

June 2018



# 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 September 2018.

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.



## OLD AND NEW

The distinction between old and new is something which troubles both the world we live in today and the church. Have

you ever noticed, for example, that products can be advertised in quite contradictory ways? Sometimes we're encouraged to buy something because it's 'new' - the latest thing, you've never seen anything like it before. And sometimes we encouraged to buy something because it's just like things used to be, it's traditional, what your grandparents would have known.

For instance, we live in a society that is constantly buying and throwing away mobiles, as if they are two for a penny. Just because they do not have the latest features. Yet turn on the television and you discover people longing for antiques, distressed furniture and fireplaces in their homes. As a society, we can't decide whether old or new is best.

And in a way this has also filtered into the life of many churches. For example, in worship we often divide ourselves up according to whether we like a traditional or a contemporary approach. Equally we avoid using the Old Testament as a text for preaching because we think it is superseded by the new and then at other times we cling to an 'old' commentary of the Bible even though scholars have found for us important new insights. I think sometimes in churches we marginalise those who are 'older' and long only for new and younger people to join us – but equally sometimes we are desperately frightened of anything new.

So how do we respond? Well it is always tempting to choose one or the other, either to hold on to the comfort and reassurance of the past or to sweep it away in a grand step into the unknown.

Yet, from a Christian perspective I think we always need the old as well as the new. It is easy for people who live today to think those who lived before us simply are old fashioned and thus have no understanding of what it is like to live in a rapidly changing society. But they have wisdom to pass on to us and it would be unwise to ignore it. Of course, there are also times when it would be foolish to place "old wine into new wineskins". In a way what I am trying to say is that on one hand we need to be strongly rooted in the traditions of our faith and denomination, but also we need to be open to the Holy Spirit who constantly questions and renews it. We are called to make faith and life new again in our day - but not, I think, by turning away from all that is past.

Imagine that all the people who have ever worshipped in this congregation were here today - there would be many hundreds of them with many different experiences and stories to tell. And in a way they are here - part of our church, part of who we are now. But our faithfulness to their witness lies in responding to the Gospel with integrity for our own times - while never letting go of their hands.

The Christian faith is rooted in ancient and holy stories. It has also been shaped by moving stories of pilgrim people, Abraham, Moses, who were always moving onto new places, taking with them the treasures of the old. This is, I think what is meant when we are told that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. This is what I hope we will hold onto as we walk together over the next 9 months, discerning through preaching, prayer, listening, and consultation what God's has in mind for our Christian Community here at St Luke's.

**Every Blessing  
Robin**

## Wednesday Fellowship

When I last wrote for The Way we were still in the throes of winter and, unbeknown to us, there was a lot more to come in the form of snow, ice and cold winds! Now here we are moving rapidly towards summer and experiencing some wonderful weather. At the Fellowship we have continued to meet despite it all and have enjoyed a range of interesting speakers who have informed and challenged us.

Firstly, on March 21<sup>st</sup> we welcomed Margaret Howlett from Gillingham for her annual visit. She is always a source of encouragement and joy and she didn't disappoint. She spoke to us about Memories, in particular her own from her childhood and onwards. She remembered being evacuated to Maidstone during the war and listening to ITMA on the wireless as it was called then! She also recalled a time later in life when she suffered with a bad back and the curate came to see her. She shared with him about some bad memories from her school days and he prayed for healing of those memories, which helped her spiritually. She reminded us that Jesus loves us so much that he doesn't want us to be hurting.

After Easter, Lesley Trott joined us and led us through a lovely time of meditation - taking time to be with God. A period of peace and quiet with music and readings helping us to be still in this busy world.

April 18<sup>th</sup> brought our good friend, Ian Smith to tell us about his recent trip to the Holy Land, which he made with a group from Strood including Rachel, of course. He had put together a power point presentation so that we had a visual tour of the places they visited, which was very interesting. Interspersed he read appropriate passages from the Bible to bring it even more alive. Thank you Ian, for giving us an enjoyable afternoon.

At the beginning of May we welcomed back Bob & Janet with their Hospital Therapy Dogs, Katie and Cookie. They visited us for the first time a couple of years ago and it was great to see them again. Katie is a grand old lady of 15 years now and is not able to do as much as she could - familiar territory?! Cookie, on the other hand is full of beans and keen to show us her tricks albeit for a treat! Bob & Janet visit the hospital five days a week but can also be called at other times if there is a patient with a particular need which the staff feel they can help with. Last year, they received a request to go to the Methodist Church near the Grenfell Tower disaster where there were many traumatised people. Just being there and spending time with those who needed a shoulder to cry on must have been an enormous help.

Lastly, in this quarter, another good friend, Geoff Harris came back to speak to us. He chose as his subject Communication and started by showing us the greeting 'Good Morning' in different languages. We had to guess what they were, which wasn't easy unless you could see the back of the card he was holding! He looked at ways in which we communicate in different situations and how important it is to be clear in what we are trying to say. The Circuit News magazine was born out of a feeling that there was a lack of communication in the Circuit. We also need to think about how we communicate with people coming into our churches for the first time who may not understand what is going on. We need the love of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

During this period we have celebrated the birthdays of Hilary, Pauline, Betty and Iris. We continue meeting fortnightly with a summer break during the month of August. The dates and speakers are advertised in the church notices so do come and join us for a time of fellowship and sharing. Fran



# Prayer Chain



The Prayer Chain has been running at St Luke's for many years now and is 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 have just a few basic details so that it is easier to pass on. We are at a point now when the chain needs re- doing so if anyone feels they would like to be one of the people who pray, then please contact Fran Shepherd. When the prayer chain is ready it will be displayed on the notice board in church.



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  
on 30th June 2018  
to Project Funds



## 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**

## SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS – POSSIBLY!

Here are the titles of 32 of William Shakespeare's plays – they just need decoding.

1	This could be what you enjoy.	
2	A dozen dark times after Christmas.	
3	A couple of polite chaps from an Italian city.	
4	The third month was a bit unlucky for him.	
5	A laughable tale of things going wrong.	
6	A rude monarch.	
7	Lots of these percussion instruments in a row.	
8	A fighter plane used by the RAF in the final part of WWII.	
9	This king only had two parts to his name.	
10	Finding the right size a couple of times.	
11	When it was finally over everything was tickety-boo.	
12	The English member of royalty without a digit to their name.	
13	Caesar's mate does the dirty on him.	
14	What a fuss!	
15	He nearly conquered all of France.	
16	The lady in this story sounds like she likes salad!	
17	Concerning a business man from a city that has no cars in it.	
18	A story told in the snow and rain.	
19	That guy from the Greek capital.	
20	Berkshire females.	
21	A Roman general switches sides.	
22	After parts 1 and 2 comes . . .	
23	A Scots girl's name.	
24	Putting the small rodent in its place.	
25	Sounds a bit like a stringed instrument.	
26	This guy needed a quadruped in a hurry.	
27	A small habitable area without a religious building.	
28	The only Shakespeare play whose title is an example of alliteration.	
29	Could be the name for an icicle.	
30	A family feud ends badly for the main characters in this story.	
31	Everything was a bit hazy round about June 24 <sup>th</sup> .	
32	This guy's surname sounds like a medical term for a bad head cold.	

# Angie's Over 55s 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 to 3pm**



Enjoy gentle exercise to music  
A chat and finish with a cup of tea



For further information contact  
Angie on 01634 614809  
Or just come along and meet us.

## A Prayer

Now I lay 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.

## Pearl

Deborah & Kevin would like to thank everyone for their prayers, love and support during the months when Mum was unwell. Thank you, Robin, for visiting Mum in Sheppey Hospital and the many times you "popped" in to see her during the short time she was at home, you were

a great comfort to us all. Mum would have been overwhelmed with the number of friends who attended the service of thanksgiving and the very generous donations to Guide Dogs Maidstone Mobility Team.

Thanks also to those of you who were unable to join us but held us in your hearts.

# Church Anniversary Weekend

## Saturday 23rd June



### Bat and Trap Challenge

Start Time 1pm

If any church in the Circuit wishes to send a team(s) of three to play please let Danny Gibson know on

07506 765805 or email him at

[dannygibson55@gmail.com](mailto:dannygibson55@gmail.com)

This will be followed by a Strawberry Tea.



on

## Sunday 24th June

10.30am

### Led by Revd Jeanette Richardson

The service will be followed by lunch. If you wish to attend the lunch please ensure you place your name on the sheet on the Notice Board in the church or contact

Val Gibson on 01634 319284 or at

[valgibson42@gmail.com](mailto:valgibson42@gmail.com)

## Rochester South and Horsted Prayer Bulletin May 2018:

**“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” Hebrews 13.20 NIV**

Herewith the May 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 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 coming months. Thank you.

- Prayer For JustOne: Fri 4 May: If you are able, please consider joining us for all or part of a half night of prayer for the upcoming JustOne outreach with Canon J. John at Gillingham’s Priestfield Stadium in June (<http://justonepriestfield.com/>). The prayer meeting starts at 8 pm and will run on until 2 am at The Emmaus Church Centre, Clover Street, Chatham, ME4 4DT. If you are unable to join us, perhaps pray for a short time wherever you are that evening for the outreach where we hope to see many, many folk come to faith.
- Medway Celebrate and Prayer: Wed 16 May: The new monthly worship and prayer lunchtime service continues (every third Wednesday of each month) at The Emmaus Church Centre, Clover Street, Chatham, ME4 4DT from 12.45 to 1.30 pm. Similar to Celebrate that ran successfully for 11 years, the meeting will be mostly worship focussed with a short time in the middle given over to some thoughts on, and then prayer for this month JustOne as part of the Medway House of Prayer. We will be praying from 12.30 pm for any that wish to come along earlier ([www.medwayhouseofprayer.org.uk](http://www.medwayhouseofprayer.org.uk)).
- Thy Kingdom Come: This global prayer initiative returns between 10 and 20 May (see [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) for further details) and aims to mobilise millions of Christians around the globe to pray for His Kingdom to come in their localities and for people they know to come to know Jesus.
- Prayer For Schools Fortnight: This annual schools prayer initiative runs between 7 and 18 May (see [www.prayforschools.org](http://www.prayforschools.org) for creative prayer ideas). Our ward schools are Horsted (Barberry Avenue), Thomas Aveling and Warren Wood (Arethusa Road) and Balfour (Pattens Lane and Balfour Road). The Association of Christian Teachers have written the following prayer for the fortnight that you might like to use: “Loving Father, we pray for our [ward] schools with all the successes, challenges, celebrations and

disappointments that fill each week. We long for the light and love of Christ’s kingdom to come for each member of these communities as Your Spirit works among them. May our schools thrive because of Your gracious blessings. Amen”

Crime: The Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association have advised of the following incidents in the ward. Please pray for all affected by them and the police as they search for the offenders; that those responsible come to a knowledge of the Lord and cease their criminal lifestyle and for protection of all homes and vehicles in the ward:

- 24 Feb: Beatty Road: Car break in
- 23 Feb: Concord Avenue: Burglary
- 06 Mar: Haig Avenue: Car break in
- 11 Mar: Balfour Road: Burglary
- 14 Mar: Gerrard Avenue: Vehicle theft
- 22 Mar: Wallace Road: Car break in
- 01 Apr: Ewart Road: Car break in
- 02 Apr: Haig Avenue: Car break in
- 18 Apr: Randall Road: Car break in
- 19 Apr: Stock Close: Car break in
- 20 Apr: The Chase: Car break in

Please do pray the following prayer around the theme of those who have left the church, I am sure we all know many such dear folk. 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>.

**“Redeeming God, we intercede for those who formerly believed in You [here in Rochester South and Horsted], but no longer do so. Amid life’s circumstances and through the lives and prayers of Christian family, friends and colleagues please stir up their spirits to respond once again to the gospel. 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.

- Funding issues forcing estate nursery to close: (Mar 29 pg 27) “Vale Pre-School nursery, Barberry Avenue, is to close after 35 years because of a lack of funding and increased hours of free pre-school education. Thousands of little ones have passed through the doors over the decades.”
- Work underway for air ambulance’s return: (Apr 5 pg 6) “Medway’s Innovation Park is set to welcome its first official resident – Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. The charity, which has saved thousands of lives will be returning to Rochester Airport after 18 years.”

- Medway Messenger is sent to the future: (Apr 9 pg 3) “Children at Horsted Primary School filled a time capsule that was buried under Rogallo Place – a residential home which is part of the Horsted Park development. The capsule was buried at a ceremony attended by children, teachers, Optivo staff and councilors.”
  - Club’s big ambitions realised: (Apr 12 pg 53) “Holcombe Park, Curtis Way opened 20 years ago this month. Holcombe Hockey Club have achieved their dream with both the men and women’s teams playing English Premier Division Hockey and both being involved in European competition. Some of the world’s best players are now at Holcombe Park, a facility which boasts outstanding playing surfaces.”
  - Aldi and KFC’s retail park plans finally given the nod: (Apr 16 pg 5) “Plans for a new supermarket and fast food restaurant at Horsted Retail Park have been approved despite uncertainty over the future of a neighbouring Toys R Us store.”
  - Suspect quizzed by terror cops as police leave home: (Apr 23 pg 5) “Counter terrorism officers have left a house they were searching in Warren Wood Road after a man was arrested on suspicion of terror-related offences last week.”
  - Couple in their 80s found dead at home: (Apr 23 pg 1) “Police have launched an investigation after two pensioners were found dead in their Blaker Avenue home. One had been ill suffering from dementia and the husband was trying to cope with that. Police said they are treating the deaths as suspicious but are not looking for anyone else in connection with them.”
- Fire station becomes the hot venue for the over 50s: (Apr 26 pg 15) “The over 50s were invited to Rochester fire station, Marconi Way, to chat to emergency service staff and community organisations in the first event of its kind in Kent.”

### **SHOCKINGLY BAD NEWS!!!**

I am afraid that for some of you it will feel like the end of the world! Those of you who enjoy those special chocolate biscuits on Sunday after the service . . . well, I am afraid that my present supplier seems to have stopped manufacturing that particular packet of mixed biscuits. I have not been able to purchase some for the last two months and I used up the last packet on Sunday.

You will still be able to get the usual boring biscuits – custard creams, bourbon creams (with dark or white chocolate), jam sandwiches, party rings, plain digestive, digestives with chocolate on them – both dark and milk chocolate, chocolate fingers, malted milk, etc., etc.. But no more special chocolate biscuits.

**Sorry. Tim**

p.s. I will look around and see if another provider will save the day – but don’t hold your breath!

### **SHAKESPEARE’S PLAYS - ANSWERS**

1	As You Like It.	17	The Merchant Of Venice.
2	Twelfth Night.	18	Winter’s Tale.
3	Two Gentlemen Of Verona.	19	Timon Of Athens.
4	Julius Caesar.	20	Merry wives of Windsor.
5	A Comedy Of Errors.	21	Coriolanus.
6	King Lear.	22	Henry VI - Part III.
7	Cymbeline.	23	Macbeth.
8	Tempest.	24	The Taming Of The Shrew.
9	Henry IV Part I & Part II.	25	Othello.
10	Measure For Measure.	26	Richard III.
11	All’s Well That Ends Well.	27	Hamlet.
12	King John.	28	Love Labour’s Lost.
13	Anthony And Cleopatra.	29	Pericles.
14	Much Ado About Nothing.	30	Romeo and Juliet.
15	Henry V.	31	A Midsummer Night’s Dream.
16	Troilus And Cressida.	32	Titus Andronicus.

# 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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Church Steward	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Church Steward	Angie Rastall	614809
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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
<b>Organisations that Use the Church</b>		
Pre-School	Maria Hill	405315
Brownies	Louise Kemsley	
Craft Club	Dorothy Odell	409826
Homemakers Secretary	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Kingfisher Singers	Davina Brisley	
La Leche League of Rochester	Deborah Robertson	
Medway Bridge Club	Graham Jenkinson	841795
Over 55s Keep Fit	Angie Rastall	614809
Rainbows	Gina Kemsley	
Scouts/Beavers/Cubs	John Brisley	
Tae Kwon-Do	Gary Parr	
The Wednesday Fellowship	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Amethyst School of Dance	Rachel Pratt	01795 426611

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