

# South Kent Circuit Magazine, August/September 2018 edition

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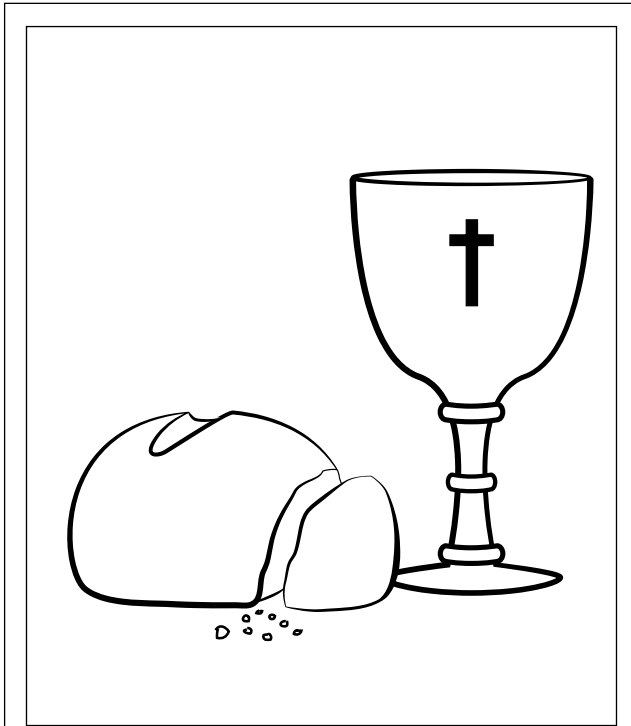
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# SOUTH KENT CIRCUIT MAGAZINE

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August/September 2018



*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
lives in me and I in him. John 6:56*

## South Kent Methodist Circuit Ministerial Team

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Hours: Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 9.00am -1.30pm. Closed Wednesdays

1 During Kevin's treatment please contact by e-mail if possible  
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**This is a publication of the South Kent Methodist Circuit, including the United Reformed/Methodist Church meeting in Ashford & the Anglican/Methodist Church meeting at Hamstreet and Hythe. Items for publication will be gratefully received, but may be edited if necessary or omitted if deemed inappropriate. No anonymous articles will be printed. The views contained in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the editorial committee.**

# **450** The maximum number of words for articles to be printed in this magazine

**DEADLINE for articles (450 words max) and dates of events  
for October/November issue: 7 September 2018**

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**PLEASE CLEARLY MARK ALL ITEMS 'MAGAZINE'**

## From the Manse

**I wrote this a couple of weeks ago for Bridge, the Charing Church Magazine; as several people have already commented on it, I thought that I would share it with the wider audience of the Circuit Magazine.**

I'm afraid that the Grand Old Man has been a casualty of our move. A couple of years ago riffling through the junk on a market stall I found a pair of plates of William Gladstone, the great Victorian Prime Minister (the G. O. M, or Grand Old Man of Victorian politics; he only retired as Prime Minister at the age of 85) and his wife. Unfortunately Mrs G didn't survive the journey home, and now dismantling my study the GOM himself fell from his position of honour and smashed on the wooden floor.

I am sometimes asked to preach at Church Anniversaries and one of my favourite themes on such occasions is 'travelling light': don't get so attached to buildings, or the way you have always done things that it becomes impossibly hard to let go and follow where Christ may be leading in this generation.

So now I have to apply the sermon to myself. 'I'm sure there will be room for this (favourite useless object of mine)... you cannot possibly need that (favourite useless object of my wife)'. You can fill in the blanks. Some of us hoard more than others, but most of us in this society have too many possessions for our own good. I was once asked to be a neutral Chair at a church meeting, and asked innocently why the meeting was cramped into half the room. The other half was filled by a hideous old chest. 'Oh we can't get rid of that, it was given to us. "Who gave it to the Church?" 'Well, it was so long ago that we have forgotten; they must have died years ago...'

Much more important than this physical downsizing, of course, is the need from time to time for spiritual spring cleaning: Does this or that bring us closer to God, or is it so much spiritual junk? I'm not sure whether retirement from – as Methodists call it – 'the active work' will make these decisions easier or more difficult; time will tell.

Anyway, I must learn not to mourn the Grand Old Man too much, and to resist the temptation to replace him with a new piece of significant junk.

As this will be my last editorial, can I take the opportunity to wish all the Churches of the Circuit well over the next few years? I look forward to hearing all your news.

All good wishes

**Philip Luscombe**

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**"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."**

**– Martin Luther King Jr.**

## A Thank you from Philip and Laurel...

We have both been very moved by all the expressions of good wishes, cards and presents which people from across the circuit have sent, and especially for the very generous leaving present from the circuit. We haven't yet decided how to use most of the gift, though moving into a new house, we shall not be short of possibilities. We wanted a tangible expression of our time in Kent, however, and the two pictures of Dungeness are a particularly apt reminder of our time here. As I have mentioned to some people already when my mother was asked what she would like to do on her final visit to us in Kent a ride on the RHD railway came top of her list – a trip which she managed a few weeks ago at the age of 91!

Coming into circuit after twenty years spent training theological students has been very fulfilling experience and a very good way in which to complete my 'active' ministry, as Methodists put it. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know everyone in the circuit, and working with a superb staff team here. We take with us many happy memories from Kent, but now look forward to a quieter phase of life and ministry.

Thank you again for all your kindness to us, not just in these past few weeks, but over the last seven years.

Philip and Laurel

**[A note from the Circuit Office – if anyone would like Philip & Laurel's new address, please contact me at the office on 01303 270190, they have given permission for me to pass this on].**

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## ...Introducing Helen & Roy

Roy and I are very much looking forward to moving to Ashford and to becoming part of the South Kent circuit although of course this is a time of transition and it involves some sad farewells in our current circuit too.

I have been asked to write a few sentences to introduce myself so this is to tell you a little more about me and my family. I am a cradle Methodist and grew up in Chandler's Ford in Hampshire attending a large Methodist church and MAYC youth club there. That community had a great impact on my faith and outlook, at a recent reunion many of us celebrated the difference that MAYC, London weekends, (including the green and yellow outfits that some of you will remember) had made to our lives. I later moved to Kent to go to university and my first degree was in Law, after some time travelling and teaching English I then qualified as a solicitor in 1993 and worked in Canterbury, subsequently teaching Business Law at the University of Kent for some years. During this period my first husband and I had a young family and we have four daughters, Hannah, Katherine, Lizzie and Charlotte who are all currently working or studying at university. Charlotte will begin her university studies this September in Norwich and Lizzie will be living with us.

I experienced a call to ministry whilst living in Canterbury and after training to

become a Local preacher began study for ministry at SEITE (South East Institute for Theological Education) which was then based in Medway and Southwark.

I have been serving in Whitstable and Challock, Marshside and Teynham in the Canterbury and East Kent circuit for the past 8 years during which time it has been a joy to walk with the people of these communities and to work with other colleagues both lay and ordained. I have also been closely involved as a governor and Chaplain to Boughton-under Blean and Dunkirk Methodist primary school.

Roy and I met a few years ago and were married last year in Whitstable. Roy has two sons, Josh and Clem, who are both also studying at university, as you will imagine we have a busy home life, especially when everyone is back with us.

During my current ministry I enjoyed studying for a Master's degree in Systematic Theology at King's College, London, I value exploring theology and how we can make theological ideas real and accessible to people today, whatever their background, age or education. I am deeply committed to ecumenism and have worked as the Methodist Ecumenical Officer in Kent for some years alongside Paul Dean. I am looking forward to ministry shared with him and other colleagues (both lay and ordained) in South Kent as well as meeting members of all the churches in the circuit in the coming months. Thank you for the warm welcome we have already received from the circuit, even before we have arrived!

With every blessing,

**Helen**

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## Out of the mouths of babes....

The following acrostic poem was seen on the notice board at Cade Road at Philip's farewell service. I found out it was written by the children in junior church and thought it was well worth sharing – well done to you all! (OK, so you probably don't read this magazine but hope your grown ups tell you!)

**F**riend  
**O**f everyone  
**L**iving things  
**L**oving us all  
**O**ver the world  
**W**orship Him

**H**e is Jesus, give Him praise  
**I** will follow Him all  
**M**y days

# Circuit Prayers

Dear Friends,

As some of you will know, the theme for my recent Sabbatical was silence. There are many ways to approach silence and as many different attitudes towards it as there are human beings in the world. Sara Maitland writes: *Even as silence is undermined in so many ways in the contemporary world, there remain tiny puddles of it in most people's lives.* So here are some thoughts and prayers I found, offered in the hope that they help you find and value the tiny puddles of silence in your life. Sam.

## ∞ “Be still, and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10a) ∞

Help me, O Loving God –  
to see and know, in this silent moment;  
that your love is revealed in the beauty, diversity, splendour,  
abundance and providence of the natural world around me;  
that your love is offered to me –  
not just in the moments I plan or seek after you  
but in the unexpected, the seeming interruptions –  
you are there;  
that your love is the greatest gift of all,  
that which I should hold dear above all things, letting them go,  
to keep that which is most needful, most precious, most good. Amen.

*“Deep in every heart there is an innermost room. To some it is a place unvisited and unknown; to others it is a place dim with shadows and haunted by tears. But if we will but have it so, this innermost room may be the place of God’s presence. There the peace of God may always be waiting for us.” (Francis B James)*

‘The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.’  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

## **Before Daylight (Julie M Hulme)**

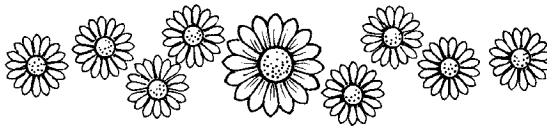
Enter into the stillness of the dawn,  
the stillness that waits below the surface of the hour's business,  
the eternal quiet welling  
beneath the pounded pavement of the world's road.

Enter in  
not to escape the trouble  
but to draw living strength  
to give yourself to each face, each task, each moment.

Enter the pool of presence.  
Draw peace there, to be peace  
in the garden of the given day.

'Let us labour for an inward stillness, an inward stillness and an inward healing; that perfect silence where the lips and heart are still, and we no longer entertain our own imperfect thoughts and vain opinions, but God alone speaks in us, and we wait in singleness of heart that we may know God's will...' (H W Longfellow)

*'O Lord, I know now that it is in silence, in a quiet moment, in a forgotten corner, that you will meet me, call me by name and speak to me a word of peace...It is in my stillest hour that you become the risen Lord to me.'*  
(from a homily at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre.)



**“Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on Earth.”**  
— John Wesley



# News from our Churches

## **Charing Elizabeth Ellen**

On Sunday 17th June we held our church and Sunday school anniversaries. The church was full for an excellent service led by Rev. Richard Webb. As well as previous Sunday School scholars there were three visitors who were on holiday from Wiltshire. The children performed an appropriate sketch and were also given prizes in recognition of their regular attendance. The service was followed by lunch which Jackie Wills and Julie Spicer had prepared and for which we thank them both. The lunch was free, but donations amounted to £80 which will be given to the Methodist Relief and Development Fund.

On Sunday 10th we had another Songs of Praise event, also led by Rev. Richard Webb. His son Robin had come all the way from Welwyn Garden City to provide the music. As it was in the afternoon, we enjoyed tea and cakes. We are hoping to hold another of these events in the autumn.

On 24th June we had a Local Arrangements service which Colin Fowle led. His theme was gardens - using the parable of the seed falling on good ground. Colin compared that to our gardens and our church, hoping that the seed will fall on good ground and our church will grow in strength and numbers.

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## **Dymchurch Diana Blackwell**

Our thanks to Penny, who is our organiser for "Action for Children" – the total for the last year is £512.43. Many thanks to all those who gave.

Knitters and Stitchers continue to produce many beautiful blankets, hats, jumpers and cot blankets. They also collect many other useful items which are needed overseas including things like First Aid items, Paracetamol and much more. Richard and I have recently taken the latest contributions to Operation Sunshine headquarters at Capel. The back of our car was filled to overflowing and the volunteers at OS were delighted to receive everything. We were also shown round the area where the containers are stored prior to shipping, and some of the male volunteers showed us the amazing array of donated goods that they were loading for various ongoing projects. They're all doing a great job.

We have several forthcoming events planned for Dymchurch.

- The first one is the Beetle Drive on August 8th with Folkestone Church – a return match after the enjoyable one last year.
- Then we have the Mission event on August 12th. The "BIG SING" on the seafront, more about that elsewhere in the magazine.
- On 1st September we have our annual visit from The Haywardians

for another of their excellent concerts. That's at 7.30pm.

- Finally, on September 23rd we shall be welcoming the Reverend John Lines to our Harvest Festival. On the Sunday to lead our worship and on the following evening, the 24th, to share in our Harvest Supper.

We have a lot of family news this month. We send our prayers and best wishes to Bob and Val Redding as Bob recovers from his recent illness. Winnie Field also has been in hospital and we wish her well as she continues to improve. Ross, Joyce and John, her husband, also need our prayers at the moment. On a happier note our congratulations to Vera, who is about to celebrate a special birthday as we go to press. Many Happy Returns to you Vera.

We welcome Sam back from sabbatical and wish her well as she picks up the challenges which are always awaiting her attention. Our best wishes and prayers to Kevin as he continues his hospital treatment.

Finally our greetings to all in the Circuit as summer continues. How long can this heat last?

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## Elham Alice Mills

**A**t the beginning of June, we had our quarterly ecumenical breakfast, led by Alison from St Mary's Elham, with nine people present. Our recent prayer meeting was also well supported.

We are very sad to report the passing of George Crow. His funeral service was at Elham Methodist church followed by cremation at Barham and a wake at Elham on Monday July 16th. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Joyce and family.

We were all pleased to read Kevin's progress report on his continuing marathon, we miss you Kevin and look forward to seeing you back on the circuit. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

On a lighter note, Carys persuaded us to enter a contestant in the local scarecrow competition in Elham. He was last seen leaning over the railings - possibly surprising the locals!

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## Folkestone Marjorie Williams

**S**ince I last wrote for the Circuit Magazine the weather has certainly improved. Now many of us are finding it too hot and are hoping we soon have some rain to help our gardens.

During the last couple of months, we have had new L.E.D. lights put in the hallway, a new toilet and cistern in the gents and two in the ladies.

We are fortunate that Michael Foad organized a coffee concert on 30th May which raised £140 and with some very generous donations, our Church Anniversary Lunch raised £500. I am not saying these very good efforts raised enough to

pay for the improvements needed, but they do help. Michael has also arranged another coffee concert titled "Songs from the Shows" which takes place on Wednesday 18 July. We thank Michael for helping us raise the funds we need for the improvements to the Church.

Please join us for one of our coffee mornings on a Tuesday and see our now brightly lit sanctuary and hallway.

We welcome Sam back following her sabbatical and keep praying for Kevin and all the other people who are ill or housebound around the circuit. We hope to see many of you at Dymchurch on 12th August.

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## **Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet**

### **Bill Miller**

**W**e thank the Rev. Philip Luscombe for his ministry to our church and wish both Philip and Laurel a long and happy retirement. We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Helen Hollands to our circuit in September. We hope that Helen and Roy's move from Canterbury to the South Kent Circuit will be a happy and interesting one. We look forward with pleasant anticipation to the first service to be conducted in our church by Helen.

"Strawberry Cream Teas" were served in the Rectory gardens on 30th June. This ever-popular event attracts not only church members but people from the village and further afield, and raises funds for the church.

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## **Headcorn Ron Haggerty**

**D**etails of our next Concert: Headcorn Methodist Church proudly presents "An Evening with Fiddle and Faff", to take place on Saturday 25th August at 7 p.m. in celebration of the renovation of our Church. Concert tickets £9 including a light tea, available from Headcorn Delicatessen or Ron Haggerty 01622 890735.

(To find out more about Fiddle and Faff go to [www.fiddleandfaff.com](http://www.fiddleandfaff.com))

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## **St. Michael's Methodist Anglican Church, Hythe**

### **Dudley Shipton**

#### **Tuesday Fellowship 2017-2018**

**O**nce again we have been fortunate to have a repeat success of the previous years. Finding Speakers for the weekly meetings is always a challenge but fortunately there are some good people out there who kindly give their services free of charge. In addition to the home clergy, Canon John Wright gave two organ recitals and gave a series of talks on his life as an Anglican Priest. We are particularly grateful for John's

support and thank him for his preparation and presentation.

Molly Griggs has continued to play the piano for our times of worship together. There have been a variety of Speakers and the Tuesday slots for September have already been filled. We thank them all for their contributions.

I am very grateful to Jean Slingsby for acting as Treasurer, Paul Davenport who sorts the tables and chairs, Yvonne Andrews who ferries people to and from the meeting and organises the refreshments and Christine Smith who records attendance and sends birthday cards to all members.

At the A.G.M. we always discuss which charities will benefit from the attendance contributions we receive each week. With £61.39 brought forward from last year and deducting expenses for Church flowers, birthday cards for all members and occasional car parking charges for Speakers there is £500 to distribute this year. The Fellowship agreed to the following donations; £150 to the Church, £75 to Methodist Homes, £75 to Action for Children, £75 to H.T.C. Dementia Awareness Forum, £75 to Porch-light and £50 to the Salvation Army in Hythe.

A cheque will be given to Alan Ewart-James, Church Treasurer who has agreed to send the donations to the chosen charities.

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## Kennington Stewart French

**W**e have said "Goodbye" to Janet and Chris Dray, who have been a tower of strength to many of us for many years, even when they were worshipping in other places. It is a new beginning for them, and their family, as they start life in Leominster, and it will seem like a new start for some of us without their wisdom, support and encouragement. We are grateful to God for all they have done, and we look forward to welcoming new folk in the years ahead to build the fellowship as we start on a new pathway.

Another new start will be on the building, work on which is scheduled to commence mid-August and be completed by Christmas. Thank you to all who have contributed to the funds, and a special thanks to those who took part in the Kennington Fete, not only raising funds but also letting folk know that the church exists - because of our location and design many folk who have lived in Kennington for years did not know about us.

We have now shared two United Prayer Meetings with the other worshipping congregations who use the premises (the 7th Day Adventists and the Light Bearers for Christ), and they have been a real blessing, with a strong desire to work closely over the years ahead: it promises to be exciting. As the Bible says, "A chord of 3 strands is not easily broken".

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**"I don't stand for black man's side, I don't stand for white man's side, I stand for God's side." — Bob Marley**

## Lydd David Richards

**G**reetings from Lydd to all our churches.

What lovely weather we have had and allowing us to hold services with doors and windows open. We held our usual Churches of Lydd Christian Aid Lunch in May and despite the numbers being down on last year we did have an enjoyable meal and raised £167 for Christian Aid which has been passed on. A big thank you to all who helped and to those who came along to make the day a success.

A few of our members are still not in the best of health, this includes our minister Kevin, and we pray for their improvement in the near future.

The Dementia Café, and Yoga groups have continued to use the school room on Tuesdays, and the Little Chicks have had their sessions on Wednesday mornings, but now have a break until the new school term in September. We trust that their use of the Church Hall will help them form a link with the Church.

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## Lyminge Mary Blanch

**O**n another lovely summer evening, a few of us shared in a very enjoyable time with the Folkestone Supper Club playing boules at the Etchinghill facility. We then adjourned to the Tayne Centre for refreshments and a chat.

We are now getting to know Deacon Carys better, as she has visited us several times to lead worship. She is also busy becoming familiar with the village and its various activities, as well as our own, like the weekly Knit 'n Natter! It will be interesting to hear her thoughts as she gets to know our community and what potential there might be for our future.

The latest bulletin from Kevin sounds quite positive as he reaches the half-way point of his 'marathon' and we continue to pray for him as he proceeds to the finishing line. We also pray that Sam has returned refreshed after her sabbatical.

A good number of us were able to support Marilyn at her husband, Ron's, funeral, and it was lovely to be able to meet with her family in the delightful setting of the Vicarage at Hougham. We continue to pray and support all those who have been bereaved, including Joyce Crow at Elham; for Alistair and Bob Redding after their time in hospital, with special prayers to those who care for them. We also remember all those young people facing exam results and then new opportunities both at school or college.

Tayne Centre markets continue on the 3rd Saturday each month, 9am-12noon  
Provisional date: Saturday, 20th October – Haywardians Tea Concert

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**“What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.”**

**— John Steinbeck, Travels with Charley: In Search of America**

## **New Romney   Colin Hancox**

Since the last magazine, our hall roof has been repaired following the theft of some of the lead – thankfully no other damage appears to have been done. We have also renewed the anti-climb paint (I can vouch for how horrible and sticky it is to work with).

In May we celebrated our church anniversary with a good number attending a very happy service led by Rev. Alan Hewitt – thank you Alan.

We have been fortunate and have had several visitors over the last couple of months. Some were, in fact, heading for other churches but saw our doors open and came in! For a small congregation, another one or two makes a big difference.

Like most churches in the circuit, we have a number of people suffering with various health problems and our prayers are with them and with all others in the circuit who have health concerns at this time. To all of you, remember, God does not always promise us an easy time, but He is always there ready to help us.

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## **Rhodes Minnis   Chris Tutton**

Here we are, now well into July, enjoying very warm weather and blue skies yet we are already talking about the need for rain for the field crops and gardens - we are never satisfied with what we have and always seem to want something different to what is being provided for our use. No doubt, man has always been like this - forgetting to count our blessings.

We have been pleased to welcome Deacon Carys Woodley to our end of the Circuit and she has already floated some ideas of different things we might wish to try and she is encouraging us to look outside of the Chapel walls into the local community to see if there are any local needs that we might be able to meet.

We recently celebrated our 130th Chapel Anniversary when Richard Blackwell led our worship for that afternoon service and at which we had a few visitors from the Circuit. Our joint Valley services have been continuing on a monthly basis and seem to have been quite well attended.

We were all very saddened to learn of the death of our dear friend George Crow of Elham who will be much missed by the Elham members and the wider community in the village. George was well known in Elham from his days as the postman and many people's gardens benefited from George's jobbing garden exploits - he is going to be missed and we remember Joyce and the family at this time.

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**“Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart.” – Mahatma Gandhi**

## Shadoxhurst Lisa Cooper

Our most recent Café Church was led by Alan Small and the theme was 'Doves' – several bible verses about doves were shared, some well known and others less so. Even the songs mentioned doves and then the real challenge – how to make an origami dove – which most of us managed. At least, you could definitely tell they were meant to be birds of some sort (although one resembled a pterodactyl). Being the weekend before our anniversary, among the usual refreshments on offer was a cake iced with the words '149 years and 51 weeks'. That marked the start of a very busy week.

Our anniversary weekend on 7th & 8th July was a splendid success. Following a lot of hard work over a long period of time a display showing photos of events and historical documents about our church was created on 12 panels of notice board. We had special commemorative bookmarks printed bearing the dates 1868-2018 and a lovely picture of the church painted by our own resident artist Peggy Cursons. Banners and bunting (also made by members – what a talented bunch we are!) adorned the outside of the church and we were supported by Ark Drama Singers from Kingsnorth Parish Church, who sang during the Saturday morning, and by various village groups who held stalls outside. The free cake available was very popular and I couldn't guess how many cups of tea and coffee were doled out. Just as things were dying down a bit in the afternoon, the village rambblers came by, near the end of their walk, and dropped in for some well-deserved tea and cake. As well as the display boards we had colouring pages available for children and a prayer corner where people could light a candle if they wished or pick up a prayer card or booklet. We estimate about 200 people passed through our doors which, for a tiny chapel on the outskirts of a village, is amazing. One former Sunday School member came all the way from Leicester and we were also pleased to see friends from round the circuit as well as lots of villagers (not forgetting Sam's dog, Daisy). It was good to be able to show hospitality to some of our near neighbours, and to talk to them and invite them to try Café Church. May God bless the seeds we have sown. At the end of the day, the demolition began in order to restore the church to its usual state for Sunday morning. Many hands make light work and, rather like the walls of Jericho, the displays came down much quicker than they went up! Thanks to anyone who sent us info or photos to use. (If you were not able to come, there are pictures of this event on the circuit facebook page).

On the Sunday, our anniversary service was led by Sam, newly returned from her sabbatical, and included the baptism & confirmation of Rosie Cooper, who received a candle and certificate and a copy of the Youth Bible. We sang 2 new songs we've learned in Café Church including STF 409 with the refrain 'All are welcome in this place'. It is testament to the warm welcome children and young people have always received at our church that Rosie has taken this decision at this stage of her life. We were again delighted to see so many visitors at this service and afterwards a delicious bring and share lunch was enjoyed and a time of fellowship with old friends and new. After a short interlude (and maybe a nap?) several of us

turned out at Cade Road to wish Philip and Laurel well. Thank you both for your ministry and encouragement and God Bless you in a long and happy retirement.

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## **St Andrew's, Cheriton Christine Slater**

**A**s promised in the last issue I'm reporting on the quiz night which went ahead on Saturday 12th May. The event was again organised and catered for by Paul and Jill Missin and Darron and Susie Sharp. The food was good and plentiful to ensure the brain power was well fuelled. Five teams battled it out, trying to answer Paul's cryptic questions and at half time there were three teams with only half a point separating them. The victorious team by the strategic use of their Joker was led to success by Peter. Not only was a good time had by all but £202 was raised for Mary's meals.

You may recall that earlier in the year we had a Burn event – we had another in June and another is planned for 19th October. They run from 8pm until midnight and talk to Anya if you are interested in attending any future events.

The Little Lambs Toddlers group is going very well with relationships building and parents now approaching the helpers with prayer requests. We've new members joining almost each week and we have now over 50 children on our books. Not all attend every week but last week we had 29 which is the highest we've had in a session. We value your prayers for the families as recently there's been an outbreak of chickenpox.

Looking forward we are hoping to have another quiz night together with other activities to try and raise money to replace our poorly boiler. It will be a long job as we are told it will cost us approximately £20,000 to replace it and so far we are up to just over £3000. Never mind, we like a challenge!

We will be pleased to see Sam back in July and she will be leading worship at two Baptisms, one on 22nd July and another on 29th July. Our General Church Meeting will be on 19th August and then on 9th September it is our Church Anniversary when we will be welcoming Rev Colin Telfer in the morning with Sam leading the evening service. At the end of September on the 30th Rev John Lines will lead the Harvest Festival celebrations in the morning and Rev Helen Hollands will join us for the evening service. Monday 1st October will be our Harvest Supper celebrations.

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## **Tenterden Christine Endersby**

We had a splendid evening with the Invicta Wind Orchestra in June. It was a lovely warm evening and the Church was full of people, we even used our gallery and it was lovely to welcome some people from around the Circuit. It is always a joy to be able to use the building to its full potential. We have one or two members who have been quite poorly lately but hopefully they are all on the mend now and



we hope they will soon be back in the congregation again. Laurie Phillips one of our older members has now moved to a care home in Staplehurst. He has settled well and although Dorothy is not able to visit him as often as she was when he was in West View she manages with the help of family and friends to visit as often as she can. Our oldest adherent turned 97 a few weeks ago and although he did not want any 'fuss' we are very proud to see he comes to Church every Sunday, under his own steam (well his mobility scooter!!). Let's hope that many more of us will still be around at 97. We are now looking forward to our Church Anniversary at the end of July, when Dudley Shipton will take our Service. This will be followed by our Anniversary Lunch which will be held in the Church.

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## Folkestone Rainbow Centre Mary Blanch

The annual Knit-in, held for the first time at the Harvey Grammar School, proved another success. £3,469.90 was raised and all agreed it was a good venue.

A high proportion of clients presenting at the Drop In Centre have mental health issues and it is hoped that it will be possible to reinstate a mental health worker in the near future.

A reminder that the Rainbow Shop in Cheriton is always especially in need of good quality ladies' clothing and bric-a-brac. Also, they are happy to support a Fashion Show if a church would like to arrange one in conjunction with them, as it raises funds for both your own church as well as the Rainbow Shop. St. Martin's, Cheriton, has done this on several occasions very successfully.

The Big Sleep Out, which raises funds for the Winter Shelter, will take place over Friday, 28th September.

Harvest Festivals: Many churches collect produce for the Shepway FoodBank and a list of most-needed items will be circulated.

Please hold the work of the Centre in your prayers and be assured that your support is very much valued.

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## News from Deacon Carys...

I am now working with the churches and local communities of the Elham Valley. I am very aware that I am with these places for a short time, however I have started in the usual way of prayer walking. I walk and pray at all times of the day, in the morning when the children are going to school or when early dog walkers are out, the afternoon when all seems quiet and in the evenings. As I spend time praying I start to get a feeling of love for an area, and a feeling of the possibilities, as I walk and pray I try to sense where God might be calling.

Another aspect of my work is to 'Be' in congregations, not always the one at the front, but sharing a different style of leadership of sitting amongst the congregation. From there I hold the congregation and preacher in prayer, from there I sense

tensions and I pray 'peace be with you'. I believe that this different type of leadership is encouraging to congregations, particularly in my role with small rural churches. I find it moving to be amongst the congregation that I am praying for and even more moving to go with them to the communion rail and to kneel together to receive the bread and wine. For me this a deep sense of togetherness, a deep sense of love and a sense that we are being Christ to one another as we kneel together; as the Presbyterian is Christ to us in the breaking of bread and offering us love.

So with love and prayers we will see where God leads me with the congregations of Elham, Rhodes Minnis and Lyminge.

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## A Great Divide

John Wesley saw money as neutral and reckoned what mattered were the ethical considerations by which it was used. In particular money surplus to one's own needs should be spent for the good of others. Things have moved on and we now live in a market economy. Between Wesley's idealism and what Edward Heath called 'the unacceptable face of capitalism' is a great divide and somewhere in it we need to decide where to stand and how to use our money.

A century ago George Cadbury offered his employees 'debentures' or 'preference shares'. My uncle and I had some and mine brought in ten shillings and sixpence twice per year. When Cadbury and Schweppes came together we were told we had no option but to forfeit them. Quite simply in the streamlining which followed we were 'inconvenient'. Does it matter all those decades afterwards?

The Financial Times of 31st May 2018 had an article asking for whom companies were run and came to the conclusion that shareholders and senior employees had first and indeed a major call on what profits accrued. It then went on to make the point that 'short-termism' was the dominant consideration at the expense of long term investment. Long term investment is the means to raise productivity, justifiably raise wages and spread social benefits for the benefit of the community.

Those Cadbury debentures were primarily for the benefit of employees and their dependents giving them a more than symbolic stake in the long term well-being of both a chocolate-making enterprise, and the employees and especially so the pensions of retirees. Additionally, as I can readily testify, there were immense benefits to the local community and indeed far beyond.

To chart that great divide and find our place in it, we need a moral compass. John Wesley provided one but perhaps its 'magnetic North' has shifted and we need some readjustment. Alternatively, if there is the moral equivalent of satellite navigation then we should know with absolute accuracy precisely where we stand.

**Geoff Chapman**

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## Stepping Stones: A proposed bursary

The Stepping Stones project is now in its second year and is exploring new avenues. One suggestion is to create a bursary which would be offered to some teenager aged around 16-18 specifically from a socially disadvantaged background. This would, it is suggested, enable them to spend a few days perhaps in a television studio learning how programmes are made. It would give them a window on the world not otherwise available and, too, would enable them to talk to their friends about such an experience. The aim would not be to create an entry to such a career necessarily but to provide a broadening experience.

If you or your church would like to contribute financially or if you have useful contacts such as would help to facilitate such an idea, please contact the under-signed.

**Geoff Chapman 01233 813011**

**[Geoff@chapman.invictanet.co.uk](mailto:Geoff@chapman.invictanet.co.uk)**

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# Big Sing in Dymchurch 12th August 2018

Gathering from 1pm

Singing starts 3pm

Near the slipway

Bring a picnic and a chair



## Dates for your Diary

**Sun 12th Aug 3pm** Circuit Mission Event – ‘The Big Sing’ at Dymchurch – details on opposite page.

**Wed 5th Sept 7.30pm**, Circuit Welcome for Rev. Helen Hollands at The John Wesley School in Ashford – **please note the change of venue due to building works at Cade Road**

**Wed 19th Sept 7.30pm** Circuit Meeting at Wye

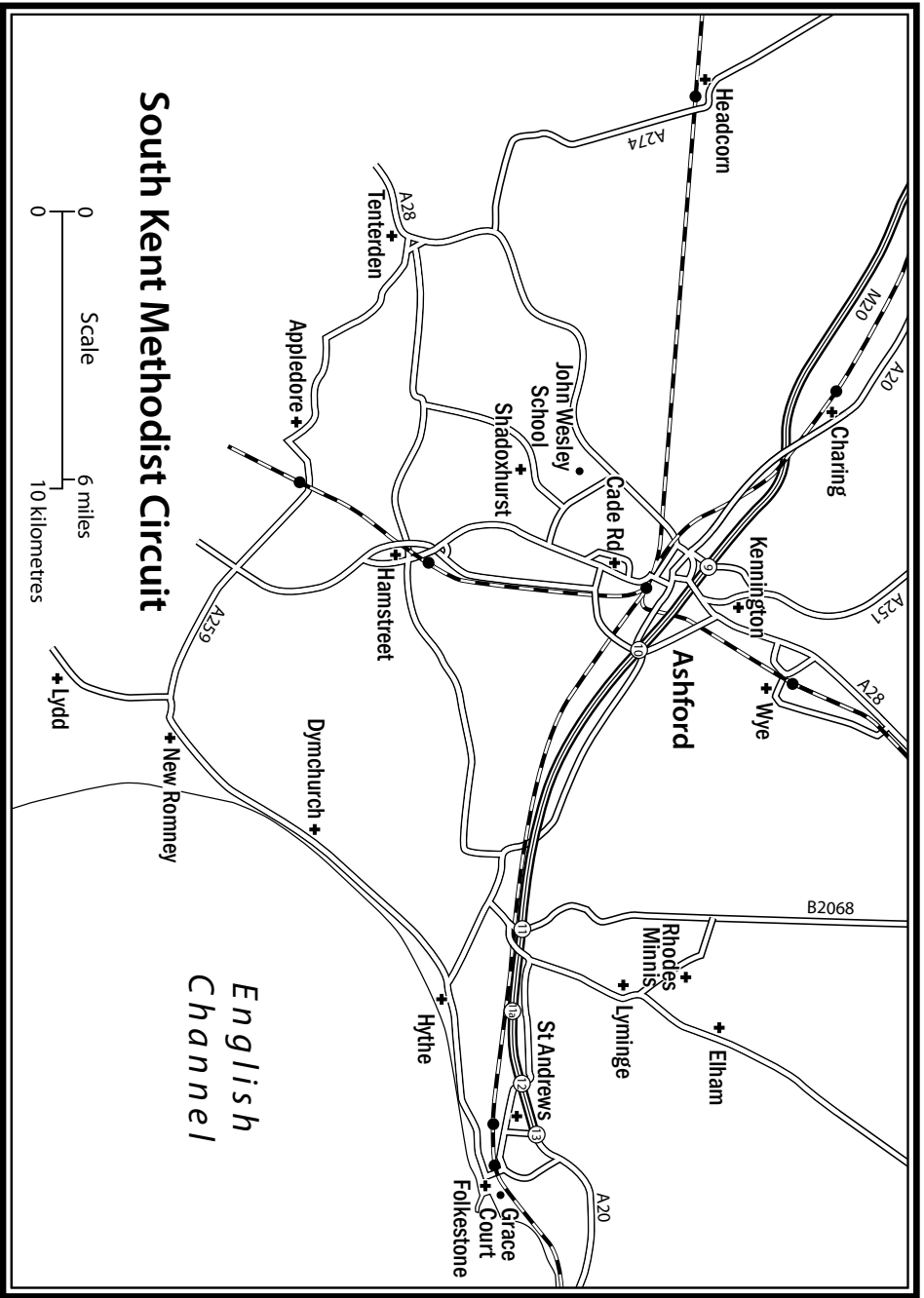
**Thurs 27th Sept** Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting, 7.30pm, Dymchurch

# Circuit Welcome for **Rev. Helen Hollands**

Wed 5th Sept 7.30pm,  
The John Wesley School,  
Ashford TN23 5LW  
– please note the change of venue

**Give me the Love that leads the way  
The Faith that nothing can dismay  
The Hope no disappointments tire  
The Passion that'll burn like fire  
Let me not sink to be a clod  
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God"**

*Amy Wilson Carmichael*



# South Kent Methodist Circuit

Scale  
0 6 miles  
0 10 kilometres

*English Channel*