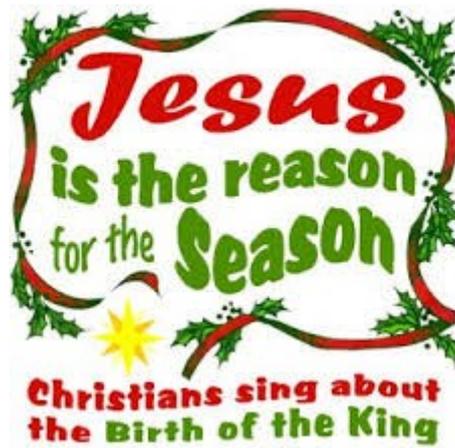


December 2016



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.

Please note that all hard copies are in black and white and a coloured copy can be viewed on the church website by clicking on the month at:

<http://stlukesrochester.co.uk/the%20way%20magazine.html>

A hard copy in colour can be obtained at a cost of 30p from Danny Gibson. All monies go to the Building Project.

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!

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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.

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,

There was an unusual sight on the streets of a local town recently. A slightly awkward crumpled looking man could be seen wearing over his normal clothes a yellow high visibility vest.

He wandered rather aimlessly through the Town holding occasional conversations with people and picking up the odd can that lay discarded on the ground. If you had seen him and had looked closely at him you would have noticed between the warm hat and scarf some familiar features. For it was me, spending a bit of time observing the fantastic work of the Street Pastors. The Street Pastors provide a presence on the streets of many of our towns giving help to those who need it, and seeking to create a calming atmosphere should any tension arise.

The story from the Bible that came to my mind during the evening was the story of the day of Pentecost when God poured out the Holy Spirit to bring the Church to birth. That story begins with the friends of Jesus, "All together in one place". We sense that what they were doing "All together in one place" was praying as in the previous chapter it talks about how they gathered in the upper room where they constantly devoted themselves to prayer.

The Street Pastors work is immersed in prayer. They met together at a local Church which is their base and began the evening with prayer. Some remained at the base through the evening; their part of the work was to continue to pray. Then, those who were to go out on to the streets formed a further huddle for prayer before their work began. As they went about their work of talking with people and where possible helping them I could sense them praying for those they met. They also asked people if they wanted to be prayed for by the Churches of the town in their Sunday services. Many gratefully took up the invitation and shared their concerns and their needs. One man spoke of his attempted suicide. A woman spoke of her friend who had taken his own life and of her own occasional thoughts about also taking this way. The whole evening was

surrounded by and filled with prayer.

And as the Church on the day of Pentecost, so also the Street Pastors, went out in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are told that when the Spirit came, he came like a violent, rushing wind. One of the Greek words used here is the same word that is used to describe people being carried along in a ship over the sea. The impression is of them being driven with some force and speed.

I remember listening to Ellen MacArthur give a talk about sailing single handed around the world. She said that sometimes it was like driving too fast on the motorway in the rain. In these circumstances you keep your windscreen wipers on at the fastest speed so that you can continue to see the road ahead. She said that sometimes sailing could be like that ... only without the windscreen wipers so that you could not see, and without the brakes so that you could not stop. Sometimes life in the Spirit may feel a little like that.

Actually on this occasion my evening with the Street Pastors was not fast and furious. We gently went from place to place. But there were similarities with Ellen MacArthur's challenging voyage. You were not sure what you would see ahead. There was talk about the possibility of confronting those who dress up as scary clowns just in order to frighten people; in the event, we didn't see anyone playing this game. We were guided at one moment to a place where there had been an assault, but by the time we arrived the Police had been, although no arrests had been made. My sense is however that sometimes there can be trouble. The report the Street Pastors make of their evening's work makes sobering reading. Amongst other things they record how many knives, offensive weapons, drugs and fire arms they have recovered. When things do flare up the Street Pastors are simply there quietly offering their presence, their help and their prayers. Those I was with were skilled at striking up conversations with people and sensitive in listening to their problems and worries. One man stopped me to thank me for the help that he had received a few weeks before. A woman said to the group "Do you

believe in God?" She could see that in the work of the Street Pastors there was a glimpse of God's love in action.

I spent two hours on the streets, this took us to midnight. We went back to the base where bacon and sausage butties had been prepared to get everyone through the hours to 2am. I'm a bit of a weakling. I didn't stop for the second half. I went home to bed. But I had the butty before going home anyway.

The night had been soaked in prayer and borne along by the Holy Spirit. The work of the Street Pastors is truly appreciated and valued by the people who fill our town centres on a Friday and Saturday night. The presence of God is real in what they do. I returned home with a new gratitude to them for their faithfulness in this work which God has given them.

May God continue to bless them,
Tony Graff

News From Joseph in Malawi

October 21st 2016

We are well despite persisting countrywide challenges. God is taking us through. I am getting to know a lot now as to how the Government affairs are run. All I see is God in my daily business. At times I get totally beaten to hear that the Office of President is expecting my contribution towards making a decision that is affecting the whole nation. God's ways are not ours.

Mzati (youngest son), made it to Secondary School and is now in Form One. The boy is growing, justifying my bald head! I expect to move the family to join me in Lilongwe in early December as I have finally found a house to put up.

Let me wish you all at St Luke's God's blessings. May His love and grace continue to be with us all.

November 5th 2016

I hope you are all well although cold up there. We down here are in Summer hence it is just too hot now. We may get very heavy rains, which I pray for because most of our streams are dry. We are actually having electricity load shedding because the hydro-electric plants cannot generate enough power due to too low levels of water in our lake. Production in our factories has decreased and, indeed, Malawi is becoming poorer and poorer.

Let me wish you good health and God's blessings always.



- ◆ Do you need an outlet for your artistic talent? Then we need you! It will soon be time to draw up the Flower Rota for next year and are a little 'thin on the ground'. If you feel you could help us out would you please contact Val as soon as possible. It is a lovely opportunity to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our church building.
- ◆ If you prefer a more lively chat meeting people maybe you would like to join our Door Stewards. The rota for 2017 will soon be prepared—so again—please contact Val. We are grateful to all those already undertaking these tasks but it would be lovely to have some new volunteers as well.
- ◆ Sadly as from January next year I will be discontinuing the Traidcraft corner. Fairtrade items are now more widely available in the shops which is a good thing—so I hope you will continue to buy Fairtrade when you can, but feel I cannot carry on with our church stall. If anyone else would like to become a Fairtrader I will be happy to discuss it with them. *val*

Wednesday Fellowship

Since I last wrote the Wednesday Fellowship has met four times and enjoyed a variety of speakers.

On 5th October, Roger Smithies joined us to share the next part of his life story, which, as always, was interesting and humorous. By now he had transferred to another boat - a Yarmouth and Dover craft- carrying cargoes around the coast and up rivers. There were only two crew, the captain and Roger who was the mate. The equipment was very basic with just a compass for steering and Primus stoves for cooking on. It was cold in winter with little insulation. They worked in the docks, including Victoria Dock in London, alongside other boats and the crews helped each other out with loading and unloading. Roger learnt about navigation, getting to know the buoys and lights, tides and courses.

The 19th October brought a new face to the Fellowship in Derek Gallagher who is well-known to many of us in his role as Local Preacher. During his working life, Derek was in the Police Force, thirty years as a Police Officer and twelve years as an Advisor on International Cooperation for Kent Police. Derek was brought up in Sheerness and it was the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which led him to join the Police at the age of 19. His wonderful upbringing and attendance at the Methodist Church helped him to survive many difficulties. He started work in Tunbridge Wells with just a truncheon, a whistle, a pocket book and a Gideon Bible. If he found himself in a difficult situation, he would touch the bible and pray. His favourite Psalm is 139, which is about God knowing us and looking after us. Derek has never doubted that God has had a hand on his shoulder. We look forward to him returning for the next instalment of his life story.

On 2nd November Tony & Hilary Wheeler shared with us about their Summer Cruise to the Baltic. They sailed from Tilbury on the Marco Polo, visiting Denmark, Germany,

Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden. On the return home, they sailed through the Kiel Canal, which is very smooth, out into the North Sea, which isn't. Unsurprisingly, many people, including Tony, were rather sick! There were many interesting tours to join in each country, which Hilary & Tony took advantage of and there were accompanying picture books for us to look at. St Petersburg was probably one of the most interesting places they visited where there are fifty palaces and the Hermitage Museum. On the days when they were sailing there were many activities on board to take advantage of and entertainment in the evenings. Altogether it was an unforgettable holiday to celebrate Tony & Hilary's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

November 16th brought our good friend Tim Crouch, who now being retired has a bit more time on his hands! Tim gave us a very entertaining time talking about the history of the different groups of people who invaded our country and how that affected the language, particularly the naming of counties. The main groups were the Celts, the Romans, the Saxons, the Vikings and then the Normans and they all left their mark on our language and culture. He then gave us one of his quizzes which involved reading clues and trying to work out which county it referred to eg Home of the Cantiaci Tribe - answer Kent! It wasn't easy and required a certain amount of guess work but great fun and we all learned something.

During this period Betty Gilbert has been to Australia again and now returned. Iris Donoghue has left these shores to visit her family in North America and will return in the New Year. We have also been pleased to welcome Ron Densley and, more recently, Ed Godden to our meetings - it is so good to see new faces and we enjoy our time of fellowship together so do come and join us on alternate Wednesday afternoons in the Faith Hall at 2.30pm. Our next meeting will be on November 30th and will be our AGM and then on December 14th will be our Carol Service.

Fran



Rochester South and Horsted Ward Monthly Prayer Bulletin

December 2016

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

- Herewith the last edition of 2016 of the prayer bulletin for the folk and life of the Rochester South and Horsted ward which includes within its boundary St Stephen’s (Maidstone Road), St. Luke’s (City Way) and Berachah (Neville Road) churches and covers part of the Pip & Jim’s, St. Simon Stock, St. Michael’s, St. John Fisher and St. Justus parishes. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer throughout 2016 for our ward.
- CTIM Prayer For Medway: Thur 17 Nov: 7.30 pm at Gillingham Salvation Army, 50 Green Street ME7 1XA to which all are welcome to come and pray together for God’s deep blessings of unity, mercy, and reconciliation to flood the Medway area. Further information on Churches Together In Medway can be found on their website at <http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/medway/>
- Christmas: Please pray for the Christmas programmes of all the ward and neighbouring churches; that many local residents and especially our own families and neighbours will attend and be touched by the Gospel. Pray too for the local schools’ and old peoples’ / care homes nativity and carol services; that a clear message of the hope of the season will be given. Remember those for whom Christmas is a challenging time through recent bereavement, relationship breakdown and financial hardship, pray for the church response and that for these folk, God will be especially real with many coming to know Jesus as their Saviour. Pray for (amongst others) the ministry of Christians Against Poverty, Foodbank, Caring Hands, Salvation Army and CTIM Winter Shelter.
 - Crime: Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association advise of the following:
 - ◆ 10 Nov: Horsted Avenue: Theft from Vehicle
 - ◆ 09 Nov: Arethusa Road: Theft of Vehicle
 - ◆ 02 Nov: Concord Avenue: Theft from Vehicle
 - ◆ 30 Oct: City Way: Theft from Vehicle
 - ◆ 30 Oct: Greenway: Theft from Vehicle
 - ◆ 28 Oct: Warren Wood Road: Burglary
 - ◆ 27 Oct: The Ridgeway: Burglary
 - ◆ 24 Oct: Dale Street: Theft of Vehicle
 - ◆ 17 Oct: Beresford Avenue: Theft from Vehicle
 - ◆ 14 Oct: Grafton Avenue: Theft from Vehicle
 - ◆ 12 Oct: Maidstone Road: Theft of Vehicle
 - ◆ 08 Oct: Wyles Road: Burglary
 - ◆ 05 Oct: Madden Avenue: Theft from Vehicle
 - ◆ 03 Oct: Haredale Close: Theft of Vehicle

Please pray for all concerned especially those who suffer the fear, upset and loss that these actions inevitably cause and that the likely repeat offenders responsible are convicted both by God and the law and for the foiling of these often opportunistic night-time crimes.

The following Christmas prayer of thanksgiving is taken from the CARE Daily Prayer Diary that is available for free from <http://www.care.org.uk/about-us/our-publications/prayer-diary> .

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, we worship and thank You for coming to live amongst us and save us from our sins through the cross and resurrection. We praise You that no

darkness has the power to separate us from Your redeeming love or extinguish the light of Your eternal Kingdom. Amen

The local press provides an interesting snapshot of life in the ward and we feature below abridged versions of stories and reports published in the Medway Messenger. Please pray and intercede as the Lord leads for the people involved and the wider situations that these stories are representative of (eg employment, family, schools, crime, planning etc).

- In Court: (Nov 4 pg 40) S.E. of Meadside Walk, driving without insurance, fined. (11 Nov pg 30) I.C. of Wallace Road, speeding, fined. A.F. of Arethusa Road, speeding, fined.
- Running allows me time to pray, says busy curate: (Oct 14 pg 14) “Rev Adele Barker, a mum of four boys and a keen runner has been appointed new curate at Pip & Jims, and she’s raring to go!”
- Schools pleased as new measure shows progress: (Oct 21 pg 36) “Thomas Aveling School, Arethusa Road, was the top non-grammar school in Medway.”
- Gardener helped by Prince’s Trust distraught at tools theft: (Oct 21 pg 29) “A gardener who has overcome mental health issues to build up a flourishing business has had hundreds of pounds of equipment stolen from his garage in Wyles Road.”
- Children learn the nuts and bolts: (Oct 28 pg 37) “There’s nothing like having a monster of a time before you break up for half-term. And that’s exactly what they did at Warren Wood Primary Academy, Arethusa Road, after studying the children’s novel The Iron Man.”
- Couple left homeless after blaze: (Nov 4 pg 5) “A couple have been left homeless after the roof of their bungalow in Snodhurst Avenue collapsed during a fire.”

Please feel free to circulate this prayer bulletin. If you are aware of ward related issues that you feel may be appropriate for inclusion, please do let me know. May we all experience anew God’s great love, kindness and mercy this Christmas season.

“For God’s gifts and His call can never be withdrawn.” Romans 11:29

“Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness towards me. I rejoice to know that no matter what happens, You still want to use my life and cause me to be a blessing to those around me here in [Rochester South and Horsted]. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Trevor Clarke, 19 Wemmick Close, Rochester, ME1 2DL

Coordinator of Medway Prayer Net and Ward Councillor for Rochester South and Horsted

trevoraclarke@blueyonder.co.uk - 01634 409932

Christmas One Liners

- * Anyone who believes that men are the equal of women have never watched a man wrap a Christmas present!
- * If you want to hear “Merry Christmas” **why not visit a church instead of a shop.**
- * How do you know Santa is a man? **No woman would wear the same outfit year after year.**
- * What do you call a woman who stands between two goal posts? **Annette.**

Christmas Fayre and Coffee Morning

A big thank you to all who attended and assisted in this event.

£244 was raised for the Building Project.

Notes From the Church Council Meeting Held 9th November

- It was agreed that we would use the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy for St Luke's. Jean Wahanchuk is our Safeguarding representative and Fran Shepherd is the named person for anyone who wants to bring a complaint re Safeguarding issues within the church. The policy will be displayed on the notice board.
- The church boiler has been serviced and condemned by an engineer because a hole has appeared in the pipework, which could cause dangerous fumes to pervade the church. The boiler has been disconnected and services will be in the Faith Hall for the foreseeable future. Ian is now seeking quotes for a replacement boiler as soon as possible.
- The back doors are to be replaced with PVC doors, which will be more secure and easier to maintain.
- A roller blind will be purchased for the window in the new meeting room. This room can be used by parents with small children as there is a speaker which allows them to hear the service.
- Currently there is £45,000 in the Building Fund. There is a final payment of £8,000 to be made to the builders next July. We still have the loan of £70,000 to pay back. We now have to consider paying for a new boiler in church.
- Our representative on the Circuit Invitations Committee, is Jean Wahanchuk with Hilary Wheeler as substitute. This committee is presently seeking a new minister for GMC, Hartlip & St Luke's for next September.
- We will need a new Chairperson of the Property & Finance Committee from next May as Ian Smith is standing down.
- Fund Raising - hoping to hold a New Year Party and then a Quiz in February.
- Dates for Christmas services will be printed out in a special format by Danny for people to distribute.
- Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard is arranging a trip to Iona next year if anyone is interested. Likewise, Rev Gary Watt is arranging a trip to Brazil.
- Karen Willing & Simon Curry are leaving their posts within the Circuit.
- From 14th Jan - 23rd April 2017 the Methodist Art Collection will be on show at The Beane, Canterbury.
- The date of the next Church Council is 22.03.17 at 2.30pm.

Christmas Party

It seems incredibly early to be holding a Christmas Party in November but that is exactly what happened on Sunday 28th November. We were privileged to entertain 11 elderly guests and 9 volunteer drivers. Great fun was had by all sharing a party tea complete with crackers. Following this we attempted to play some tunes on the hand bells

from our crackers. Not all the tunes were instantly recognised so we asked Fran to accompany on the piano in a carol song.

Eddie and Betty asked each guest if they were being good before they received their present from Father Christmas.

A lovely way to start our preparation for Christmas on the 1st Sunday in Advent.



St Luke's Methodist Church Centre

COFFEE MORNING

In Church every last Saturday in month
January, February and March 2017
at 10am

ALL WELCOME

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



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.

MISHEARD HYMNS/SONGS

- * In Morecambe, invisible, God only wise.
- * Dance, dance, wherever you may be. I am the Lord of the dancing fleas .
- * I've got the joy, joy, joy down in my heart Tuesday! I've got the pizza passes understanding . . .

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

A committee consists of three types of people ... those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who haven't a clue what's happening.

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

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



Tae Kwon Do
 Every
 Thursday
 at 8pm



Monday, Tuesday and Friday
 at 7.30pm

Medway Towns
Bridge Club



Craft Club
 Every Friday at 11am



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

Church Leaders



**Senior
Church Steward**
Jean Wahanchuk



Minister
Revd Tony Graff



**Treasurer &
Steward**
Angie Rastall



Steward
Hilary Wheeler



**Steward &
Worship Leader**
Ian Smith



**Steward &
Worship Leader**
Dorothy Odell



Pastoral Secretary
Derek Brighton



Monthly Notices and Church Magazine

Contact: Danny Gibson
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E-mail: dannygibson55@gmail.com

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Church Steward and Worship Leader	Ian Smith	723477
Church Steward and Worship Leader	Dorothy Odell	409826
Church Steward	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Church Steward	Angie Rastall	614809

Church Contacts

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Church Secretary	Fran Shepherd	811129
Gift Aid Secretary	Angie Rastall	325747
Baptism Roll Secretary	Jan Sellings	409970
Magazine Editor	Danny Gibson	07506 765805
Hall Bookings	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Property & Finance Chairman	Ian Smith	723477
Church Treasurer	Angie Rastall	614809
Church Pastoral Secretary	Derek Brighton	840094
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	Graham Jenkinson	841795
Over 55s Keep Fit	Angie Rastall	614809
Rainbows	Gina Kemsley	843209
Scouts/Beavers/Cubs	John Brisley	610910
Tae Kwon-Do	Gary Parr	07758 076394
The Wednesday Fellowship	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Amethyst School of Dance	Rachel Pratt	01795 426611

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