

September 2015



The Way

I N Autumn

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!

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.

Table of Contents

Page	Article
3/4	Message from Tony
4	Autumn quip
4	CARE
5	News from Joseph in Malawi
6	Fundraising for Building Project
6	Action for Children—Collection Boxes
7/8	Wednesday Fellowship
8	Coffee Mornings at St Lukes
8	Summary of Church Council Meeting on 8th July 2015
9	Prayer Chain
9	Poem —PEACE
9	Gift Aid
10	Angie's Over 55s Exercise Class
11	Groups that use the Church
12	Traidcraft Update
12	True or False—23
13	Beetle Drive and Silent Auction—12th Sep
14	Come to our Tea Party—4th October in aid of Guide Dogs
14	True or False Answers
15	Church Leaders
15	Diary of Events
16	Contacts Page

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.



Message from Tony

Dear Friends,

Do you ever agonise over something which actually is quite simple? Do you wrestle with questions to which really you already know the answer? Sometimes I wonder what I should be doing. I am faced with a number of options. Which should I make my priority? As I struggle to make a decision I am reminded to keep hold of those activities which lie at the heart of my calling. I should not need to be reminded, they are so obvious, nevertheless the reminder is welcome. In 2002 the Methodist Church published a report which included a list of things which Presbyters do. The first two items were:

- * A presbyter prays – personally, representatively and publicly
- * A presbyter studies the Bible and other sources intelligently and appropriately, in order to “Interpret those sacred stories of our community, so that they speak a word to people today.”

(The bit in quotation marks is taken from the ordination service of the Methodist Church in Singapore.)

I made that second priority the centre of my attention during my recent sabbatical. I’m very grateful to the Church, which means you, for the gift of three months away from normal duties in order to draw breath and do something with a bit more depth than is usually possible. I gave my time to looking at the Bible. I learnt about some of the techniques and tools that the writers used as they created their work. I concentrated

particularly on a few stories, those of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar; those about Michal, whose Father was King Saul and whose husband was King David; and the story of Ruth.

I am convinced that it is valuable just to read and remember the writings of the Bible. At their best they are nourishing. To share them is to feed one another with something good. They may also become the furniture in our minds around which we reflect upon our own lives and the life of our world. I wonder however if at heart the writings are about showing us God. We read them as a way of fulfilling the command of Jesus that we “Seek first the kingdom of God;” or as a means of honouring the first of the three things that St Richard prayed for “Day by day” to “Know thee more clearly.”

Let me not pretend otherwise, this is complicated. It’s hard to work out what to make of some of the representations we are given of God. It’s not as simple as saying that the God of the Old Testament is vengeful and fierce while that of the New Testament is loving and kind. The God of the Hebrew scriptures is fundamentally gracious and merciful, while that of the Christian scriptures has a wrathful side. One of the tasks that lies ahead for me is to take a serious look at the passages which paint pictures of God which we find difficult. I’m also conscious that many of the stories, that I personally love, do not mention God much at all. I’m convinced that God is to be discerned in the encounters that people have with one another that are described, but I have some work to do in

finding out just how God is to be met in them.

I'm left with the realisation that this is not a quick task. It's a marathon not a sprint. We are called to look long and hard at the Bible; to examine the places where the writings clash or are in conflict with one another and through our explorations our understanding of God will grow, develop and deepen.

In the Authorised Version of the Bible one of the commandments given to Moses says,

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image." Although it's not the first meaning of this I wonder if we might be being taught to resist having too fixed an image of God. Engraved images are set in stone, by contrast God wants us to be ready to see that there's more to God than we have yet got. Through engaging with the Bible we are about the endeavour of this life and beyond, we are about the never ending ascension into God.

God bless you, **Tony**

In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November."

Rose G. Kingsley, *The Autumn Garden*, 1905

Greetings from CARE!

I am writing with an urgent request for your help as we stand at a crossroads on a matter of life and death.

On 11 September MPs will debate and vote on whether to legalise assisted suicide in England and Wales. Many people around the country – including thousands of CARE supporters – have been writing to their MPs to urge them to vote against this dangerous Bill which would remove the current protection of the law from many vulnerable, elderly, disabled and terminally ill people.

I firmly believe that we can see this Bill defeated on 11 September, but we need your help again for the next part of our campaign. 1 million postcards have been produced which call on MPs to assist people to live, not to die. MPs will not be able to ignore the voices of hundreds and even thousands of their constituents united in urging them to protect the vulnerable and reject this Bill. People need

to simply add their name, address and a stamp and then pop their postcard in the post.

Postcards are available at rear of church.

Thank you so much for standing with CARE at this critical time.

Yours in Christ,

Nola Leach
Chief Executive and Head of Public Affairs

For more details, please contact the CARE office on 020 7233 0455. In addition, please note that the postcards are not held or distributed by the CARE office. Any queries should be directed to info@notoassistedsuicide.org.uk.

CARE is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales at 53 Romney Street, London, SW1P 3RF, Company No: 3481417, Charity No: 1066963, Scottish Charity No: SC03891. www.care.org.uk

News From Joseph in Malawi

18th June 2015

The bureaucracy in Mozambique and the forging of certificates by many applicants has resulted in a very long wait for the authority for me to teach. I am happy to tell you, though, that after being intensively scrutinised they finally told me that they are almost ready for the Minister of Education to append his signature. I am hoping anytime in the next week or so that he will sign the documents so that I can start working next month.

The political atmosphere is still leaving us in limbo as there were reported exchanges of fire last week and about 800 people lost their lives in the process. It is just unfortunate that life is hard in both countries otherwise I would be going back but now the economic crisis in Malawi is very serious.

I communicated with my sister at home and am happy to tell you that my dad's health condition is improving as he can now walk around by himself. I thank you for your prayers and I believe he will recover soon. Dalitso is finishing his course early next month so we have a medical professional in the house now! I hope it doesn't mean that there is a lot of work for him!

I thank God for what He has done and what He is still doing now. May you be blessed and continue remembering us in your prayers. Thank you.

2nd July 2015

You cannot believe that up to this day the paperwork is not yet done! They are saying it is still in the minister's office and I am still waiting.

Dad is well and I am thinking about another visit possibly this weekend. My 40 year old cousin, my 76 year old brother-in-law and a daughter to my cousin have all passed away and culturally I must go back. I am financially down but for the sake of my dad I have to go as I am the first-born son. Dalitso is back but I

hear that he has to go for another year to get a diploma. This is what is affecting my finances as the fee is so high and has to be paid by next week. I need to do this for him or he might one day say I never paved a way for him.

10th July 2015

I have finally received the document giving me the authority to teach. I actually went to the Ministry of Education provincial offices yesterday to find that the man in charge is in Maputo otherwise I would be telling you that I have been posted. I have to go and check with him sometime next week.

I failed to go to Malawi last weekend because of this document and the unexpected fee for Dalitso, which meant that I had very little finances left. I did find out from home that my dad's health is improving and his only complaint is backache.

24th July 2015

I wholeheartedly would like to thank you all for the gift you sent me last week. My prayer is that one day I shall be one of the contributors towards helping others like you. May God richly bless you all.

God fed Elijah in the midst of the hungry. I shall be made to prosper in the midst of the poorest people in the poorest continent. I strongly believe this and one day it shall come to pass.

18th August 2015

It has always been my prayer that one day I become a contributor and I am very optimistic it will come to pass and is not very long from now. The book of Haggai has more to do with the temple building and what it means to God. He will withhold some blessings and protection if we do nothing about the House of the Lord. I wish you all the best in this very endeavour. I surely will be earning soon and contribute somehow. I was home in Malawi and Dad's health is improving greatly.

Am wishing you all well and God's blessing.

Joseph

Fund Raising Meeting for the Building Project: 17th July 2015

A meeting was held on Friday 17th July, which was open to anyone in the congregation, about Fund Raising for the new Building Project. The following is a brief outline of what was discussed:

Ian gave us a brief update about the present position.

- The total cost is expected to be about £165,000. At present we have £105,000, which includes £50,000 from the Circuit and £5,000 from the City of Rochester Society. We need to raise another £55,000.
- A consent form is being filled in for the Connexion to agree and a District Grant form is being completed.
- We can apply to two Land Fill sites for grants.
- Gifts can be made out to St Luke's Methodist Church and put in an envelope with Building Church Fund on the front. Please indicate if it can be Gift Aided.
- Interest free loans are another possible way of helping.
- At the end of October when it is half term, work will be done on the path down the side of the church including a new ramp.
- November 16th the building project will begin if everything is in place. A work party will be needed beforehand to remove all the furniture from the inside of the church. There will be NO ACCESS to the church building until the work is completed. There will be limited parking. Services will be held in one of the halls while the work is being done.

There was then a discussion about possible fund raising events:

- Smartie tubes filled with 20p pieces – ongoing.
- 12.09.15 – Beetle Drive and Silent Auction in the evening. Gifts will be needed for this.
- 03.10.15 – at 2.30pm a Church Concert and Tea – participants needed.
- Possibility of a Musical Concert by Brian Davies and friends in November.
- Other possibilities for concerts including the Kingfisher Singers.
- A Progressive Dinner at the end of March.
- A Potted Panto in January/February.
- A Treasure Hunt.
- Another quiz evening following the success of the last one.
- 09.02.15 – Pancake Day.
- A Jumble Sale/Table Top Sale.

If you have any other ideas for events please let Hilary, Tony, Jean or Rosemary know. Please try to support these events and bring your family and friends – spread the word!

ACTION FOR CHILDREN - COLLECTING BOXES

I would like to collect in the Action For Children Collecting Boxes (Lanterns) between Sunday September 13th and Sunday September 20th. Please could you bring them to church with you on either of those two Sundays. However, if you are not able to be in church on either of those dates please contact me on 01634 813643 and I will arrange to collect your box.

If you have only recently (in the last month or so) taken a box please keep it until next year.



Time seems to have flown by since our last report to you, so ably 'penned' by Fran and giving you all an excellent account of our goings-on on a Wednesday afternoon. It is to that dear Lady that I would express sincere thanks for taking over the reins and keeping things going so smoothly during my husband John's difficulties since Christmas. And to Hilary also, for her ever able support at all times.

I am pleased to tell you that we are all meeting faithfully together every other week and enjoying time together and keeping up with each other's news and comings and goings. In June we've enjoyed having Judy Etheridge from St. Stephen's come and talk to us again. She is absolutely marvellous and always finds a topic to interest us – I don't know how she does it each time and we all love her being with us.

Our Strawberries and Cream afternoon went down well too – originally a celebration in memory of the Rev. Keith Lemar, a previous Minister at St. Luke's who used to treat our Fellowship to strawberries and cream and other visits to the Manse from time to time. As time has gone on, several members now do not know Keith so we are moving on to dedicating this particular yearly event to all the Ministers in the past who have so kindly taken an interest us and shared meetings with us.

In July we had an afternoon sharing the wartime memories of some of our members

and listening to music of that time. Two of our members actually served in World War II and some very thought-provoking moments were encountered. It was a good afternoon but to have heard from everybody and their particular memories would have kept us there until midnight so we shall have to find a way of hearing perhaps one memory at each future meeting.

And, of course, there was great delight on the 15th July in welcoming back to our midst the Rev. Tony Graff, fresh from his sabbatical break. He took us bravely into the subject of our passing on from this world and realising how small and brief we are in our contact with the short period of time in the world in which we exist. He surrounded us with the fact that as our Heavenly Father is with us now, surrounding us, all through our Christian lives, he will continue to hold us in his arms as we pass on. "In My Father's house are many mansions....." What an awesome God!

Our last meeting in July before we closed for the customary August holiday break was heralded by our very own Tim Crouch. What a brain he possesses. He took us into the realms of Time Words, travelling back through the ages right to the very first people, possibly in Mesopotamia, tracing how names and recognition of hours, days, months, years were considered. Also seasons and their influence in everything. In was all somewhat mind-blowing but we did our best to come up with one or two answers to his questions from time to time.

This was an incredibly well thought out session and we thank you very much indeed, Tim, for researching our heritage of the present day Time Words.

So we then dismissed ourselves from the Fellowship for the holiday period but received the list of our autumn and winter meetings indicating that we would be meeting again to start again on Wednesday the 9th September

with our Welcome Back meeting. Love to see you there – 2.30 p.m. in the Faith Hall.

Pauline.

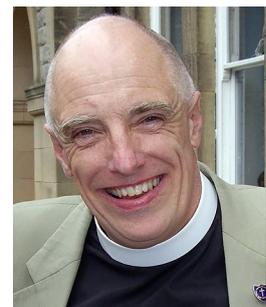


St Luke's Methodist Church Centre
COFFEE MORNING
In Church every Saturday
26th September, 31st October
and 28th November
at 10am
ALL WELCOME
Come in for a cup of Fair-trade tea
or coffee, cake and a chat.

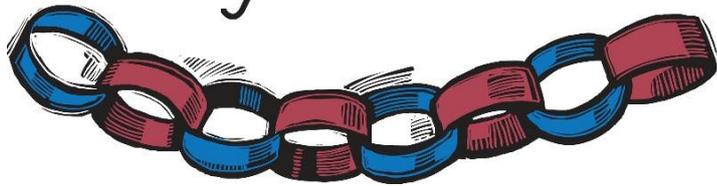


Summary of Church Council Meeting Held on 8th July 2015

- Junior Church has increased in numbers and is going well. There will be a break during the school holidays.
- Building Project – we have received a grant of £5,000 from the City of Rochester Society who were impressed with our scheme. We have also received planning permission from Medway Council. We have a provisional start date of October Half Term for the installation of the new disabled access to the rear of the premises and then Monday 16th November for the main work at the front of the church. We still need to raise about £55,000.
- Finance – Ian & Angie are working on the accounts and we are still in the black.
- Fund Raising – it was felt that we needed to have a meeting to pool ideas and get more people involved. The meeting was held on Friday 17th July.
- The Church Anniversary next year will be led by Bryan Tolhurst.
- The new President of the Conference is Rev Steve Wild (pictured right) who is well known to those of us who attend the Daffodil Service at Westminster Central Hall!
- We need someone to take over the position of Christian Aid representative as Derek Brighton has stepped down.
- The date of the next meeting is October 27th 2015.



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.

PEACE

Wouldn't it be lovely
If all the fighting ceased?
And nation lived by nation
In harmony and peace.
If love and understanding
Ruled implicitly.
And each one helped the other
In real sincerity.
If each one shared and really cared

For his brother's need,
We wouldn't have the world we've got
Bowed down with lust and greed.
If only we could practise this
It's not beyond our reach,
The law of love would be fulfilled
That Jesus came to teach.

Kathleen Gillum

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 614809**
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.

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



TUESDAY & THURSDAY



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



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



Craft Club
Every Friday at 12.30pm



Friday
Amethyst School of Dance

WEDNESDAY
Beaver Cubs and Scouts
 5pm to 8.30pm



Mondays at 7.30pm
HOUSE GROUP



Coffee Morning
Last Saturday in month
At 10am

Beetle Drive & Silent Auction

In aid of Building Project



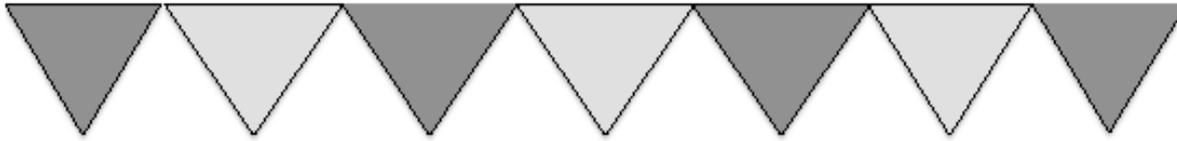
Saturday 12th September 2015 at 6.30pm

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

- Cost is £5 per head
- Booking essential. Please contact Ian Smith on 01634 723477 or by e-mail at ihoward.smith@hotmail.co.uk.
- Cake and refreshments at interval.

**"The milkweed pods are breaking,
And the bits of silken down
Float off upon the autumn breeze
Across the meadows brown."**
- Cecil Cavendish, *The Milkweed*

**"Behold congenial Autumn comes,
the Sabbath of the Year."**
- John Logan, 1748 - 1788



Come to our Tea Party!

1940's Music



Lindy Hoppers

4th October 2015

2:30 – 5:30 pm

Grove Green Community Centre
(next to Tesco)

Tickets £5 each or £18 for Family of 4 and includes afternoon tea
Tickets available from Guide Dogs: 0845 3727422
or 6 James Whatman Court Turkey Mill Ashford Road Maidstone

Wear your best 1940's outfit – prizes for the best dressed



All funds raised go to supporting the amazing work of the
Guide Dogs Maidstone Mobility team



True or False ~ 23 1. Untrue- it's the capital of Papua New Guinea ~ Samoa's capital is called Apia 2. True- Mark Twain was his pen-name 3. True 4. Untrue- they were given that name so as not to give the Germans a clue as to what they really were 5. Untrue- in fact it's the opposite ~ there are no Moles in Ireland 6. Untrue- it does no harm 7. True 8. Untrue- Jupiter has the quickest rotation period of all the planets ~ 9 hrs 50 min in Earth time 9. Untrue- an Olympiad is a phrase meaning 'every four years' ~ same as 'quadrennial' 10. True 11. True 12. True- although later versions now have 66 books only, the first version also contained some of the Apocryphal books which were later withdrawn gradually from about 1826 onwards 13. Untrue- a homograph is a word that sounds the same and is spelt the same, but can have multiple meanings ~ words such as 'set', 'right', 'lie', etc. 14. True 15. Untrue- it has two 16. Untrue- it's a layer of very, very hot ~ but not molten ~ rock beneath the Earth's crust 17. True- that it's a quote by Groucho Marx that is 18. True 19. Untrue- Pork is the correct answer 20. Untrue- it is a type of shoe originating from the Pyrenees

Church Leaders



Minister
Revd Tony Graff



Senior Steward
Hilary Wheeler



**Treasurer &
Steward**
Angie Rastall



Steward

Jean Wahanchuk



**Steward &
Worship Leader**
Dorothy Odell



**Steward &
Worship Leader**
Ian Smith



Steward

Leighanne Fleming

Diary of Events

Date	Time	Event
September		
Fri 4th	10am	Property & Finance Meeting at church
Sat 26th	10am	Coffee Morning at church
October		
Sat 3rd	2.30pm	Church Concert and Tea
Sun 4th		Harvest Lunch after morning service
Sun 11th	10.30am	Harvest Service
Sat 31st	10am	Coffee Morning at church
November		
Sun 8th	10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday
Sun 8th	3.30pm	Bereavement Service
Sat 28th	10am	Coffee Morning at church
December		
Sun 6th	10.30am	Gift Service
Sun 20th		Carol Service

CONTACTS PAGE

Minister	Revd Tony Graff	01732 871436
Senior Church Steward & Worship Leader	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Church Steward and Worship Leader	Ian Smith	723477
Church Steward	Leighanne Fleming	07593 191659
Church Steward and Worship Leader	Dorothy Odell	409826
Church Steward	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Church Steward	Angie Rastall	614809

Church Contacts

Church Notices	Danny Gibson	07506 765805
Church Secretary	Fran Shepherd	811129
Gift Aid Secretary	Angie Rastall	325747
Baptism Roll Secretary	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Magazine Editor	Danny Gibson	07506 765805
Hall Bookings	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Property & Finance Chairman	Ian Smith	723477
Church Treasurer	Angie Rastall	614809
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	614809
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

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

City Way, Rochester, Kent ME1 2BQ
Church Telephone 01634 406768

Website

<http://www.stlukesrochester.co.uk/>

Church e-mail Address: Stlukes2014@gmail.com