

June 2017



The Way

Summer Suns are Glowing

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Editor's News

Please keep all the articles rolling in! Remember articles do not have to be three pages long as every little article helps make The Way more enjoyable for all to read.

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

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

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

Don't forget if you need the article typed just give it to Danny Gibson or leave it in an envelope at the church marked "The Way". So put your thinking caps on and get writing!

Table of Contents

3	Message from Revd Tony Graff
4	Testimony of Faith—Derek Brighton
4	Balfour Infants School—School Governors
5/6	Wednesday Fellowship
6	As Time Goes by— Jean W
7	Church Anniversary
7	Bat and Trap Challenge
8	Prayer Chain
8	Saturday Coffee Morning
8	Offertory Envelopes & Gift Aid
9	Betty Hallett
10	Contrary Sayings and Proverbs
10	Quiz Evening
11/12	Medway Foodbanks in 5 Years Old
12	Contact the Elderly
12	Contrary Sayings—Answers
13	Groups that use the Church
14/15	Rochester Ward Bulletin
16	Church Lite Service—18th June
17	Church Leaders
18	Contacts Page

Equalities & Diversity Statement

St Luke's Methodist Church Centre is committed to eliminating discrimination and creating an environment where all people, regardless of gender, cultural or ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, are treated with dignity and respect. We have procedures in place which enable complaints of discrimination to be dealt with promptly and fairly. If any person has a complaint about discrimination they can approach the Minister, Revd Tony Graff or any of the Church Stewards. Complaints will be dealt with in a sensitive manner and in the strictest confidence.

Hall available in City Way

For classes, parties, playgroups.

Reasonable rates.

Please contact Jean Wahanchuk on

01634 406466.

Donations

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of producing this magazine please place it in the Building Project jar at back of church.



Message from Tony

Dear Friends,

A large part of my life is spent putting together sermons. A friend of mine who was aware of that once asked me, "Do you always have something to say?" To which I replied, "Well, I always say something." She understood. There is a difference between having something to say, having a message to give, and just saying something, which at its worst could be just words, words, words, signifying nothing. I hope that God's grace keeps me towards having something to say and I'm grateful for all that brings me back to the central themes of the Christian message. For example at the end of Luke's gospel, Jesus reminds his friends that they are to be witnesses proclaiming "Repentance" and the "Forgiveness of sins". I was urged recently to remember that these two belong together. My encourager said that she thought I was stronger on the forgiveness of sins than I was on repentance.

She is right, both are important and need to be held together in balance. In the story of Noah, God looks at humankind and sees that "Every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil all the day long." In response God sends the destructive flood. This is a difficult story, but it reminds us that it's serious when we do wrong; people suffer and we too are hurt. We can't say it doesn't matter, because it does. We need stories like Noah and the flood to remind us of that and for our need to repent and change our ways.

At the end of the story however God looks at people and sees that "The inclination of the human heart is evil from youth." What God sees in the human heart at the end is the same as what God saw at the beginning; it hasn't changed. But this time God chooses a different response. God decides to be gracious and makes the commitment not to destroy people but to go on giving them all

they need to live. As I was reminded, both sides of the story need to be told; our wrong doing is serious and our proper response is to repent and God is gracious and goes on offering forgiveness.

I also see both sides in the words of God that the prophet hears, "I have called you by your name; you are mine." I see this in two ways. First of all your name sums up just exactly who you are. God calls you by name; that is God sees you, what's beautiful about you and what's not quite so beautiful; that about you which shines and your dull feet of clay; God sees your best side and your worst. God knows what you are in your deepest essence, in your heart of hearts. God sees that, knows that and says "I have called you by your name, you are mine ... you are precious in my sight and honoured and I love you." God is unconditional love. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more. There is nothing you can do to make God love you less.

That's one way of looking at these words. But when God calls you by name he may also be calling you towards what he has created you to be. This is your perfect name. It's been your name from before the beginning of time but you haven't quite found it yet. It's what you've been created to be. It's what you will be when you are changed from glory into glory. As a teenager I used to wear a badge which said, "Be patient, God hasn't finished with me yet." In the latter part of my fifties I need that badge more than ever. A friend was given a fridge magnet that said "God loves you just the way you are and far too much to leave you that way." So God is not only unconditional love, God is also transforming love. The God of unconditional love offers the forgiveness of sins. The God of transforming love calls for repentance and is working to make you and all things new."

God bless you,

Tony

Testimony of Faith

At this year's church annual general meeting it was agreed to encourage all those attending church to provide their testimony of faith either by name or anonymously with the aim of producing a church book of testimonies. Below is the first of these testimonies from Derek Brighton.

I was brought up in a nominal Christian home, with Christenings. I first realized there was more to it than that when my parent tried to get me cured from an inner ear infection at the age of 7, had from birth. It is still very difficult to cure it with drugs. No specialist could help me. In desperation they took me to a public healing service. I can still remember the healer saying - will he be old enough to understand and my mother saying yes. He laid his hand on my head. I felt heat for the next 3 days and it was healed. In medical terms the brain was putting healing power there. This may not work for genetic problems but it worked for my mechanical problems. This got me thinking and I went to the Crusader bible classes at school on a Sunday afternoon to know more about the bible. I cherish the little badge I was given for attending 10 classes.

Moving on I developed at family services from age 11 to 16 and came to "know the Lord" at a Christian teenager weekend 2 night stay at a local hotel, a mixture of bible classes and

games. The brain just opened up. I was confirmed at school by the Bishop of Winchester in front of the whole school (with 6 others). I enjoyed the Methodist Youth club and went to be one of the first residents of Chester House in Muswell Hill, where I met Jill. We were married when I left University and we have moved around from Sparkhill, Solihull, Farnham, Walcot Bath, Walton-on-Thames, Fareham and now at St Lukes, with my jobs, but always being felt welcome and always enjoying the faith.

Another incident when I was about 50 was a hiatus hernia. It is still on my medical record. An incurable illness only treatable with drugs. I really believed that with the power of prayer and personal healing I was cured. I had to be reasonably quick to avoid scarring. Modern science is starting to say that it is the brain doing the work of enhancing the regular renewal we all have but God works with me to help.

May I continue to live a long and happy healthy life!
Derek Brighton

Balfour Infants School

Dear St Luke's Methodist Church,

My name is David Nixon and I am one of the Governors at Balfour Infant School. I was wondering if it is possible to put the below into the notices, and out to other members of the church please.

The Governing body of Balfour Infant School are looking to recruit Co-Opted School Governors from within the local community to enrich the existing skills mix. Co-Opted Governors are appointed by the governing body based on having the right skills to contribute to effective governance.

If you think you have the skills we are looking for and would like to join the team then please contact the Headteacher Ms Donna Atkinson at Balfour Infants School.

Thank you. David Nixon



Wednesday Fellowship

As always, the past three months have flown by and it is time to update you on what has been going on at the Wednesday Fellowship. Once again we have enjoyed the company of some interesting speakers beginning with a return visit from Derek Gallagher on March 1st. He shared his love of Psalm 139 with us, which tells of the all-encompassing love of God. He was with us before we were born and our days are written in His book. Derek experienced God's hand on his shoulder when he was in the Police Force and he carried a Gideon's Bible with him along with his truncheon and handcuffs. Derek's theme was 'always expect the unexpected' and he shared some interesting events during his time on the force. These included a Chatham criminal helping Derek to arrest a man with a knife; Derek unwittingly gate-crashing a First Aid course near Tesco's because he thought someone had really been injured! and experiencing a miraculous escape from falling into the river at East Farleigh. Derek kindly gave us a New Testament from the Christian branch of the Police Force, which we can use during our meetings. We look forward to his next visit when he will tell us more of his work and God's dealings with him.

On March 15th Fran shared some thoughts from a recent book by Pam Rhodes about Pam's favourite hymns, which we also sang together. It was interesting to hear how these well-loved songs came about, often through times of difficulty when the writer needed to lean heavily on the Lord for help.

March 29th brought our good friend, Roger Eastwood to update us on the work of the Food Bank. Roger is involved with the centre at Strood Community Project and is now the manager of the Food Bank there. He brought with him a typical array of tinned food and toiletries, which are regularly given to people who arrive at the centre with the all-important red voucher. He also shared some of the problems that bring people to the point of needing help including mounting debt, benefit difficulties and health problems especially mental health. The Food Bank are very grateful for the many gifts which they receive and urge us to continue giving because the needs are increasing.

Rev Tony Graff joined us on April 12th for his penultimate talk because he will, sadly, be leaving us in the Summer. As we were in Holy Week he chose the events of Palm Sunday for his theme and he helped us to picture Jesus riding on a donkey that had never been ridden before. What must that have been like? Maybe Jesus' presence calmed the donkey and made him feel safe. Then we thought about the impact of Jesus on Jerusalem, which was like an earthquake and the people thought he was a warrior who would quash the Romans but they didn't understand that His was a spiritual war. Then a few days later on Maundy Thursday there was a complete change of tone as he became as a servant and washed the disciples' feet before going to His death on the Cross. So, what can we learn from this? Firstly, be like the city and welcome Jesus into our lives - indeed, go on welcoming Him in. Be faithful. Secondly, be a donkey! A beast of burden. Jesus was the donkey's burden. He wants to take our burdens and carry them for us as the donkey did.

On April 26th, our good friend Geoff Harris came and shared with us about holidays, which he and his wife have spent in Derbyshire. The first time they visited, there was an ulterior motive because Gillingham were playing at Chesterfield! Unfortunately, the pitch was frozen so the match was cancelled but the weekend became the first of many trips to Derbyshire to enjoy the beautiful countryside. Geoff shared many interesting facts about the places they have visited, not least the village of Eame, which was badly affected by the plague of 1665-6. A tailor had ordered some cloth from London and when it arrived it was wet so he hung it in front of the stove to dry, which released fleas bearing the plague. The tailor was the first in the village to die after which, plague swept through the community and 42 people succumbed. Many, understandably, were on the verge of running away but the Rector convinced them that it was in the best interests of outside communities to stay and contain the plague. The village was enclosed and no-one was allowed out or in. The Duke of Devonshire supplied food at drop-off points. In the end, 260 people died altogether from 76 families and a register of their names can be seen in the church.

May 10th Roger Smithies returned to continue his working-life story on board ship. He was now on a boat, which was loading grain at Tilbury Terminal, which was a very dusty job. Next he was offered employment on a bigger boat called the Roffen,

which carried 250 tons. It was much better equipped and easier to handle. They sometimes went to Grain to load fine oil from the Gulf for refining at London docks. It was then returned to the Gulf because they had no refinery of their own. When they were sailing they used objects to steer by eg belisha beacons, which they lined up to get a clear passage. The strangest one was at Maldon, which was a light on the Corporation toilet! This was on all night so could be used to steer up the creek. Roger liked working in London and Ipswich docks loading cargoes of fertilizer and bags of malt amongst others.

Our most recent meeting on May 24th included a very interesting talk by two of Rochester's Street Pastors, Val & Peter. Street Pastors is a national organisation started by a West Indian called Les Isaacs in response to the increasing violence on the streets of London and other cities. Medway Street Pastors began in 2009 by the then minister of The Vines, Richard Alford because of the death of a young man who had been out for the evening to the Casino Rooms. Richard felt so moved by this that he felt that there should be a Christian presence in Rochester on Friday evenings when so many young people were out. The Street Pastors go out (on Saturdays now) in teams of four from 10.30pm-3.30am wearing a special uniform, which

makes them identifiable and keeps them relatively safe. Their main aim is to observe what is going on, walking slowly and talking to people and offering help when needed. They each carry a rucksack with them which is full of useful things such as a First Aid kit, foil blankets, flip flops for the girls and a recharger for mobile phones. They also carry radios, which keep them connected to people back at the Vines who are praying for them and also connect to CCTV in Rochester in case of any trouble. There is always a Prayer Pastor Team at The Vines of two or three people and many other people pray in their own homes. They are always in need of more people to become Street Pastors or Prayer Partners so if you feel led in this way they would love to hear from you. Sadly, we have recently lost Betty Hallett, one of our long-standing members who we all remember with much love. Betty moved from hospital into Friston House where she passed away at the end of April surrounded by her family. On a happier note we have been very pleased to have Barbara Jarrett back with us along with David of course. Birthdays have been celebrated by Pauline, Betty Gilbert and Iris Donoghue who was 90 years old! Our next meeting is on June 7th and is our annual Strawberry Tea so if you feel like joining us we would love to see you but please let me know so that there are enough strawberries!! Fran

A Time Goes By

Dear Friends

Words from an old song and how right the title is, already we are nearly into June where has the year gone?

Sadly, some of our friends we do not see in church because of illness or they have moved away the same thing happens in our own personal families, but sadly two dear friends are now singing with the angels.

Dear Betty Hallett has passed away and I'm sure that the memory of her lovely smile will always stay with us. Also dear Muriel Wright who was the President of Homemakers for many years has passed away, Muriel and her husband came to St Lukes when they moved away from Luton, Chatham where they attended the Luton Methodist Church. Her funeral will be on Monday 19th June at 1.15 pm at Medway Crematorium and afterwards at Chatham Suburban Club, Wyles Road, Chatham. Family Flowers only please, donations for "MYSHINGSTAR" Children's Cancer Care Charity may be sent c/o John Weir Funeral Directors, 25 New Road, Chatham ME4 4QJ

We can just pray and support their families as we at St Lukes know how: and so, we go forward in the coming months as Betty and Muriel would wish.

Peace and Happiness to you all God Bless Jean 'W'

Church Anniversary

We are hoping for some fine weather again this year for the Anniversary Weekend in June. We have issued a Bat & Trap Challenge to other churches in the circuit (poster below) as we did last year, so we are looking forward to another fun-filled Saturday afternoon—hoping that Roger is kinder to the Trap this time!! We were very grateful to Swanscombe Methodist Church for repairing it last year.

When we have worked up an appetite the afternoon activities will be followed by a Strawberry Tea.

More food is available on Sunday following the Anniversary Service which will be led by Revd John Hellyer.

Don't forget to add your name to the list to help with catering. Lets make it an Anniversary to remember.



The poster features a blue background with a yellow wavy line at the top. The title 'Bat and Trap Challenge' is written in large, blue, 3D-style letters with a yellow outline. To the right of the title is a colorful sunburst graphic with rays in green, brown, yellow, and purple. Below the title is a photograph of a wooden trap with a red handle and three white eggs. On the left side, the text 'St Luke's Methodist Church Centre' and 'City Way, Rochester ME1 2BQ' is written vertically in blue. The bottom of the poster has a blue wavy line.

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

Bat and Trap Challenge



We are holding another Bat and Trap Challenge at our Church Anniversary on Saturday, 17th June at 1pm.
*

All churches are invited to enter a team of six. The game does not involve any running, not too strenuous and is good fun.

If you would like a copy of the rules and would like to enter a team please contact Danny Gibson on 07506 765805 or at dannygibson55@gmail.com. If you just want to come along and watch please also let Danny know so we have an idea of numbers for the Strawberry Tea.

Competition is free but donations welcome for the Strawberry Tea.

Prayer Chain



As we have some new members in our congregation I thought I would take the opportunity to tell you about the Prayer Chain at St Luke's. The Prayer Chain has been going for some years now and is basically the place to go if you have a prayer need, which you would like to share with others who are prepared to pray for you. It might be for yourself or for someone you know and you can share as little or as much as you want – it is usually better to just have a few basic details so that it is easier to pass on. There is a list of people involved on the notice board at the back of the church and it is best to contact either Fran Shepherd on 811129 or Pearl on 867204 who will then pass the request on. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Chain please see Fran Shepherd.



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.



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



Betty Hallett

Betty passed away recently and her funeral was held at Medway Crematorium on Friday 19th June followed by a "Wake" back at the church. For those unable to attend the service below is Betty's Eulogy :

Betty was born on 24th January 1923 to Bert and Alice Hammond, she had an older brother, Bert and older Sister Edna along with two younger sisters, Priscilla and Jean. She was born in Frindsbury hill in Strood and went to Gordon Road School where at 12 her school report stated that she should do better next term! She regularly attended Sunday school and was awarded books for attendances. Betty left school at 14 and went into service and stayed there until the family moved to Tonbridge.

It was in Tonbridge whilst an apprentice at a printing works that she met Cyril and they married at St Stephens church on 26th December 1941. As this was during the second world war Cyril went back on duty in the Buffs and Betty worked in the munitions factory on shorts way.

In 1952 Mary came into their lives and Betty loved to tell the tale of Mary being propped up on a potty drinking from a cup when they went to choose her, she was only 10 months old. Betty absolutely doted on Mary and when she was ill in hospital for 6 months, Betty visited every day, summoning doctors whenever she thought the need arose. When Mary married John in 1972, Betty welcomed him with open arms, even though he teased her mercilessly about being the wicked mother in law.

Betty worked as a school dinner lady for 28 years at Warren Wood school until they made her retire, for years after she retired she was stopped by children she had served who recognised her, the trouble was she had not changed but they were all so different from the young children she had taught to say please and thank you. Betty then returned to work as a cleaner at the same school until she finally retired in September 1994, shortly before Cyril passed away.

Betty had looked after Cyril for some time and found it difficult to adapt when he passed, this is when Betty started to go away on holidays with her sister Edna, she and Edna had always been close and boy did they go on some adventures. They also together used to go to Edna's son Colin to look after the dogs, Betty

loved these times and enjoyed being around Edna's large family who all made her very welcome. Betty always said that when Oliver arrived in 1996 that he was sent for her, then ensued years of help with both Leanne and Oliver, regularly taking them on the bus outings. Every playschool and primary school play, concert and play, Apple Nanny would always be there. They certainly kept her busy and Zoe said that without her intervention, none of them would have coped. Both Leanne and Oliver remained extremely close to their Apple nanny and her face would always light up whenever she saw them.

Betty was an extremely caring person and looked after anyone that needed it, nothing was too much trouble and never a moan was heard. Zoe's earliest memory on her nan was running on a bus over to Maidstone to collect new hearing aid batteries for the old lady up the road.

Betty was a keen gardener and inherited her dad's love of growing flowers, along with a few veg, her garden at The Tideway was always immaculate. She enjoyed an active social life and was always fit, walking everywhere. Betty was also an excellent pastry maker and her sausage rolls have never been matched!

In later years Betty started to attend St Lukes church with her friend Mary, here she found a wealth of activities and friendship that has served her well in her last few years, she always went to church if she could, last attending the mothers day service at St Lukes.

Betty became ill five years ago but still never complained or ask for help, this wasn't her nature, she even went blind without complaining or indeed telling anyone, Betty did not like to accept help and was extremely independent right to the end, regularly giving the care staff the rum around.

Betty was a much loved person by everyone who knew her and will be so greatly missed by Mary, John, Zoe, Karl, Leanne and Oliver, her life should be celebrated with as much joy as she brought to everyone she helped.

CONTRARY SAYINGS AND PROVERBS

Have you ever noticed that out of the hundreds of proverbs and sayings many of them seem almost to contradict each other? Here are some examples for you to work on. On one side of the page are some reasonably well-known proverbs or sayings – on the other side are other equally well known ones that seem to have an opposite meaning to one of them on the left. Unfortunately they have got mixed up. All you have to do is sort out which goes with which. See page 12 for answers.

	This proverb		is opposite to		this proverb (or not)?.
1	Hope for the best, prepare for the worst.		A		Out of sight, out of mind.
2	More haste, less speed.		B		Many hands make light work.
3	It's better to be safe than sorry.		C		Don't bite off more than you can chew.
4	You're never too old to learn.		D		The pen is mightier than the sword.
5	Opposites attract.		E		Paddle your own canoe.
6	Beware of Greeks bearing gifts.		F		Clothes maketh the man.
7	Silence is golden.		G		Time waits for no man.
8	Every cloud has a silver lining.		H		Talk is cheap.
9	Absence makes the heart grow fonder.		I		Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
10	Actions speak louder than words.		J		Don't cross your bridges until you come to them.
11	Look before you leap.		K		Birds of a feather flock together.
12	Do as you would be done by.		L		He who hesitates is lost.
13	Don't judge a book by its cover.		M		The squeaking wheel gets the grease.
14	If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.		N		Don't look a gift horse in the mouth.
15	Two heads are better than one.		O		You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
16	Aim for the stars.		P		It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good.
17	Too many cooks spoil the broth.		Q		Don't keep banging your head against a brick wall.
18	A word to the wise is sufficient.		R		Revenge is sweet.

Quiz Evening

A very successful Quiz Evening was held in March with a total of 14 tables filling out the church - around 70 or more people were present. We were very pleased to raise nearly £400 for the Building Fund.

Very many thanks to all those who came along and gave us a great deal of help in the background!

MEDWAY FOODBANK IS FIVE YEARS OLD

Hard to believe, but St Luke's has been collecting for the Medway Foodbank for five years this Spring. The need for Foodbank is not something to celebrate but the generosity and kindness of our donors and volunteers is.

Heartfelt thanks go out to all of you who have contributed over the last five years and continue to do so. Nearly half our donations come from local churches and the Foodbank would not be sustainable without your individual regular donations, be they large or small.

The Medway Foodbank has grown over the years to meet increasing demand. There is a much larger Central Warehouse and Administration Office on the Medway City Estate, open only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to keep costs down. Three or four key staff receive a small remuneration, the remainder are volunteers both in the Warehouse and the Centres and number about ninety. The Foodbank could not function without them.



Nine Distribution Centres have been opened across Medway

to cater for people near where they live. One or more Centres is open every day except Sundays. I wish I could tell you the need for the Foodbank has diminished and we were no longer needed but sadly that is not the case. Between March 2016 and February 2017 we have fed 3,700 Adults and 2,147 children, totalling 5,847 people in Medway. The main reasons for using Foodbank are Benefit Delays and Changes (45%), Low Income (22%), Debt (9%).

We are concerned that the current housing crisis will add more pressure on young families. There seems little prospect that things are going to improve for some time. Many people are struggling with low incomes and a range of problems in their lives. Foodbank can and does prevent some bad things happening. Trussell Trust national surveys show that:

- 100% of clients would be skipping meals, especially to feed their children.
- 69% would have experienced increased depression
- 38% would have experienced a strain in family relationships
- 15% would have committed a crime to obtain food
- 8% would have used a loan shark or pay day loan company



When clients arrive, we offer them a friendly welcome, a hot drink and a biscuit. Most of all, we aim to show them God's love. We can only imagine what it feels like to be so desperate for food and how we might feel to be in those circumstances, often through no fault of our own. If needed, Foodbank clients are directed to professional Advisers for Benefits and Debt and other problems with a view to helping them out of a crisis situation and finding a long term solution. We also offer them a short personal prayer before they leave. Sometimes the offer is rejected out of hand, but on other occasions it has an amazing effect and we know the Holy Spirit is at work. We never underestimate His power to do what is required.

There are numerous references to hunger in the Bible. Few topics are addressed more often than the poor and the way God's people are to minister to them. One of my favourites is James 2:15-17 which reads:

* ***"If a brother or sister is without clothes and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you don't give them what the body needs, what good is it? In the same way faith, if it doesn't have works, is dead by itself."***

God cares greatly about the poor and hungry and calls upon His people to be actively involved in the ministry to those in need.

Roger Eastwood

Contact the Elderly

On Sunday 23rd April we once again hosted a tea party for "Contact the Elderly". We entertained 11 guests and 7 drivers. After a welcoming cuppa we gave each person some play doh and asked them to make something English as it was St George's Day. This resulted in plenty of chatter and much laughter as the models were constructed. Finished models included teapots, dragons, crowns and roses. After this we had tea followed by the

ever popular exercise class taken by Angie. A good time was had by all.

These tea parties are normally held in private homes and limited to about 4 guests plus drivers, but having a larger hall enables several groups to meet together. Leaflets are available at the back of the church explaining the work of "Contact the Elderly", how to apply to join a group or how to become a volunteer host or driver. Please help yourself and maybe think of joining us as our next party.

CONTRARY SAYINGS AND PROVERBS - ANSWERS

1 is opposite to J		7 is opposite to M		13 is opposite to F
2 is opposite to G		8 is opposite to P		14 is opposite to Q
3 is opposite to I		9 is opposite to A		15 is opposite to E
4 is opposite to O		10 is opposite to D		16 is opposite to C
5 is opposite to K		11 is opposite to L		17 is opposite to B
6 is opposite to N		12 is opposite to R		18 is opposite to H

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

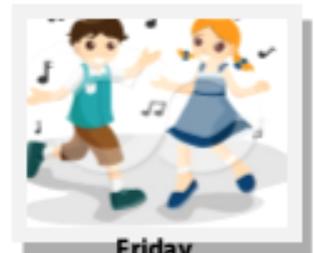


Monday, Tuesday and Friday
 at 7.30pm

Medway Towns
Bridge Club



Craft Club
 Every Friday at 11am



Friday
Amethyst School of Dance



Mondays at 7.30pm
HOUSE GROUP

WEDNESDAY
Beaver Cubs and Scouts
 5pm to 8.30pm



Coffee Morning
 Last Saturday in month
 At 10am

Rochester South and Horsted Ward Monthly Prayer Bulletin

May 2017

Therefore He [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.” Hebrews 7:25 NIV

Herewith the latest 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 this coming month. Thank you.

- CTIM Prayer For Medway: Thur 18 May: 7.30 pm at St Justus Church, The Fairway, Rochester, ME1 2LT to which all are welcome to come and pray together for: God’s deep blessings of unity, mercy, and reconciliation to flood the Medway area; to reach those who are “far off” and the General Election. Further information on Churches Together In Medway can be found on their website at <http://together.ourchurchweb.org.uk/medway/> . The church is open from 7.00 pm for refreshments, meet and greet etc before the time of prayer begins. If you are unable to join us, please consider praying for a short time wherever you are that evening for The Medway Towns and the General Election.
- Thy Kingdom Come: 25 May – 4 June: Thy Kingdom Come is an initiative from Archbishop Justin Welby and other national church leaders. It is simply asking folk to pray that people they know will come to know Jesus Christ as Saviour

and Lord. We are asked to pray between Ascension and Pentecost. Churches and individuals are being invited to join in with this global wave of prayer via www.thykingdomcome.global ...

- Crime: Give thanks that The Medway Neighbourhood Watch Association did not advise of any reported incidents in the ward in April.

Please do pray the following prayer around the theme of schools in relation to Pray For Schools fortnight running between 7 and 21 May (see www.prayforschools.org for more information). The schools in our area: Balfour Infants (Pattens Lane), Balfour Junior (Balfour Road), Horsted Infants, Horsted Junior (both Barberry Avenue), Thomas Aveling and Warren Wood (both Arethusa Road). 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, may many be inspired to start praying for their local schools, especially during the Pray For Schools fortnight. Please encourage those who are already doing this and lead them by Your Spirit as they pray for Your blessing to rest upon staff and pupils. Father, we commit too those who will be sitting examinations over the coming weeks. Please help them to be calm, wise and disciplined in their preparation and achieve results that truly reflect their ability and efforts. 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.

- Pupils run around for cancer charity: (Mar 3 pg 27) "Pupils had an extra PE lesson in a bid to raise money for a good cause – and they weren't going to let a bit of rain put them off. Balfour Junior Academy, Balfour Road, held its own Race For Life in aid of Cancer Research UK."
- Hannah tribute much more than lip service: (Mar 6 pg 3) "Students and staff at Thomas Aveling School, Arethusa Road, wore pink lipstick for a day to raise around £500 for charity in memory of former pupil Hannah E. who died just days after being diagnosed with meningitis in November 2015."
- Support Group: (Mar 13 pg 14) "Every hour in the UK someone is told they have Parkinson's and Medway has two support groups to make sure no-one has to face it alone. The Medway Towns branch meets every fourth Saturday at St Stephen's Church, Maidstone Road."
- After living in UK for 53 years mum can stay: (Mar 30 pg 9) "After 10 months of waiting, a mother facing deportation despite calling Britain home for 53 years, has been told she can stay. Eve W. of Leander Road, has been under threat of having to leave her Rochester home and move back to South Africa since May last

year."

- Air ambulance set to move to new base for larger helicopters: (Apr 13 pg 26) "The boss of Kent's air ambulance says the charity will be very sad to leave Marden as plans for its relocation to Rochester Airport, Maidstone Road, along with its 30-strong staff await approval."
- Donors answer call but brave Alfie loses his fight: (Apr 24 pg 3) "A four-year-old boy, who desperately needed a kidney transplant, has died. Alfie A. of Harptree Drive had suffered from kidney failure since birth and had been on dialysis since he was five months old."

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.

"God who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful."

1 Corinthians 1:9 NIV

"Lord, thank You that You are my faithful God and Father. Thank You also for the opportunity to live in relationship with Your Son, my Saviour. Help me to live out my faith in my everyday circles sure in the knowledge that You are with me. Amen."

Trevor Clarke, 19 Wemmick Close, Rochester,
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Introducing...



The twenty minute church service

Led by Revd Tony Graff

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

Friday 16th June

*We know how busy weekends are-shopping, washing, football, rugby, etc.
Join us for a short service and time to pause before the week begins.*

Doors open at 9.30am for tea, coffee and a biscuit

Service at 10am – 10.20am

Back home in time for a bit of Lunch...

Church Leaders



**Senior Steward &
Worship Leader**
Ian Smith



Minister
Revd Tony Graff



**Treasurer &
Steward**
Angie Rastall



Steward
Hilary Wheeler



Church Steward
Jean Wahanchuk



**Steward &
Worship Leader**
Dorothy Odell



Pastoral Secretary
Derek Brighton

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Website

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Church E-mail address

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Hiring of Church Halls

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Monthly Notices and Church Magazine

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Church Steward	Angie Rastall	614809
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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
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Organisations that Use the Church		
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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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