



The Way

Autumn Edition 2018



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 are kindly accepted. All monies go to the Project. Funds.

The next magazine is due out in December 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.



“Thank You”

How often do we find ourselves prompting our children to say “thank you?” Over the summer holidays I can recall on numerous

occasions overhearing parents saying to their children, “Now, what do you say?”

We want our children to be respectful and use good manners, which is why we teach them to say “Thank you,” but I wonder if in our attempt to produce properly mannered children, we actually overlook the thankfulness within “Thank you.” I wonder do we bring ourselves to a place where thankfulness is more than polite, but a recognisable part of who we are? Are we at a place where thankfulness is a recognisable part of our inner selves?

Thankfulness is a state of being and a way of life. As such it is something we need to stop and reflect upon – not get it over quickly and rush on to the next thing, rather like a child who opens a present at Christmas, says thank you and then dashes off to the next one eager to discover what they have been given. We need to take time over saying ‘thank you’ – time to let ourselves feel what we’re saying.

Equally we often take things for granted. Sometimes we’re like a holiday maker who has been everywhere and seen everything and takes for granted the blessing and beauty of all that they have seen. We have become so accustomed to our blessings that they fail to excite us and generate thankfulness, for we take them for granted. A famous philosopher once said that if the stars came out only once a year, everybody would stay up all night to behold them. We have seen the stars so often that sometimes we don’t even pay any attention to them anymore. I think this rings true, we’re incredibly lucky to live by the

seaside but too often we take it for granted but we really shouldn’t.

Harvest is also a time in which we pause and remember the place of God in our lives and give thanks to him for all that God has done for us and for all that God has provided for us over the last year. Yet God does not want our thanksgiving to be limited to one day a year; for that matter we also should not withhold our thanksgiving for “Sundays only”. He wants us to continually thank him. He wants us to live a life of thankfulness. He wants us to be grateful for his goodness, and not to take it for granted.

Remember the words of Paul?

1 Thessalonians 5:18

“give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

The apostle Paul made it clear that our giving of thanks is to be continual and not contingent. That it is to be ongoing in spite of our circumstances, not just because everything is going well.

The good news is that being thankful – really thankful – can change us. It can make us contented Christians, instead of competitive consumers. It can make us cherish the gifts God gives us, instead of wasting them or spoiling them or taking them for granted.

Equally, a positive, thankful person is a great witness in this broken world. Remember our light shines when we are thankful, when we live it and express it!

So giving thanks is God’s will for our lives. Giving thanks to God and others is what pleases Him. But most importantly, saying ‘thank you’ from the heart can make God real to us.

Every Harvest Blessing

Robin

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Dear Friends

Church Financial Review

If you were not able to attend our Church Council in July, you may not be aware of our current financial situation.

Before we look ahead I would like to thank you for welcoming and receiving my family and my ministry with an open heart. I am so grateful to be the minister of a church where so many people give of their time and energy. Thank you so much for your wonderful, faithful and generous giving.

One aspect of this is your financial giving. This year 2017/18, we are anticipating an annual deficit on our day to day accounts of £2,000. This figure includes a Gift Aid payment which should have been allocated in 2015/16, hence our deficit on paper is approximately £5,000.

Our largest outgoing is the Circuit Assessment which is calculated on a year to year basis. This contributes to minister's stipends, circuit administration and cost of maintaining circuit manses. Since the North Kent Circuit was formed there has been no prescribed means by which the contribution from each church is calculated. A formula for calculating future payments has now been agreed. The new payment will be based on membership and total income of each church in the circuit. This is proportioned across all the churches in the circuit, which means the largest churches in the circuit will of course pay a larger contribution and visa versa for the smaller churches. Our contribution for 2018/19 will be £15,244, which is a reduction on previous years. However, the cost of running and maintaining our building has increased and we have also seen a reduction of income from casual lettings. In response to this, the Property & Finance Team are looking at ways we can reduce costs and speed up refurbishment of the halls which would help towards reducing our day to day maintenance costs. This would help towards reducing the £2,000 deficit, which if allowed to continue will eat into our reserves and have a knock-on effect on all aspects of our ministry eg worship, outreach and charitable giving and eventually leave us unable to support a minister.

Your generous giving is a vital enabler for the mission and ministry of our work together as a church. Giving sustains our activities for people of all ages which extends to the wider community and into the world.

Please therefore ask yourself if you could manage to increase your weekly giving. Even a small increase will start to get us 'out of the red'. Yet whatever amount you decide to give, I know you will make your decision after prayer and thoughtful reflections; being generous, but realistic about what you can afford.

Even though I have only been here 1 year I have heard so many stories of your wonderful generosity. Your astonishing achievement at fund raising for this new sanctuary space was fantastic. Paul tells us how God loves a cheerful giver; and I know God is overflowing with joy when he sees your deep, sacrificial generosity!

Of course, it is not only money that is needed to do the work of God; you are even more important! The church family needs your talent, your time, and your prayers. So please look not only into your pocket but also into your heart and mind. Ask God to help you discover what you can contribute to the work he has given us.

Over the next few weeks I would be delighted to discuss with you the ways you feel you can serve God in the coming year. Thank you so very much for your wonderfully faithful and generous giving.

Every Blessing

Rev Robin Selmes



Benevolent Fund

People, often ask how do we use the money from the second offering on a communion Sunday?

Simple answer....

St Luke's Methodist church, in keeping with its Biblical and Charitable aims, has a Benevolent Fund. The Fund is totally separate from our tithes and offerings. All the money from this second offering goes to this fund.

This fund is retained by the church and made

available to the minister to distribute at their discretion in response to needs that they encounter within the church community. So anyone from our church community finding themselves in circumstances which are detrimental to their health and well-being - may be eligible. Funds are paid to the source of the need. Typical needs may include, rent payment, Food, clothing, transportation and other miscellaneous items. All support is provided completely confidentially.

From September the Trustees of the church have decided that this second offering will now take the form of a retiring collection once a month on a Communion Sunday.

Wednesday Fellowship

I am writing this article during our Summer break and reflecting on the past couple of months, which have been dominated by the weather! I never thought that I would be so glad to see the rain and experience cooler temperatures and I am sure I am not alone. Despite the heat we have continued to meet every other Wednesday afternoon for fellowship and to listen to some more interesting talks by our faithful speakers.

On June 13th, our minister, Robin, visited us to talk about his family's experience of the adoption process. He and Mandy already had two sons, Jonathan and Chris and while Mandy was working in a school she met foster parents, which led to her and Robin thinking and praying about the possibility of adding to their family. They went through PACT, which is a Christian charity working with people wanting to adopt. The whole process took 18 months with many interviews and training and eventually, at the age of 4, Eva came to join them. It was a very moving talk and we are thankful that God has placed Eva in such a loving family.

Our next meeting on the 27th June was our annual Strawberry Tea, which as usual was enjoyed by all!

On July 11th Richard Vincent came from Maidstone where he worships at Union Street Methodist Church. Richard has a heart for mission, which has been passed on to him by his father who he told us about. He was called to the ministry and ordained at Westminster Central Hall. His first appointment was in Rangoon, Burma where he was stationed in a village by a river for about 6 years. He then moved to Mandalay in 1939 and in 1942 the Japanese invaded. By this time he was married with a family so they decided to leave in a group of about 60 as it was too dangerous to

stay. They eventually arrived in Liverpool in 1944! He then moved to Cornwall and became the minister in Falmouth and then Penzance, which is where Richard grew up. He did return to Burma after the war to see what had happened but there were no church buildings left. However the Body of Christ was still strong, which was more important. Richard talked about the importance of the 'invisible church' and the bonds of loving and caring. It is important that we share our faith whenever we can.

Our final meeting of the summer on July 25th brought our friends Alan & Susan Thorne who had recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. Alan took as his theme 'Beside the Seaside' and he evoked many memories through music, poetry and readings of carefree holidays in places such as Ramsgate, Bournemouth and Southwold. It was a lovely way to finish the season and we were very grateful for the time he took to prepare his talk.

Sadly, since then we have lost another long term member as Barbara Jarrett passed away on August 7th. We remember her with fondness as she came faithfully with David until the last couple of months when she was too frail. Our thoughts and prayers are with David at this time.

Our meetings resume on September 12 at 2.30pm when Robin will be leading a short service for the placing of Pauline Gilbert's ashes in the Garden of Remembrance followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments to which all are welcome. Our numbers have decreased over the past couple of years so we would love to see anyone who would like to join us on alternate Wednesday afternoons in the Faith Hall at 2.30pm details of which are in the church notices.

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.

St Luke's Methodist Church Centre

COFFEE MORNING

In Church usually every last Saturday in month
at 10am

ALL WELCOME

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

Due to holidays we have had to cancel the
Coffee Morning on August 25th.

Proceeds for next Coffee Morning in September go to
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

MIDWEEK

PRAY . PRAISE REFUEL

CHURCH LITE our midweek worship service gives you an opportunity to meet up, connect and worship God in between our Sunday Morning Services.

Meeting on the first Tuesday in the month at 10:00 am for about half an hour

CHURCH LITE provides a friendly and gentle environment for worship to pray, praise and refuel for the week ahead.

Stay on after **CHURCH LITE** to enjoy a chat over a cup tea.

Next Services:

Tuesday 4th September

Tuesday 2nd October

Tuesday 6th November

Action for Children Home Collecting Boxes

If you have an Action for Children Home Collecting Box please can you let me have it by Sunday 2nd September. I shall not be in church on August 19th. Thank you. **Rosemary**

Thank you

I would just like to say a big thank you for all the support I received during my recent illness and absence from church for a few months. It was very comforting to know that I was being prayed for and that people cared enough to phone, visit and generally to show their support. The first three months were the worst but after my operation at Kings I have felt better and better as time has gone on and am

now virtually able to return to a 'normal' way of life. I still need further check-ups to check that all has completely cleared up but hopefully this will not take much longer. Am looking forward to being allowed to drive again but probably not before next February - a year after the symptoms started to display themselves!

So thanks again to all of you and for making me feel so welcome when I returned to church a few weeks ago. **Rosemary Moss**

MAN ON THE RUN

The morning started as usual, although there was a niggling feeling of trepidation as he got washed and dressed. The sun was shining and the sky was blue with just a few wispy clouds high up in the firmament. The more he thought about it the more he realised that this was just the sort of day when his enemy would appear. He ate his breakfast – Frosties and blue top milk, his favourite start to the day. He might as well begin on a good note if nothing else. Even so, he still had a premonition of trouble coming his way.

Leaving the house for work he had a good look around outside – all seemed clear – no enemy in sight. Closing the front door he made a run for his car. Opening the car door he threw himself inside, slammed it shut and breathed a sigh of relief. Fishing for the car key in his jacket pocket he quickly put it in the ignition and turned the engine on. He was alarmed when this action did not produce the usual roar as the starter motor kicked in. Just a miserable stutter. He tried again with the same result. He turned the radio on – utter silence. He looked down and then he noticed that the light stick was still set for on. He must have left the lights on last night and now the battery was flat. He thumped the steering wheel in anger and then nearly went through the roof as the horn blared out as he had hit that as well – not quite a flat battery then!

Well, there was nothing else for it - he would have to walk to work. There was no bus going in the right direction and it would be near-impossible to get a taxi this time in the morning. Gingerly opening the car door he stepped out onto the drive and looked around. No enemy in sight. Pulling his jacket closer to him and with his head down he set off at a brisk pace to walk the three and a half miles to his place of employment.

No enemy in sight – yet. One street, two streets, three streets and now four streets. The man was beginning to get hot, but he did not slacken his pace. There was no telling when his enemy might find him. Best to keep going and hope for the best. Five streets, six streets – only another five to go. Even though they were quite long streets he was beginning

to relax a bit. Soon be there he thought.

It was odd. He couldn't understand why he should be singled out, why his enemy seemed to pick on him so much. He couldn't think what he had done to merit such a reaction from them. His last brush with them had left him in pain for ages. He still bore the scars gained during their last encounter.

The man approached the main road and paused at the traffic lights and looked around. He was just about to cross the road when – horror of horrors - he saw a couple of them coming across the road and heading his way. The man turned round, quickened his pace and started to run, dodging into an alleyway. He stopped and stood waiting, desperately trying to control his laboured breathing. Carefully looking around the corner he saw that they still seemed to be following him so he went deeper into the alley. It had high walls along each side with rubbish bins and other litter against them. A few doors on either side – each was locked shut as he tried them in desperation looking for an escape route. He scuttled further down the alley like a frightened rabbit. At the end was a high wooden fence, too high to climb over and no gate to escape by. He looked back and then, to his horror, a man entered the alleyway. Looking around he realised he was trapped, with what looked like no way out. The enemy was getting very close. He huddled on the rubbish-strewn floor with his hands over his head making a piteous mewling noise.

“Are you all right, mate?” a voice cut into his fear-filled brain. “What’s wrong, is there anything I can do to help?”

“It’s the enemy,” he wailed. “They’re after me.”

“What do you mean? What enemy? There’s no one else here,” the stranger pointed out.

“There’s two of them. They chased me into this alley.”

“Who? As I said, there’s just you and me here,” the other man said with a hint of exasperation in his voice.

“It’s the wasps, I can’t stand wasps!!!”

Anon

Appeal for Knitters!

We are having a stall at one of the Dickens Festival days at the end of November to raise money for the Church Project Funds.

We plan to have a small Christmas Tree and want to hang some small knitted stockings -

filled with sweets - on to this. The stockings are small and can be knitted in any variety of colours. The pattern is very easy to follow and they only take about one hour in total to make. I have the pattern and would be delighted to give you a copy if you feel you could help.

Rosemary Moss

Summary of Church Council Meeting July 4th 2018

The following is a summary of the main points from the meeting:

- **Safeguarding** - all Pastoral Visitors need up-to-date DBS checks
- Fran was asked to send a letter of thanks to Rev Jeanette Richardson for leading our Church Anniversary service (this has been done).
- **Finance & Property** - there was much discussion re the financial deficit and what we can do to try and overcome it. A letter has been given to all members laying out the difficulties and asking people to prayerfully think about their giving.
- **The Benevolent Fund**, which receives the money from the second collection at Holy Communion is used when a situation arises where someone is in need of financial help within the church and is given at the Stewards discretion. It was decided that this would move to a retiring collection after a Communion service as from September and would be reviewed in 12 months time.
- The following appointments were approved -
 - Privacy Administrator - Danny Gibson
 - Fire Marshals - Ian Smith, Tim Crouch, Ed Godden, Val Gibson and Rob Rastall.
 - Pastoral Visitor in place of Hilary Wheeler who has stepped down - Pauline Conway.
 - Circuit Representatives - Ian Smith & Dorothy Odell
- **Fundraising** - several events are being arranged and will be advertised.
- **Pastoral** - Our membership is now 33. The Bereavement Service will be held on the afternoon of 11th November. The Pastoral Recognition Service is planned for Sunday 9th September. Robin is doing any extended communion visits. Danny is progressing with data protection and Derek & Robin's Pastoral lists are password protected. Date of next meeting October 15th 2018.
- **Junior Church** continues with an average of 3/4 young people a week. Elizabeth Smith-Menza, one of the mothers, has agreed to be a helper and has been DBS checked.
- **Mission & Worship** - Robin has been in discussions with St Justus about joint services at Friston House Nursing Home. We are looking at the 3rd/4th Tuesday each month - details to follow if you would like to join in.
- **The Church Lite** services will resume on Tuesday 4th September at 10am and every following first Tuesday of the month. This will be a short 30 minute service followed by tea/coffee.
- **Harvest Festival** on 30th September will be an All Age service led by Robin. Church decoration at Coffee Morning the previous day. Gifts to Food Bank.
- **The next Contact the Elderly tea** will be on November 25th from 2-4pm.
- **Rochester Christmas Festival** - we can have a stall free of charge on 24th/25th November. We will need volunteers to run it and craft type items for the stall. Final decision to be made by the end of October.
- **Circuit Welcome Service** - 1st September at 10.30am in Sittingbourne a welcome service for the new minister Rev Zachar.
- **Minister's Business** - from Sep - Dec there will be dedicated Sunday services on the following themes - Mission, Discipleship, Prayer & Worship and Pastoral Care. After each there will be questionnaires for people to take home and prayerfully fill in and return. The information gathered from these will inform our planning as we go forward as a church.
- **Next Church Council Meeting**—November 14th at 11.30am

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.

Forthcoming Church Events

Listed below are planned events for the next few months. Details of some of these events are on the church notice board and can also be found on the church website if unable to attend church. The church website address is

www.stlukesrochester.co.uk

September

Date	Event
Tuesday 4th	Church Lite Service
Wednesday 12th	Property & Finance Meeting
Saturday 22nd	Beetle Drive and Silent Auction
Saturday 29th	Monthly Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
Sunday 30th	Harvest Festival

October

Date	Event
Tuesday 2nd	Church Lite Service
Monday 15th	Pastoral Meeting
Saturday 27th	Monthly Coffee Morning in aid of Building Project Funds
Saturday 27th	Kingfisher Concert in aid of Building Project Funds

November

Date	Event
Tuesday 6th	Church Lite Service
Sunday 11th	Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 11th	pm Bereavement Service
Wednesday 14th	Church Council Meeting
Saturday 17th	Quiz at St Luke's
Saturday 24th	There is no Monthly Coffee Morning
Sunday 25th	Contact the Elderly Tea

December

Date	Event
Saturday 9th	Monthly Coffee Morning and Breakfast with Father Christmas

Details of Services and events for December will be published in a separate flyer in November when details are known.

Church Leaders



**Senior Steward &
Treasurer
Angie Rastall**



**Minister
Revd Robin Selmes**



**Steward &
Worship Leader
Ian Smith**



**Steward
Hilary Wheeler**



**Church Steward
Jean Wahanchuk**



**Steward &
Worship Leader
Dorothy Odell**



**Pastoral Secretary
Derek Dighton**



Monthly Notices and Church Magazine

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Church Steward	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Church Steward and Worship Leader	Dorothy Odell	409826
Church Steward	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Church Steward and Worship Leader	Ian Smith	723477
Church Contacts		
Church Notices	Danny Gibson	07506 765805
Church Secretary	Fran Shepherd	811129
Gift Aid Secretary	Angie Rastall	614809
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	07984 036490
Craft Club	Dorothy Odell	409826
Homemakers Secretary	Jean Wahanchuk	406466
Kingfisher Singers		
La Leche League of Rochester	Deborah	814221
Medway Bridge Club	Graham Jenkinson	841795
Over 55s Keep Fit	Angie Rastall	614809
Rainbows	Gina Dalligan	843209
Scouts/Beavers/Cubs	John Brisley	610910
The Wednesday Fellowship	Hilary Wheeler	847211
Amethyst School of Dance	Rachel Pratt	01795 426611
River Voice Choir	Michelle Bunce	07954 604697

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

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