as he is now in his fourth year. Velma has been unwell due to heart problems.
- An initiative from the Connexion called A Generous Life will be looking at the following themes on three Sundays in April:
 - 19th April – Giving generously of our time and talents.
 - 26th April – Giving generously of our financial and material resources.
 - 3rd May – Giving generously of ourselves. Responding to God's love.

Date of next meeting – 8th July 2015

Fundraising for the Building Project

Yes, at last, we are now in a position to offer a Programme of Events to raise funds. The Fundraising Committee is formed of Hilary Wheeler, Tony Wheeler, Rosemary Moss, Jean Wahanchuk and Alan Robinson

- The first of these is a Quiz. This will be held on Saturday 11th April with a 7pm for 7.30pm start, Cost, which includes a ploughman's supper. Is £5 a head. Your part is to persuade relatives and friends to form teams of 6 people. Please let Hilary Wheeler, Rosemary Moss or Jean Wahanchuk know by Sunday 5th April how many people you have in your team. Payment on arrival.
- The second one is a Do it Yourself Variety Concert. There are two options for participating in this event—If you have dancing, singing, musical or elocution or acting abilities. Volunteers contact Hilary. If no one or insufficient numbers volunteer Hilary will be persuading those she thinks have talents of this kind.
- Another idea to raise money is a Church Cookery Book. The idea behind this, is that anyone with a Favourite Recipe they would like to share, should write it out and then hand it to a member of the Committee. These will be collated and a book published. Suggested cost of the finished book is £2.
- Fill an empty Smarty tube with 20p coins.

Other events and dates will be announced later and advertised in monthly newsletter and on church website. If anyone else has any fundraising suggestions please contact the Committee.

Diary of Events

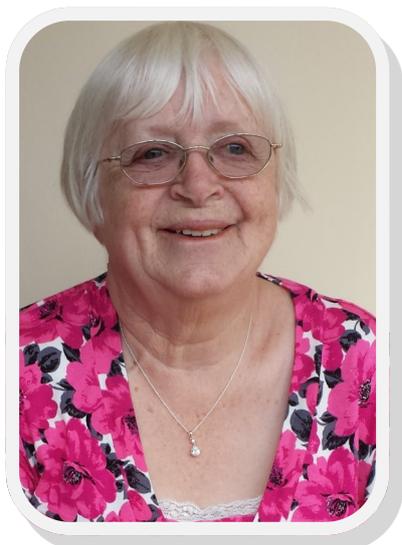
Date	Event
16th March	Homemakers Jumble Sale in aid of Aid of Medical Detection Dogs
19th March	Circuit meeting at Sittingbourne
22nd March	Church AGM after morning service
2 nd April	Maundy Thursday – 5.30pm Fish & Chips followed by a service at 6.30.
3 rd April	Good Friday – information to follow
5th April	Easter Day Breakfast—details to follow
11th April	Quiz Night in aid of Building Project
16th April	2.30pm—Pastoral Meeting
19th April	Contact the Elderly group coming to St Luke's for tea,
26 th April	Pru Cahill's Ordinand's Testimony service at Hope Street, Sheerness.
9 th May	Possible VE Day Party in aid of Building project—To be confirmed
10 th May	Baptism at St Luke's – Karen Willing to take.
30 th May	Variety Concert in aid of Building Project
13 th June	Church Anniversary Party in aid of Building Project
11 th July	Jumble Sale in aid of Building Project—To be confirmed



Minister

Revd Tony Graff

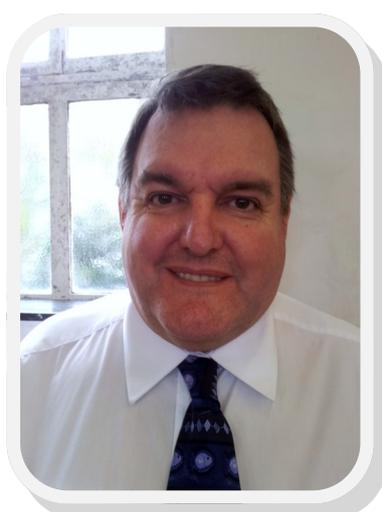
Tel: 01732 871436



**Senior Church Steward
& Worship Leader
Dorothy Odell**



**Church Steward
Church Treasurer
Angie Rastall**



**Church Steward
& Worship Leader
Ian Smith**



**Church Steward
Hilary Wheeler**

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Church Steward	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Church Steward	Angie Rastall	325747
Church Contacts		
Church Notices	Danny Gibson	290079
Church Secretary	Fran Shepherd	811129
Gift Aid Secretary	Angie Rastall	325747
Baptism Roll Secretary	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Magazine Editor	Danny Gibson	290079
Hall Bookings	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Property & Finance Chairman	Ian Smith	723477
Church Treasurer	Angie Rastall	325747
Church Phone		406768
Organisations that Use the Church		
Pre-School	Maria Hill	405315
Brownies	Louise Kemsley	713507
Craft Club	Dorothy Odell	409826
Homemakers Secretary	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Kingfisher Singers	Davina Brisley	387249
La Leche League of Rochester	Deborah Robertson	814221
Medway Bridge Club	Eunice Tope	848164
Over 55s Keep Fit	Angie Rastall	325747
Rainbows	Gina Kemsley	843209
Scouts/Beavers/Cubs	John Brisley	610910
Tae-Kwan-Do	Tony Lzst	07882 270324
The Wednesday Fellowship	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Amethyst School of Dance	Rachel Pratt	01795 426611

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