

September 2017



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.

A copy can be viewed on the church website by clicking on the month at:

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

Hard copies are free but any donations kindly accepted. All monies go to the Building Project.

The next magazine is due out in December. All articles for this should reach Danny Gibson by Sunday 24th November.

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 Robin Selmes 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 check website for availability
and then contact Jean Wahanchuk on
01634 406466 to book.

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.



Introduction from Revd Robin Selmes

At the time of writing I am looking forward with anticipation to starting a journey of ministry with you, a new chapter in

the great book of St Luke's Methodist Church Centre. This is a period of change for all of us and it may feel like we are entering uncharted territory which we may approach with a feeling of anxiety. However together and in the grace of God we can go forward with faith.

However, before we start this new phase of ministry together, we need to get to know each other and although we will do this over the next few months, I think it is important for my family and me to introduce ourselves.

Prior to training for ministry in Birmingham we lived as a family in Eastbourne and were active members of the circuit there. I am married to Mandy and we have three children aged 16, 12 and 7.

Mandy

Over that last 5 years I have enjoyed my time helping and supporting Dorset Gardens but my main passion is helping and getting involved in the wider community, running toddler groups, volunteering at holiday clubs, guiding and also in my children's school. During our last 2 years I was given the opportunity to work at a local junior school and have very much enjoyed this experience. I also feel that it is important for me to be in a position to support Robin in his ministry and in doing so I look forward to discerning my calling in the life and ministry with this new section of churches and community. In my spare time I enjoy a variety of creative hobbies including card making and cross stitch.

Our eldest son is a young cub leader and is also a trainee first aider in St Johns ambulance. Our younger son is an avid Man City fan and likes to keep up to date with all the football gossip. Our daughter is a big Disney Fan especially Minnie Mouse and is looking forward to joining her new Brownie group.

As a family, we are quite adventuress and we enjoy spending time out and about whether that be on a

long walk in the countryside or being upside down on a roller coaster. We are big Disney Fans!

Now all that remains is for me to introduce myself. Prior to discerning a call to ministry I had various jobs mainly within the banking sector. When I started my journey with God 48 years ago (given my age away already!) I never expected the path to lead me here and it is surprising how God can use each of us in ways we don't think possible. But God is a God of transformation and mystery who only asks us to trust Him.

I offered for ministry in 2004 and trained at Queens College, Birmingham for 3 years and was ordained at the Wolverhampton Conference in 2009. We are now moving from the Brighton & Hove circuit, having served 5 years in what has been my second appointment. During this appointment I had pastoral responsibility for Dorset Gardens Methodist Church and I was also the Chaplain for Sussex and Brighton universities.

I have a passion for mission and enjoy coming alongside those that are deemed to be on the edge of society. During my training and following a successful placement, I worked as a volunteer actively involved in setting up an ecumenical homeless project in the city and also worked as a befriender for an asylum seeker charity. Drawing on those experiences I continued to work on community projects in both appointments helping to set up an ecumenical youth café, counselling centre and closely working with schools on holiday clubs and film projects. As you can guess my heart is deep rooted in social ministry and so I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities a new area will bring.

When time allows I enjoy walks in the countryside, performing art and roaming antique shops. I like all sports including cricket but mainly I enjoy watching football. I apologise in advance to the Gills fans but I have been supporting Brighton for the last 30 years. For me following the Seagulls is a real passion. I have gone all over the country with them and now we are in the Premiership, although we have not made a good start!

So occasionally I may be deserting the circuit for the Amex Stadium. However, as a family we feel privileged to be part of your ongoing pilgrimage with God and look forward to worshipping and being active in the church life of St Luke's.

*Every blessing
Robin, Mandy & Family*

Summary of Church Council Meeting

26th July 2017

The following is a summary of the main points of the Church Council Meeting held in July:

- A letter of thanks to be sent to Rev John Hellyer for leading the Church Anniversary service in June with a gift for £25 to the Methodist Church S.E. District Benevolent Fund as directed.
- **Safeguarding Training** update is on-going and we are waiting for the next date and venue. The Safeguarding Policy will be displayed on the noticeboard in September.
- **Property**
 - Astral Builders Ltd were due for the final inspection of the new building work before the rest of the payment was made. They were also going to erect a new noticeboard for us.
 - Ian has agreed to remain as Chairman of the Property Committee and Tim Crouch and Ed Godden have become new members. Dorothy Odell has resigned and was thanked for her work on the committee.
 - New purchases include a head microphone to improve the sound in church and a car park barrier to strengthen security.
 - It was agreed that we would swap the office and vestry to give more room for the office facilities, which are also used by Pre-School.
- We are very grateful for all the help that people give in doing jobs around the premises. However, there was some concern that sometimes things are being done without consulting the Property Committee so we would ask that people wanting to carry out a task should check first.
- A **Health & Safety** document is being produced for all those using the premises.
- **Fundraising Dates**
 - 16th September 7pm Ukele Concert - a joint event with The Foresters.
 - 30th September 7pm Concert with Christine Hubbard.
 - 21st October 7pm Beetle Drive & Silent Auction 7pm.
 - 24th February 2018 concert with Heather Gallagher and Brian Davies.
- **Circuit** - Deaconess Pru Cahill and Rev Gary Watt are not seeking further extensions from Sept 2018. A Probation Minister will be appointed to replace Gary so there will only be 2 Superintendents in the Circuit. Tony Graff has been recommended for a 4 year extension.
- **Church Lite** - it was agreed that we would like to continue with this new, monthly service but we will need to consult our new minister because his day off will be a Friday. It was decided that we would produce a leaflet with church information for distributing in the locality.

Alyson Good

Alyson, a former member of St Luke's, who moved to Wales wished to share the following with all at St Luke's.

"Hi all,

I thought all those that knew Henry and I would like to know that Henry finally graduated as an osteopath this July. He has started his own practice but also works part time for another practice and as main physio for Llanelli Town Football Club.

Regards, Alyson"

From all at St Luke's well done Henry.

Wednesday Fellowship

The first meeting in June was our annual Strawberry Tea, which, as always, was a very enjoyable afternoon. Sometimes it is nice just to have a time of fellowship when we can get to know each other over some delicious food and a cup of tea.

June 21st brought our friend Alan Thorne and his wife who we are always pleased to welcome. Alan took as his theme the Summer season and shared poems, readings and music about that subject. It was a lovely afternoon and we learnt many interesting facts about the flora and fauna of our beautiful countryside.

On July 5th we should have been joined by another friend, Brian Davies but, sadly, he was unable to come due to cataract operations, which he was recovering from. We lifted him in prayer and hope that he will soon be feeling better. Hilary led the meeting and kindly put together a quiz for us, which made for an entertaining afternoon.

Our final meeting before the Summer Break was on July 19th and Tony Graff came for the last time to speak to us. As ever he gave us a thoughtful talk about the Parable of the Sower. The seed is the word of God but it depends on the state of the ground whether it is fruitful or not. God allows himself to be vulnerable because he always allows us to choose. In the end his purpose will be

achieved but on the way he gives us freedom - the way of love. The story of the sower is like Jesus' ministry - some received him, some didn't. Like his Father he takes the way of vulnerability on the cross where it looks as if he has failed but, of course, he hasn't because resurrection and life follow. He has taken the fruitful way and shows us that God is love. We need to be the good soil and open our hearts to God's word. At Communion we receive the bread and wine into our bodies, which is a picture of what God wants to do in us by his Spirit.

Tony has been such a good friend to the Fellowship and we shall miss him. We pray for him as he continues his ministry in the Gravesend area.

In the last three months just two people have celebrated birthdays and they were John Shepherd and David Jarrett.

Sadly, in August we lost our dear friend John Conway after a long struggle with health problems. We have missed his presence at the Fellowship and will remember him with great fondness. Our love and prayers go out to Pauline and we pray that she will know the loving presence of God at this difficult time.

Our fortnightly meetings begin again on September 7th at 2.30pm in the Faith Hall to which you are very welcome.



Fran Shepherd

SPOILER ALERT – 'PROVERBS' PUZZLE BOOK ANSWERS

It has been pointed out to me that I have made a mistake in my latest 'quiz' offering. Somehow, I have put the wrong answer down for Page 6, number 9. Later copies of the book have a correction slip pasted on the back page so this is for the people who bought one of the initial copies. The answer should have read 'Away with the fairies' not 'A problem shared is a problem halved'. I originally had the 'mistake' one in place, but later removed it and substituted the one there now, but forgot to change the answer page.

Sorry. *Tim*

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 Fran Shepherd on 811129 who will then pass the request on. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain please see Fran Shepherd.



St Luke's Methodist Church Centre
COFFEE MORNING
In Church every last Saturday in month
at 10am
ALL WELCOME
Come in for a cup of Fair-trade tea or coffee,
cake and a chat.
Proceeds for next Coffee Morning will be for
Macmillan Cancer Support.



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

Fire Alarm

Those of you were in church recently will remember that we had at the end of the service a fire drill practice. This was the first one we had had for a few years. By law we must have a fire practice at least once a year.

When the fire alarm sounds what is the procedure? Immediately leave the building by the quickest and shortest route, leaving all personal effect behind and walking. We have three points of exit from the church:

1. Via the main doors
2. By exiting the building via the passageway down stairs and

3. By the new fire exit in the main church near the kitchen.

If there are people who need help to exit the building because of being in a wheelchair or age then please help them if they need it. Only the stewards are the fire marshal's. The nearest place of safety is the chemists' car park next door and **ALL** people must meet there and not on the church premises. The fire marshal's will then check the whole building to make sure it is empty of all people and find out where the seat of the fire is.

Only return into the building once you have been told it is safe by either a fire marshal or a member of the police or fire service.

Lights

All Groups that use the church are requested to ensure that all lights are turned off on leaving the building.

LLL (La Leche League)

LLL (La Leche League) extends a warm welcome to all interested women, especially pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, to its meetings on breastfeeding and all aspects of family life. Our meetings, which take the form of informal discussions, are led by our volunteer breastfeeding counsellors who have breastfed their own babies and wish to pass on help and information to others wishing to breastfeed. There is always an opportunity to talk about current breastfeeding concerns of those present. Babies and children are always welcome. Mums may attend just once, occasionally or every time, as best suits them.

We meet at St Luke's on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. See event announcements on our closed Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/112066952176720/>

LLL is an international, non-profit, non-sectarian organisation founded in 1956. It exists to help and support mothers to breastfeed their babies. LLLGB is a registered charity affiliated to La Leche League International - the world's largest source of breastfeeding information. LLL Leaders are ordinary mums who have enjoyed nursing their children and who have received training as breastfeeding counsellors. For more information go to:

<http://www.lllkent.org.uk/rochester-meetings.html>

This story was written by an 11 year old girl

Hope – one word of four letters

That's all I needed

The velvet coat which I have been told is beautiful raven black, guides me. I feel it's wet button nose against my hand. It seems only yesterday everything went. It was so hard to acknowledge my flaw and survive alone in the darkness, yet I wasn't alone.

I long to see lush lime strands of grass, delicately splattered with dew drops again, the lulling sea glistening in the golden sun once more and most of all watch my bubbly baby brother grow older. I can only hear his shrill screams not see the smiles and his azure blue eyes sparkle. His cheeks are so soft yet his fingers are so wrinkly. He squeezes my thumbs and seizes my hand in an attempt for me to stay by him. I had no choice, force couldn't stop my future.

My glasses mask the truth, they hide everything. The Doctors said nothing could be done, that it was gone forever. Mum put my name on the list as soon as possible but number 367 was all she came back with. 367 more people with a condition like mine. 367 people that need help before me.

I waited a year growing more desperate by the day but last month I was informed of a match and that Rampa would come soon.

His warm breath heated my frozen fingers, his rough slimy tongue licked my scratches and cuts and I knew then that I would love him forever. On my first walk I stumbled a bit but I soon found my feet and Rampa's strong supportive body helped me steady myself. I

was petrified when he was going to help me cross my first busy road: my heart was in his paws and I had dragons in my tummy – not butterflies.

Rampa got on well with my family too. Although he was somewhat intrigued by my wriggly brother Matthew crawling around on all fours just like him. They both went missing once. Mum and I were beside ourselves with fear as we had searched everywhere but eventually found them both hiding asleep under a pile of coats. "Look" she whispered, however, I couldn't.

He is such a good sport even putting up with monkey Matthew pulling at his ears and sticking his fingers in his mouth – not once has he ever snapped.

Everyone loves Rampa and he and Matthew are so alike. Mum tells me that Rampa sleeps in the weirdest positions: paws, tail, ears and head spread out in every direction and apparently Matthew is the same!

My fur coat guides me now. His is my physical compass, my book of knowledge and most of all my companion – I trust him. Life isn't perfect now but it never was, could never be. I can now accept that I am blind. Some of my closest friends are too and I'm lucky to still be alive.

Thank you Rampa for saving me.

We hope that you enjoy reading this as much

as we did, it's why we volunteer, and of course we enjoy the time with have with these wonderful dogs. **Pete & Deborah**

Dine in the Dark experience, details below, it is a fun evening (Some of you dined with us 4 years ago and told us how much you enjoyed it and how enlightening an experience it was.

If you would like to help, please join as at our

Come dine with me... in the dark!

Can you tell an entrée from an appetiser? Would you be able to tell the difference in the dark?

This Halloween, Guide Dogs and the Hilton Hotel have teamed up to create a truly unique Halloween experience.

Your taste buds will be tantalised by a delicious three course spooky feast but there's a catch... you will be eating it under blindfold!

Come dine with us in the dark and experience the challenge faced on a daily basis by people who are blind or partially sighted.

Come along and meet some of the puppies and advanced training dogs. Take part in the trick or treat tombola and bid on some wonderful auction items all to help us raise funds and ensure that Guide Dogs can continue their work.

Tickets can be purchased individually or in tables of 8, 10 or 12.

Ticket sales: 01622 734322

For more information, call Guide Dogs on 0345 1430 214

Guide Dogs is a registered charity in England and Wales (209617) and Scotland (SCO38979)



Date:

Friday 27th October 2017
7:30pm (doors at 7pm)

Venue:

Hilton Maidstone Hotel

Dress code:

Smart or fancy dress

Tickets:

£35.00 per person,
includes welcome drink



Special accommodation rates available from the Hilton

Hi!

I have mentioned before in previous editions of THE WAY about the confusion between myself and my family caused over the actual meaning of words ('Fine' and 'Dinner' to name a couple).

Well, another word has raised its confusing head. This time the word 'next'. For years to me the word next always meant the next one to arrive. "Take the next turning on the left." To me and, I assume, most other people it meant what it said – as soon as you come to a turning on the left you went down it. With me so far.

But consider 'next Sunday'. Imagine today is Tuesday and someone says "We will see you next Friday". Which Friday do they mean? Again, to me, it means the next one you come to – that is three days' time. But no, to my family it is the one

in the week afterwards – ten days' time. It's almost like you have discounted the days in the rest of the week you're in. To them, the Friday in three days' time is 'this Friday'. It gets very confusing some times and we have to resort to using the actual dates to ensure we are both on the same time span.

But hold on, what about the phrase 'next week'? That, to me and them means the week after the one we are in, just as it is with the 'next turning on the left' meaning. So how come 'next' for an individual day is the one after the one due to arrive very shortly, yet for a week it means actually what it says – the next one to arrive?

I sometimes wonder if I am living on the same planet as the rest of the people round about me.

Tim

Homemakers Autumn Agenda Thursdays - Start 8pm

September

7 Welcome Back
 14 Pamper Evening with Vicky
 21 Bring and Buy
 28 Peter Cook -Medway Messenger
 reporter

October

05 Ian Porter - What happened after
 The Titanic sunk
 07 10.00am - Jumble Sale
 12 Beetle Drive
 19 Fred Lemont - Swinging 60's
 26 Melanie Gibson-Barton - Eva Braun

November

02 Beetle Drive
 09 Heather Gallagher - Magic
 Moments part 2
 16 A G M
 23 Christmas Bring and Buy
 30 Christopher Bull - Pocahontas not
 the Disney version

December

07 Beetle Drive
 08 Lathe Barn Christmas Meal
 14 Social Evening

St Luke's Preaching Plan September to November

3rd September	Irene Shepherd
10th September	Judith German
17th September	Revd Robin Selmes Harvest Festival
24th September	Deacon Pru Cahill
1st October	Local Arrangements
8th October	Revd Robin Selmes Holy Communion
15th October	Local Arrangements
22nd October	Elena Markova
29th October	Derek Gallagher
5th November	Tony Brown
12th November	Revd Robin Selmes Holy Communion and Remembrance Sunday
19th November	Richard Wade
26th November	Geoff Harris

Forthcoming Events in Aid of the Church Building Fund

Ukulele Concert

Saturday 16th September at 7pm

Tickets £5 or pay on the door. Tea, Coffee and biscuits served.

Concert with Christine Hubbard

Saturday 30th September at 7.30pm

Tickets £5 or pay on the door. Tea, Coffee and biscuits served.

Beetle Drive and Silent Auction

Saturday 21st October at 7pm

Entry free. Donations required for Auction. Tea, Coffee and biscuits served.

Quiz Night

Saturday 25th November at 7.30pm

Watch the church notice board and website for further details.

Breakfast with Father Christmas and Monthly Coffee Morning

Saturday 2nd December at 9am

Concert with Heather Gallagher and Brian Davies

Saturday 24th February 2018

Watch the church notice board and website for further details.

Other events for 2018

dates to be finalised

Quiz

March/April

Meal after Sunday Service

March

Possible outing to Batemans

May

Table Fayre

Possible date of May 26th – to be the same time as the monthly Coffee Morning

Barbecue and Games Afternoon

June

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together during church services. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. 'You're not supposed to talk out loud in church.' 'Why? Who's going to stop me?' Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, 'See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers.'



Hubbard International present,
in aid of the St. Luke's Building Fund



CHRISTINE HUBBARD In SEPTEMBER SONG

with

Kenneth McCarthy
(tenor)

and

Garon Heslop
(piano)

Saturday 30th . September 2017

7.30 pm

St. Luke's Church, City Way

Rochester ME1 2BQ

**Tickets £ 5.00 available from 01634 813643 or 01634 842390
or on the door**

refreshments will be available.

St Luke's Methodist Church Centre
City Way, Rochester ME1 2BQ



St Luke's Methodist Church Centre

In Association with

Foresters Friendly Society

Presents

An Evening of Ukulele Music



Saturday 16th September at 7pm

**In aid of St Luke's Building Fund and the
Association of Air Ambulances**

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

Admission £5 per person

Light refreshments available—No alcohol please

Church Trip to Bedgebury Forest on Tuesday July 11th.

A small group of 8 went on a church outing to Bedgebury Forest. This is a Forestry Commission woodland, of about 2000 acres near Goudhurst. Despite the weather forecast being for rain the rain held off till we left and there were periods of sunshine and only a few spots of rain.

There are a number of lakes at Bedgebury and several paths and tracks crossing the woodland. All were signposted to help us to find the way and not get lost.



There were lots of interesting trees; some looked as if they were growing pink cotton wool. There were also some redwood trees, not as big as the ones in California though.

We all had a good time and Eddie managed to walk round the lake and Val and Danny managed to find the Gruffallo. I think that I, and my companions

walked about 10 kilometres.



We had lunch in the café interrupted by a group of ducks who decided it would be a good place to eat.

On the way back we stopped at a farm shop where most of us bought fruit, cherries and raspberries.



It was a pity that more of us did not go as it was a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

With thanks to the Baptist Church for providing the minibus and to Rosemary whose idea it was, although she missed the trip as she was not well on the day.

TWO LITTLE BOYS

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

Rochester South and Horsted Ward Monthly Prayer Bulletin

Autumn 2017

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 15:5 NIV

Herewith the autumn edition of the Rochester South and Horsted prayer bulletin which includes within its boundary St Stephen's (Maidstone Road), St Luke's (City Way) (and we welcome their new minister Rev Robin Selmes and his family to the work here in the ward, please do pray for them as they settle into their new life in Medway), 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. Please do pray in agreement with Christians from across the ward and beyond for God to impact miraculously the folk and life of the Rochester South and Horsted area throughout the autumn months. Thank you.

- **Prayer For Medway and JustOne:** Thur 14 Sep: If you are able, please consider joining us for prayer for our Towns and the upcoming JustOne outreach (see below) starting at 7.30 pm (refreshments beforehand from 7 pm) at The Emmaus Church Centre, Clover Street, Chatham, ME4 4DT. All are welcome to come and pray together for God's deep blessings of unity, mercy, and reconciliation to flood the Medway area. If you are unable to join us, please consider praying for a short time wherever you are that evening for The Medway Towns and JustOne.
- **JustOne Launch:** Sat 7 Oct: All are warmly invited to come along to the official launch of The JustOne stadium outreach due to be held at Gillingham FC's Priestfield Stadium in June 2018 (<http://justonepriestfield.com/>) on Saturday 7 October at 10.30 am (refreshments from 9.30 am) at Kingsway International Christian Centre (KICC) Prayer City, Buckmore Park, Maidstone Road, Chatham ME5 9QG (the old Buckmore Park site). This launch event will provide the opportunity to hear first-hand from Canon J. John about the vision, and give all the necessary details and information you would require to 'get on board' and partner with the many churches and ministries around Medway and Kent already involved. There is plenty of free parking space at Prayer City, KICC, this meeting is for all, not just church leaders.
- **Saints Alive:** Tue 31 Oct: Please pray for and if you are able to, attend the Churches Together In Medway's *Saints Alive* (<http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/medway/>) at Rochester Cathedral on Tuesday 31 October, 7.30 pm - 9.00 pm. This is an annual opportunity for the Medway church to pray corporately, praise and worship together. The date is deliberately selected to combat the spiritual forces of darkness on that particular night.

Apologies that you will most likely be receiving this post the date, but Friday 8 September has been designated by some national ministries as a National Day of Prayer for the nation. The main event is at Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, London but in Medway there are three 2 hour slots arranged in the prayer room at Emmaus Church Centre, Clover Street: 9-11.00 am; 2.00-4.00pm, and 6.00-8.00pm – further details on the Medway House of Prayer website (www.medwayhouseofprayer.org.uk). The main calls for prayer are for the Prime Minister, that God will be glorified through Brexit, the unity of the United Kingdom and to bring the nation back to the Bible. Please do pray throughout this month, the organisers are using the 2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people ...” verse.

Please do pray the following prayer around the theme of schools over the coming months. The prayer 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 please bless all the children and adults in our local schools at the start of this academic year. We pray that they will provide caring communities where pupils find fulfilment and success in academic, social, sporting, creative and spiritual activities.
In Jesus Name. 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). Pray also that the weekly CTIM column in the Messenger speaks to many readers of God’s amazing grace and love and that there will be fruit from this weekly message.

- Fundraising four sacrifice breaks: (Jul 20 pg 45) “A group of school children from Balfour Junior School, Balfour Road, gave up their lunchtimes to raise money for British Heart Foundation. They decided to raise the money after a fellow pupil had a second heart transplant.”
- Police plea after car hits pensioner: (Jul 20 pg 6) “An elderly woman who was hit by a car whilst crossing Maidstone Road from Horsted Retail Park and suffered serious injuries is now in a stable condition in hospital.”
- School balloon lands in Germany: (Aug 10 pg 45) “A balloon released by Thomas Aveling School, Arethusa Road, has reached Cologne in Germany. Staff and pupils took part in the annual balloon release to start their sports day and raise money for their house charities.”
- Library on borrowed time as closure plans revealed: (Aug 10 pg 15) “Thomas Aveling Community Library, Arethusa Road, will shut after a public consultation which ran between April and June this year. The reasons for the closure have been put down to limited opening hours and low use.”
- School celebrates a record-breaking year: (Aug 21 pg 4) “Pupils at Thomas Aveling School, Arethusa Road, have had a record breaking year. Nearly 40% of all academic grades at L-Level were a B or higher, and 98% of vocational grades were the equivalent of an A or higher.”
- In Court: (Aug 24 pg 34) A.M. of Harptree Drive, driving without insurance, fined. N.B. of Snodhurst Avenue, drink driving, community order.
- Improve your road safety at open days: (Sep 4 pg 9) “Young drivers are being invited to improve their road safety awareness during two open days at the Road Safety Experience Centre, Marconi Way.”

Please feel free to circulate this bulletin. I am sure there are many Christians living in the ward we have not connected with yet, please do therefore share these prayer themes amongst your circles and if your ward contacts are not receiving these bulletins directly, please ask them to get in touch or send me their details. If you are aware of ward related issues that you feel may be appropriate for inclusion in future bulletins, please do let me know.

“Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire.” 2 Kings 6:7 NIV

“Lord, give me ‘eyes’ to see beyond what I see with my physical eyes. May I see into Your eternal dimension and may this understanding change the way I see things. Help me share your love appropriately amongst my close circles, trusting You to bring healing, deliverance and salvation to them. 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
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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

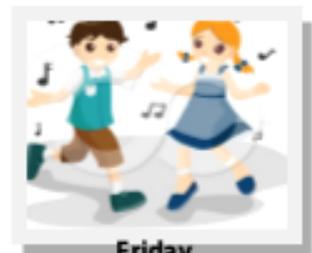


Monday, Tuesday and Friday
 at 7.30pm

Medway Towns
Bridge Club



Craft Club
 Every Friday at 11am



Friday
Amethyst School of Dance

WEDNESDAY

Beaver Cubs and Scouts
 5pm to 8.30pm



Thursday at 11am
House Group/Bible Study at
Fran & John's



Coffee Morning
 Last Saturday in month
 At 10am

Church Leaders



**Senior Steward &
Worship Leader**
Ian Smith



Minister
Revd Robin Selmes



**Treasurer &
Steward**
Angie Rastall



Steward
Hilary Wheeler



Church Steward
Jean Wahanchuk



**Steward &
Worship Leader**
Dorothy Odell



Pastoral Secretary
Derek Brighton



Monthly Notices and Church Magazine

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Website

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Hiring of Church Halls

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CONTACTS PAGE

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Church Steward	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Church Steward and Worship Leader	Dorothy Odell	409826
Church Steward	Hilary Wheeler	847211
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	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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