

# South Kent Circuit Magazine, April/May 2019 edition

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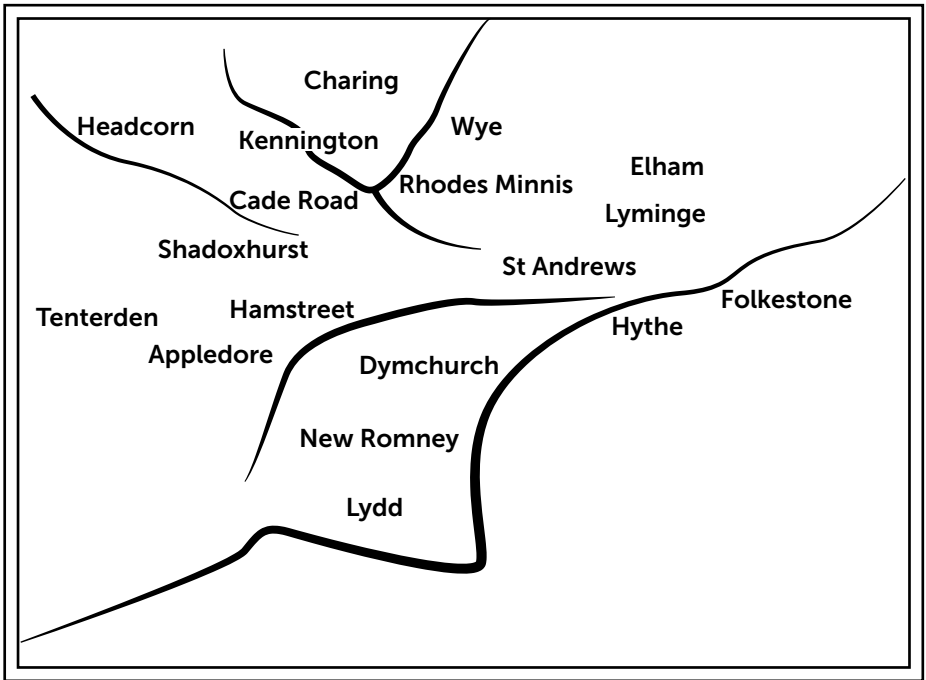
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# SOUTH KENT CIRCUIT MAGAZINE

April/May 2019



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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 June/July issue: 3 May 2019**

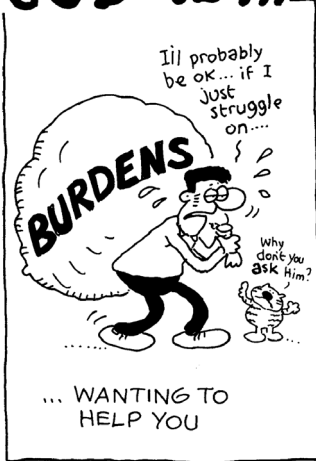
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**PLEASE CLEARLY MARK ALL ITEMS 'MAGAZINE'**

# From the Manse

## GOD IS...



Dear friends,

By the time you read this, Lent will be coming to a conclusion. As the joyous celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday draws closer, the South Kent Circuit will be contemplating another year of challenges, rejoicings, tests of faith, wonderful surprises and new beginnings! As my own health experiences have taught me during this past year, our God is the God of new beginnings and the universe is founded upon God's redeeming love.

*"When a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and death itself would start working backwards"* (extract from *'The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe'* by C.S. Lewis) One of my favourite books at this time of year, which I also once used for a Lent Course, is called *'Not a tame Lion'* by Hilary Brand and it explores the

writings of C.S. Lewis. Together with the contents of the book, the author encourages the use of extracts from the films of *'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'* and *'Shadowlands'*. I recommend these if you have not already seen them. In *'Shadowlands'*, Anthony Hopkins makes an excellent C.S. Lewis. The writings of *'Jack'* Lewis, who has variously been described as a *'Christian apologist'* and a *'lapsed atheist'*, provoke us (in the words of Hilary Brand) *"to think outside our comfort zone and so to expand our understanding of God"*. C.S. Lewis sought to help *'enquirers'* into Christianity by explaining faith in an understandable way. Some thought that he was just trying to provide easy answers to difficult questions, but the tragedy he experienced in his own life and the way he explored and sought to understand it in his writings demonstrate that he had no illusions about an *'easy'* journey of faith. In his book *'Mere Christianity'* (another very useful *'read'* in my opinion), he says: *"All I am doing is to ask people to face the facts – to understand the questions which Christianity claims to answer. And they are very terrifying facts. I wish it was possible to say something more agreeable. But I must say what I think is true..."*

C.S. Lewis writes in the *'Chronicles of Narnia'* that there was *"deep magic at work in the land of Narnia"* and a similar *'magic'* has been built into our own God-given world. In Genesis 2:17 we are told that God warned Adam and Eve about it: *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"*. The principle is reaffirmed in Ezekiel 18:4 and Jeremiah 31:30: *"the soul who sins shall die"* and in Paul's writings (Romans 6:23): *"the wages of sin is death"*. But the connection drawn between sin and death is not just meant to be an expression of judgement from God. Exodus 20:5 tells us that God says: *"I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me"*.

I know that this all sounds a bit ominous, but these sayings and prophecies

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explain *why* we remember Jesus' death and resurrection! The sin of humanity, as recorded in the Old Testament, was a sort of obstruction between humankind and God and just like in C.S. Lewis' invented world, the 'bad magic' had to be appeased. In the moment that Aslan the Lion was slain '*in the traitor's stead*', the witches' victory was overturned. The 'deep magic' was beaten by an even deeper power. The unfairness of the sacrifice of an innocent victim was washed away by grace, mercy and atonement. And death itself, as Aslan declares triumphantly "*begins to work backwards*". Jesus Christ died and rose again on our behalf. By his sacrifice, he defeated sin and death. But what is just as important, is that the atoning death of Jesus wasn't an afterthought or a hurried 'plan B' that was thrown together at the last minute to deal with an unforeseen emergency. It actually comes from the profound teaching that we are given about being prepared to lay down one's life for one's friends. That is why John's Gospel refers to Jesus as "*the lamb slain from the foundation of the world*" (Revelation 13:8 and 1 Peter 1:20). In the end, the deepest 'magic' of all is God's redeeming and self-sacrificing love.

As I said at the beginning of this letter, our God is the God of new beginnings. So as we travel through this time of renewal, when many dedicated (and probably exhausted) people in our church community are wondering how they are going to sustain the various committees and groups that keep the Methodist Church going, I ask you to remember them in your prayers and to be truly thankful for them and for what they do on our behalf.

I also ask you to seriously consider whether there is anything else that you can do (if you are not already one of the aforementioned group) to help. If you conclude that you would like to help but need to know more about what needs doing, just approach one of the people whom you know are already carrying out essential tasks.

Some of you who find yourselves reading this piece will already be working very hard to sustain the circuit in general and your own local churches and chapels. Other people may think that what you achieve is beyond their own skill and experience. So encourage nervous enquirers to be brave and to give things a try. I think that God encourages us all to lighten our loads by sharing tasks and demonstrating that we are all part of one body.

*"Yes the body has many different parts, but the many parts make up only one body. So it is with the body of Christ... in fact some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary... this makes for harmony among the members, so that all members care for each other equally. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it and if one part is honoured, all the parts are glad. **Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.**"*

(1 Corinthians 12:12,22,25-27).

I pray that we may deepen our understanding of what God has truly done for us through Jesus Christ and that you may all be blessed on your individual and corporate journeys of faith. Amen.

Kevin x

## **Easter—From Mary Magdelene's viewpoint**

As she sat beside the open grave, poor Mary simply wept;  
She didn't know who'd moved the stone, whilst Roman soldiers slept.  
She couldn't know who'd moved the corpse, "It's gone" was all she knew  
And head in hands she sat and wept, as you or I might do.

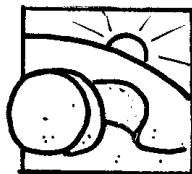
She had known His true forgiveness, she had heard Him speak her name.  
Then seen Him on that awful cross, hung up to die in shame.  
She had heard Him cry "Forsaken" as His Father turned His head:  
What point was there in living now, when Jesus Christ was dead?

She then sensed a man beside her, despite her pain and grief.  
The words of Christ "I will return" now seemed beyond belief.  
She asked where they had laid Him, so that she could truly mourn.  
How could she know what joy would flow from that first Easter dawn?

His voice cut through her sorrow: His words cut through her tears.  
The voice she heard is speaking still - across two thousand years.  
Throughout those years He's spoken, calling people back to God,  
To walk the path that Mary walked, and to tread where Mary trod.

That each one should hear from Jesus, from our Lord once crucified,  
From the Christ who is now risen and is at His Father's side;  
Whose hands still bear the nail prints, and whose head the crown of thorn,  
Who is speaking words of comfort still, as on that Easter dawn.

Stewart French, UCA Kennington



# Circuit Prayers

Easter is the celebration and remembrance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his crucifixion.

We hope that the following Easter prayers will bring you renewed hope and faith this Resurrection Day. Tricia ><>

## **Good Friday Prayer**

Lord God,

Jesus cried out to you on the cross,

“Why have you forsaken me?”

You seemed so far from his cry

And from his distress.

Those who stood at the foot of the cross

Wondered where you were,

As they saw Jesus mocked and shamed and killed.

Where were you then?

Lord God,

We, too, ask where you are,

When there is trouble and suffering and death,

And we cry out to you for help.

Be near to us, and save us

So that we may praise you for your deliverance.

Lord God,

We wait, on Friday, for the resurrection of Sunday

And sometimes our lives seem a succession of Fridays

And we cannot see what is “Good.”

Teach us to call your name

As Jesus did.

Make us to trust in you like little children.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Rachel Marie Stone

## **Easter Prayers of Victory**

Father, Thank You for the miracle of life – abundant life here, and eternal life with You in Heaven. Help me celebrate that life every day as I seek You and follow Your plan for my life. Today, I say with the Apostle Paul, “Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?” In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Mary Southerland

Lord, death could not hold You. And because of You, the resurrection, we, too, can live. Thank You that the grave is only a journey into the presence of God. You have removed the sting of death and empowered this thing called life. Now I will live in Your presence forever. Amen.

Rebecca Barlow Jordan

Dear Lord, may I realise afresh today what Your death and resurrection mean for me. Forgiveness ... Freedom ... and the ability to walk with You through this fallen world into eternity. May I always find my satisfaction in You and Your willingness to offer Yourself to me. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Rachel Olsen



**“Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about.”**

**— N.T. Wright, Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church**



# News from our Churches

## **United Church Ashford David Challoner**

Over the last 6 years we have journeyed together to develop both premises left in the United Church Ashford. The sale of Centrepiece was completed in July 2013 and the money was safely deposited with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes. Since then we have spent a considerable amount on the two premises, which has enabled us to extend and refurbish both parts of both buildings.

### **At Cade Road we:**

- Installed a new organ
- Re-surfaced the car park
- Combined the old meeting rooms and extended to double their size
- Refurbished the disabled toilet
- Installed new glass doors into the church
- Created the new Coffee shop
- Added a new store on the back of the church
- Altered the vestry space
- Installed new electric heaters throughout
- Updated all lighting to energy efficient LEDs
- Installed a state-of-the-art AV system into the church and meeting room
- Installed a new external cross and signage
- Safely installed the stained-glass war memorial into the new internal wall

### **At Kennington we:**

- Re-roofed the entire flat roof area
- Extended the kitchen area and added a new cooker and dishwasher
- Added a new entrance from the car park, with disabled ramp
- Altered the internal layout of the building to provide a path from the rear to the front of the church
- Installed a shower and refurbished the toilets
- Replaced the heaters with new electric heaters

None of these works could have been completed without the support of the entire membership of the United Church Ashford, but particularly the work of a key few individuals (who I hope will excuse me not naming them here).

Both premises have been rededicated in the month of February. At Cade Road we were delighted to have Rev. John Hellyer, the outgoing Chair of our District, to lead worship on the morning of the 24th. A larger than normal combined band of 7 provided the music for a full congregation of visitors and members of the United Church Ashford. John spoke about the importance of buildings, but also about the importance of mission from the building and reaching out into the community. This is the next part of the journey for the United Church Ashford as we look to reach into our community and work out how best we might serve them.

## **Charing Elizabeth Ellen**

**A** service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, led by Rev. Richard Webb, was held at Charing on January 28th. Anglicans and Methodist were present and a good time of fellowship was enjoyed over coffee afterwards.

During Lent we have a large cross at the front of our church and each week items relating to Lent and Easter are brought forward and placed by the cross, ending on Easter Sunday with a white robe and a crown.

On Mothering Sunday our children will be leading the service.

It is often a tradition in Lent to give something up. We give instead. During this time we collect gifts of non-perishable food items which are then passed on to the Ashford foodbank after Easter.

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## **Dymchurch Diana Blackwell**

**W**e were pleased to have the Rev. Robin Blount lead our Covenant Service on 27th January. It was good to see so many people there and enjoy fellowship together afterwards.

Our thanks to Richard for redecorating our toilet area during January. The redecoration was very much needed and it is now a much more inviting space!

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Maureen Green of our Knitters Group. She had been unable to attend for a while and had been spending some time in Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Her work was the best and the crochet blankets that she made were beautiful and must have pleased many recipients through Operation Sunshine. Richard and I took a large consignment to Operation Sunshine recently and we sent the last of her contributions off with a special prayer. At the moment a container is being packed for Zambia. Terry conducted Maureen's funeral.

We had a time of celebration with tea and appropriate cake plus candles on 7th February when John Apps celebrated his 90th birthday – many congratulations John.

Our pews are now considerably more comfortable! Following a decision at a Church Council Meeting we decided to invest in upholstered pew runners, which have now been fitted.

We were so sorry to hear of the sudden passing of the Reverend Derek Hancock. We looked forward to the times when he was with us on Sunday mornings – he always gave us food for thought. To his wife Di and the family we offer sincere condolences.

We celebrated "The World Day of Prayer led by Women" in our Chapel on 1st March. It is always a joint service with our Anglican and Catholic friends and we had a happy time together. This year the service was written by the women of Slovenia. Wonderful refreshments followed and a time of fellowship. It is on these occasions that we really appreciate having our schoolroom.

**FORTHCOMING** - On 19th April, Good Friday, we hope to have a Refugee Lunch in aid of Christian Aid. This will be at approximately 12.00 noon. A Service of Meditation will follow at 1.00pm in the Chapel. This is an annual event with our friends

from the Parish Church. Terry will be our Preacher on Easter Day.

We hope that Kevin continues to make good progress now that he is able to be out and about again. Our prayers also go out to all who are unwell or undergoing treatment at the moment. You are in our thoughts. We send everyone Easter Blessings.

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## **Elham Alice Mills**

**W**e were so pleased to welcome Kevin back to Elham. Well done Kevin, a successful personal marathon. Things are always quieter after the busy Christmas season but we are pleased to report that increasing the number of joint ecumenical breakfast meetings with St Mary's to bi-monthly is proving positive and we are getting between 11 and 15 people attending. A bit of a challenge in February as it had to be cancelled in the snow and frost, but luckily the weather soon got spring-like and the breakfast took place two weeks later. Well done to all involved. The evening prayer meetings are also doing well and it has been decided to leave a box in Church where people can leave a request for prayers to be included.

We are all really upset to hear of the sudden death of Derek Hancock. Derek has always done a lot for Elham for which we are really grateful. He will be greatly missed. Our deepest condolences to his wife and family.

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## **Folkestone Marjorie Williams**

**S**ince the last Circuit Magazine, Sandgate Road Church has been the target of thieves who stole the lead from the roof. We believe this took place on 7th February as when we entered the church on Sunday 10th February the rain was pouring in. We had to move the Lectern, Font and Communion Table as the Sanctuary was soaked, but Terry Preston was able to preach from the pulpit that wasn't too wet. So now we start fund raising again!

On 13th February Michael Foad held another of his "Coffee Concerts" and, because it was the day before St. Valentine's Day, the theme was Love Songs. It was wonderful to hear the soloists and the grand piano played beautifully. This raised £210 for the Church, a big thank you to Michael and all involved.

By the time we receive the next magazine we will have held our usual "pancake day feast" during our usual coffee morning. We will also have hosted WWDP at our church and of course many of us will have attended Daffodil Day in London.

We send our best wishes to all our friends around the circuit, praying for those not well or bereaved.

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**"You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep Spring from coming."**

**— Pablo Neruda**

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

**Bill Miller**

**T**here have been fewer activities in our church after the busy time over Christmas and New Year. Three of our congregation have undergone hip replacement surgery and all are recovering well.

The “Fun Club” for young children continues well. Although the number attending varies from week to week the children enjoy themselves. Many congratulations to those who organise and lead this brave venture.

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## **Headcorn Colin Pearson**

**T**he winter months have been relatively quiet ones at Headcorn, proceeding with our existing activities while making plans for the future. Cake and Company continues with its regular monthly meeting, and, although modest in numbers, meets a very real need in the community.

Looking ahead, we have been involved in the planning for the World Day of Prayer, although we are not one of the host churches this year. We are also looking forward to the House Group in Lent, which will be led by Helen based on “The King’s Speech”.

On the property front, we are working on a refurbishment scheme for our kitchen. We have been given some second hand but excellent condition units that will replace the very weary one we currently have. Together with a new water heater, a new floor and also a ‘fridge, this should make the kitchen a much more attractive place, and we are grateful to the Circuit for the support they have offered us.

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## **St Michael’s, Hythe Dudley Shipton**

**I** am sure that you will easily recall that in my last article I reported on all the good news about developments at St. Michael’s. As we approach Ash Wednesday which leads us into Lent we hopefully have opportunity to reflect on what our lives are all about. New Year Resolutions may well have come to nothing, but in Lent we try again to be the person God wants us to be. We have all experienced different and maybe unexpected journeys through our lives. Our pilgrimage may well have taken many twists and turns. Simeon was given the opportunity of recognising the Christ Child when Jesus was brought to the Temple. However, it was Anna, the prophetess, whom we are told gave thanks to God and then told others about the child.

I write this because since 2019 began I have conducted two funerals of people who specifically said that they were not Christians, or of any other faith, and therefore requested that no mention should be made of God during the Thanksgiving Service.

I attended a gathering where there was a eulogy, some music to recall this person’s life and two readings of poetry. I also had the opportunity of attending

two Christian Thanksgiving Services where faith in God had been an integral part of their lives. Maybe we never have the courage as Christians to do as Anna did and tell others of our faith and belief in the love of God for everyone. To share our thoughts and proclaim God's love for all in the community of Hythe. Enjoy your time of reflection in Lent.

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## **Lydd David Richards**

### **Greetings from Lydd to all our circuit churches.**

**W**e are just coming up to a very busy time of the year with World Day of Prayer on St David's day in All Saints Church Lydd. The service is still led by women but all are now welcome. The service this year has been prepared by the women of Slovenia. Just 2 days later we celebrate our 133rd Church Anniversary, the foundation stones of the church being laid in the same year as the Town of Lydd was granted its Charter. The following Sunday we have the monthly Marsh Churches United Service at Lydd and it will be nice to have our minister Kevin leading that service. This is the start of Lent, and by the time you read this all this will have passed and we will be approaching Easter. March 24th also sees our Church Council Meeting where we shall be planning our future and hopefully we will have enough fit people to hold our Christian Aid lunch in May.

Coughs and colds still affect our members but Iris Spinks is improving following her time in hospital over Christmas, and Gwyneth Richards is recovering following her shoulder replacement operation. Unfortunately Mary Boulden who did come out of hospital is now back in hospital once again and we remember these and all who are unwell in our prayers.

The Dementia Café, Yoga and Little Chicks groups have continued to use the school room and we continue to pray that their use of the Church Hall will help them form a link with the Church. Happy Easter everyone.

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## **Lyminge Mary Blanch**

**A**s is our custom, we shared worship with our Anglican friends at either end of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, the first service being led by Deacon Carys in our church, when the subject matter proved very appropriate following the recent vandalism. The other service was held in the Parish Church, followed by a fellowship meal. Thankfully, all our windows are now restored and we have a beautiful new notice board, with stronger posts!

After some years without opportunity for sharing together for Bible Study, a fresh group is now meeting fortnightly, primarily to look at the lectionary readings for the forthcoming Sunday, and we are grateful to Pam for organising this.

We had a delicious lunch in February, prepared by Jean Strange, after which

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we heard about Pam's recent visit to Zimbabwe, including interesting pictures of the people she met and places she visited. This experience obviously had a deep impact on her and I know many people will continue to support and pray for the work being done in that troubled country.

The World Day of Prayer and Daffodil Day will lead us into Lent, with lunches again being held every Friday at noon in conjunction with our friends from the Parish Church, and on Good Friday we will hold a short meditation at 11am followed by coffee and hot cross buns. We are holding a special Celebration Tea on Easter Saturday to give thanks for the work Deacon Carys has done among the Elham Valley Churches and we wish her every blessing for her sabbatical, especially for reasonable weather and a sturdy pair of boots!

We continue to pray for those amongst us with health problems, especially Christina, facing another operation and treatment, and Sid Jacobs, also waiting for surgery. May God's healing power be with all in their need. We also hold Di Hancock and her family in our prayers following Derek's sudden death, that God's love will surround them. Many of us greatly valued Derek's ministry and we will miss his extremely thought-provoking sermons.

Tayne Centre markets are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am-12noon

Advance notice: Concert by the Haywardians on Saturday, 18th May.

The village is holding a Midsummer Festival from 14th-23rd June when we are hoping to arrange a Flower Festival. Details to follow.

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## New Romney Wendy Prigmore

**A**t the time of writing, end of February, there have been some events which you won't have heard about although they happened a long time ago. I wonder if anyone from elsewhere in the Circuit came to New Romney to watch or even take part in the Lantern Parade? A tremendous effort was put in to make this a spectacular event so look out for a repeat performance towards the end of 2019!

When you read this our Saturday Coffee Mornings will be in full swing. If you are in New Romney High Street between 10am and 12noon your nostrils will be assailed by the aroma of toasted teacakes, sizzling bacon being prepared for bacon rolls and sausages too, presented in a bun, delicious! You will be very welcome. We have stalls too selling cakes, preserves, local vegetables, flowers, plants, books and sometimes handmade greeting cards and crafts.

We have enjoyed our combined services both here in New Romney and at Dymchurch and Lydd. It makes me think of the hymn:-

*Lo from the North they come,  
From East and West and South!*

Our own congregation includes friends from all directions. Those who joined us from Old Romney Anglican Church are a very welcome part of our Church family and a boost to our numbers. We value their friendship and appreciate the help they

give in all parts of New Romney Methodist life.

We have several members who are unable to come to church now due to failing health and we miss their input. We pray that they are as comfortable as possible and that they feel the benefit of our thoughts and prayers.

Our Church Anniversary service will be celebrated on 2nd June and will be led by Rev. Alan Hewitt. We extend a warm welcome to everyone!

Meeting Point on a Thursday from 10am till 12noon is thriving. All are welcome.

Finally we were privileged to be led in worship by Derek Hancock only a week before his sudden death. We extend our sincere condolences to his family. He will be a great loss to the Circuit.

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## Rhodes Minnis Chris Tutton

**A**t the time of writing, Easter is approaching – a time regarded by many as a new start. I remember very well a service at Eastertide 10 years ago when the preacher was talking about new beginnings and moving on from the past, then we sang the hymn with the refrain 'love is come again like wheat that springs up green'. I was particularly struck by the words of both preacher and hymn writer and I did move on in my own personal life from that moment and have thought of those words many times over the last decade.

At Rhodes Minnis we will be holding our usual Holy Week service, Monday 15th April at 7pm, and if anyone would like to join us you would be most welcome. On Easter Sunday morning it is our turn to go to Elham for the service which will be led by Rev. Robin Blount. Our chapel anniversary service will be held on Sunday 5th May at 3pm when the preacher will be Rev. Helen Hollands and again a warm invitation is extended to any who would like to join us.

Looking at the Plan I see that there are almost 40 'Local Arrangements' during the quarter, which must make us all realise the problems the plan makers are faced with. It should also make us, as congregations, so thankful for all the time and commitment given by our local preachers in preparing and leading services. I think sometimes maybe we turn up on a Sunday expecting, almost as a right, that there will be someone in the pulpit to lead our worship. Perhaps in the long term by having to think more carefully about what we do on a Sunday and who is going to help do it, this may lead to changes in service times and local churches sharing united services more often. Who knows, this too could be another sign of new beginnings of things to come throughout the circuit.

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## Shadoxhurst Lisa Cooper

**O**n the occasion of our Covenant Service, led by Helen on 20th January, we were delighted to welcome Pauline and David Harden as members transferring in. We know you have been 'visitors' for a while and hope you really feel at home and

'part of the family' now. We enjoyed another of our quarterly United Services at Appledore on 27th January, led by Sam. They will come and join with us again on Easter Sunday.

Our chapel has been hosting a lot of meetings of late. In February, the staff of our circuit and the neighbouring Hastings, Bexhill and Rye Circuit gathered for a 'Quiet Morning'. These are arranged twice a year, one in each circuit, as a means of having some quieter times of refreshment, away from the everyday work load. We are also hosting a series of training sessions for new preachers and worship leaders, led by Helen. Again, we are combining with those from the H, B & R circuit. Readers from the former Ashford circuit with long memories may recall that many years ago I was 'on trial' as a preacher myself, before stopping to focus on running the growing Sunday School we had at that time. I am now embarking on the new preacher's training course, to build on my skills as a worship leader, and will be accompanying Val Redding and assisting in some of her services in the near future.

On February 10th we were pleased to welcome Roy Hollands to lead his first service with us, which was Café Church on the theme of 'Gone Fishing', ably assisted by Alan Small, who continues his training as a Worship Leader. Our origami skills were put to the test making paper boats and we heard the familiar story of the disciples being told to cast their empty nets on the other side of the boat. We learned another new song to a familiar tune and there were word searches and colouring sheets available for those who wanted to use them – as well as the usual cakes, fruit and drinks. We were delighted to see the church so full with 21 people including 3 under the age of 10. We are grateful to Isobel who has played the piano for our services on several occasions recently.

I am sorry to report the sad loss of another of our members, Peggy Cursons, the wife of our senior steward Les. We give thanks for her long service to the church, especially for the support she has given to Les in taking good care of the building for so many years. We have all appreciated her friendship and she will be fondly remembered for her sense of humour (for many years she was involved in Pantomimes in the village) and for her artwork (she held regular displays of her work and loved nothing more than being out in the wilds of Scotland, painting.) She will be greatly missed. Les and the family will remain in our prayers in the weeks and months ahead.

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

**T**he Covenant Service on 20th January was very well attended and Sam led us in worship which included Holy Communion. On Saturday 16th St Andrews hosted the second of the 'Conversations about Marriage and Relationships', about 20 people attended and they had a good conversation and were able to explore some of the issues. On the same evening there was another quiz, this time we had a 'Pointless' quiz evening and supper. The quiz was based on the Pointless television programme and was very well received. Paul Missin was quiz master and kept all 8 teams in line.



Jill Missin and Susie and Darron Sharp produced their usual tasty supper; bolognese and jacket potatoes this time. It was agreed that this type of quiz led to more discussion than previously and was therefore more conducive to the fellowship of the evening. We know there were ten rounds of questions not used so we will await the next session eagerly. It was good to see people from St Andrews and also other friends and neighbours too. The evening was a great success and as a bonus, £280 was raised for the boiler fund.

On 24th February the LA was led by The Friday Fellowship group and under the guidance of Ruth they formed a choir and instead of a sermon we were treated to a shortened version of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. James Sullivan took the role of Joseph and Jim Smith-Moody was Herod, both of whom did an excellent job. The message came across in a very upbeat and interesting way and the children were able to follow what was happening too. Well done Friday Fellowship.

Friday 1st March is World Day of Prayer and this year the theme is 'Come everything is ready!' and is this year led by Slovenia. St Andrews will be taking part in the service which will be held at St Martins at 2:30pm.

On 21st April, Easter Sunday, Rev Sam Funnell will be leading worship at 8:30am and again at 10am; both to include Holy Communion. In the evening we will be treated to a double act when both Rev Sam Funnell and Rev Kevin Taylor will be leading the service together.

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## Tenterden Christine Endersby

Whilst writing this we are preparing to hold the Annual World Day of Prayer Service in our Church on 1st March. Janet and Anne have been busy preparing, rehearsing and generally organising this Service which is held in different Churches in the town each year. We thank them both for doing this work. We are also preparing for our Lent Course which commences on Thursday 7th March. More details are given later in this magazine. We are grateful to Paul for organising this Course for us and we would welcome any other members of the Circuit who would like to come along. We still have one or two members of our congregation who are unwell and we send them our best wishes for a speedy recovery. We also have some members who are away on holiday in New Zealand. They may not be meeting with us for a couple of months but they are hoping to meet up with each other whilst they are away. How nice it is to think that they can meet together even if they are on the other side of the world.

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**"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."**

**— Anne Bradstreet, The Works of Anne Bradstreet**

## Grace Court Val Redding

It is hoped that major improvement work will be undertaken at Grace Court during the summer months. The MHA estates team have visited the building to assess what needs to be done.

There have been several tenancy changes in recent months. Three older residents are now settled in local care homes and it is hoped that contact with them can be maintained.

A monthly coffee morning is held for residents on the first Tuesday of each month.

The Live at Home scheme now has an area manager, Emma Harvey. Sasha Williams remains as activities coordinator. The aim is to establish further groups locally. Emma has included more information below.

### Live at Home Scheme Folkestone

As Val Redding reported in a recent newsletter, MHA is working to expand the Live at Home schemes across the country and I have been recruited to manage the scheme in Folkestone. The previous Community Hub Manager Sue Maule is to focus on the Retirement Housing at Grace Court and leaves Sasha the Community Programme Co-ordinator in post at the Folkestone Live at Home Scheme. Sasha and I were welcomed by the residents of Grace Court as we converted their guest flat into an office in October. We have continued to run the Friday Club at Grace Court where members work with Sasha to build a quarterly timetable of events to enjoy every Friday afternoon. So far this year they have enjoyed fish and chip lunches, craft sessions, games afternoons and much more. We are seeking funding from local and national organisations to allow us to expand into the community and offer more to our members. This could include a befriending service, chair based exercise group, lunch club and trips out. New members are always welcome; if you know anyone in the Folkestone area that may benefit from some company or social activity or if you would like to volunteer with us please call me or Sasha on 07885 687958. We produce a quarterly newsletter which is available from the Methodist Church in Sandgate Road, Folkestone or St Andrew's Church, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, or by calling us on 07885 687958. Best wishes, Emma Harvey.

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## From Deacon Carys

### Giving thanks for Elham, Rhodes Minnis and Lyminge

I have been reflecting on the three places that I am currently working in and giving thanks for those places and their huge value.

At Elham I love it that they have two prayer meetings. That they recognise the value of prayer and have it as an important thing that they do, praying for church, local community, people who are struggling and world concerns. They meet for prayer on the evening of the first Thursday in the month. This takes place in the

Methodist hall, the style is informal, there are refreshments, questions are discussed and also there is a valued time of prayer.

The second prayer meeting is a prayer breakfast, I'm not sure how often this is, however what I do know is that this is valued so much that recently they have decided to meet more often. Both of the meetings are joint with the Anglicans, I love the warmth of welcome, fellowship and sharing. Reminds me of Acts 2:42 "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Anyone who has been to Rhodes Minnis will know what a gift this chapel is. Such lovely countryside and a lovely building. Each time I drive up to the chapel I feel my tension flowing away and I become aware of God's peace and stillness. This is as much in standing outside the chapel looking around and listening, as being inside in the peaceful prayerful space. From the people and the building there is a sense of warmth and welcome. It is a gift to be able to go to Rhodes Minnis and to be able to step away from the busyness of life and noise. The hymn 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind' springs to mind, particularly verse three:

*"Drop Thy still dew's of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace."*

Lyminge have a wonderful Knit & Natter group, I understand it grew out of a failing fellowship group. Here is an illustration of death and resurrection, and how sometimes it's important to let go of some things as you never know what gems will come next. The knit and natter is a friendly group, and it doesn't matter if you don't knit, all are welcomed. It is a supportive group of people who are willing to share and listen over a cup of tea or coffee and cake. This is a group who care about one another, it is a safe space for encouragement and fellowship. As is 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

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## Folkestone Rainbow Centre

**T**he **Winter Shelter** is over for another year, but our thanks to all who supported it in any way. Please, however, continue to collect items for **FoodBank**. Sincere thanks to those who took part in the **Walk of the Kings**, which to date has raised approx. £1,800. A quiz is being held at St. George's on the 15th March and the **Annual Knit-in** will be held on Wednesday, 17th April at the William Harvey Grammar School. We hope many of you will be able to rally your enthusiastic knitters! During Lent we will again be running the Count Your Blessings Challenge, details of which should be in your church.

Reminder: **The Rainbow Shop** now has Gift Aid facilities and will happily

receive any bric-a-brac and good quality ladies' clothing.

Thank you for your continuing support in so many ways.

(Updates on events, etc., can be found on the Rainbow Centre Facebook page)

**Mary Blanch**

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## **Rev. Derek Hancock**

**A**s I write, many of us in Hythe and beyond are recalling the life of Rev'd Derek Hancock who died suddenly in the early evening of Monday 25th February. This was totally unexpected and came as a great shock to many of us and particularly Derek's family - his wife, Di, and their children.

He was the Superintendent Minister of the Folkestone and Hythe Circuit with his Manse in Hythe from September 1999 until August 2006, when he retired. He has continued to serve the present Circuit as an active Supernumerary since then and would often conduct up to ten services each quarter. Knowing the Churches and Chapel congregations meant that his ministry was well received and much appreciated. His contribution to the Methodist Church will be greatly missed as will his work in the community, particularly in Hythe, where he was twice President of Hythe Rotary Club, along with other commitments. We mourn his passing, give thanks for having known him, give praise to God for his ministry amongst us, and send our sad condolences to his family.

With love, thoughts and prayers, Dudley Shipton

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## **Gladys Lunn**

**M**any thanks for all the cards and messages following the death of my Mother. It is so good to know how much she meant to so many.

We had a good thanksgiving service at Charing and her ashes will remain there in the wildflower section of the garden.

I shall remember her every time I eat fish and chips – don't know about you!

Special thanks to Sam for taking the service, Mahalah for playing the organ, Judy for reading the Psalm and for those of you who came from around the Circuit to help celebrate a life well lived. She would have been pleased and would have enjoyed the singing as much as we did.

Barbara Lunn

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**“When Good Friday comes, these are the moments in life when we feel there's no hope. But then, Easter comes.”**

**— Coretta Scott King**

## Mission Group changes its name to “One World”

When The Missions Group met recently we agreed to extend the remit of the group and consequently we have agreed to change the group name to “One World”.

Under the heading of “One World” we will consider the following

- Overseas issues
- The world at home
- Caring for the environment
- Living more simply

### Dates for your diary:

24th April 2019 – Pam will share details of her trip to Zimbabwe and some of the challenges the country faces. This will be held at Folkestone Methodist Church at 7.30pm

16th May 2019 – Another opportunity to share details of Pam’s Zimbabwe trip. This will be held at Kennington Church at 7.30pm.

27th July 2019 – Outdoor Taize service – further details to follow.

20th October 2019 – ‘Think Mission’ Sunday – how might your church recognise this day?

The next meeting of the group will take place at Pam’s home at 131 Lucy Avenue on 10th April. Please try and join us.

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## Stepping Stones Review Meeting

**2.30pm Saturday 6th April, Wye Methodist Church**

The Stepping Stones project opened in January 2017 since when it has held a series of meetings and published several handbooks. Recently it changed the way it is managed. We now need to consider what has been achieved and how we modify our approach so as build upon it. This is an open meeting at which all are welcome and we look forward to hearing a diversity of opinions. Admission is free and there will be refreshments.

Geoff Chapman

## Rev John Hellyer

You will probably be aware that John leaves the SE District in August this year to take up his appointment as the superintendent of the Gloucester circuit.

John has been the Chair since 2006 when the District was first set up. Many of us have been encouraged and challenged by his preaching and have witnessed his commitment to the Methodist Church playing its part in our ever changing word.

A farewell service will be held at Redhill Methodist Church on Sunday 7th July 2019. Tea will be provided from 4.30pm with a service at 6.30pm.

The Circuit will make a donation to John's leaving gift, however, individuals or local churches may also make a donation if they wish. Gifts should be sent to Lisa Cooper at the Circuit Office and marked "JH gift" by Sunday 9th June at the latest. The collective gifts will then be transferred to the District during the week beginning 17th June.

The Circuit is also planning a collective greeting which will form part of an album from across the district. Churches are also welcome to send their own messages, with or without photos. Your contributions should be A4 size and sent to Lisa by the end of May please.

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### **Easter**

*Even though the cross had staunched His breath,  
And the tomb had set its seal on brutal death,  
Sins of men yet stung in wounds still fresh,  
The word no longer dwelt with us as flesh –  
Even these could not prolong that darkest night.  
Resurrected life kindled the world alight.*

©Harry Hunter online

## Christian Aid

### **Christian Aid welcomes MPs' report into forced displacement in Africa but says humanitarian system must boost funding for local responders**

**R**esponding to the International Development Committee's report – *Forced Displacement in Africa: 'Anchors Not Walls'* – released today, Deborah Hyams, humanitarian policy and advocacy adviser at Christian Aid, said: "Across Sub-Saharan Africa, more than 20 million people forced from their homes by violence and conflict are living on the margins of their own societies or in neighbouring countries as refugees, struggling for livelihoods and dignity.

"The International Development Committee's comprehensive report provides a road map of areas the UK government needs to focus on to fulfil its pledges to 'leave no one behind' in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa, and its 'Grand Bargain' commitments to make the global humanitarian system more effective.

"We particularly welcome the Committee's recommendations that the Department for International Development (DFID) should place greater emphasis on targeting and supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) through its humanitarian and development programmes, including by collecting comparative data on its support for IDP and refugee populations, and by putting women and local organisations at the forefront of responses.

"The UK also has an important role to play in supporting African governments to implement the letter and spirit of the Kampala Convention, Africa's regional instrument for the protection of internally displaced people. The African Union (AU) will mark the ten-year anniversary of the Kampala Convention in October this year, and the UK must encourage the 28 AU member states which have not yet ratified it to take this opportunity to do so.

"With huge numbers of people forcibly displaced within their own countries – 40 million people globally, including 13 million IDPs in Sub-Saharan Africa – often relatively neglected by humanitarian and development agencies, we agree with the Committee that the UK government should continue pushing for a UN High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement to be launched in 2019.

"Finally, we support the Committee's call for DFID to track the proportion of its humanitarian funding directed to national and local responders, who are often best placed to support those who have been forcibly uprooted in the long run, as well as their host communities.

"The challenges of preventing forced displacement in Africa and promoting durable solutions are many, but displaced people should not just be seen as in need of humanitarian assistance: they have agency. DFID can help empower them by using its influence to encourage the humanitarian system to provide more flexible, multi-year funding to local and community-based organisations working directly with people displaced internally and across borders."

## Dates for your Diary

Sat 6th April – **Stepping Stones Review Meeting** at Wye, 2.30pm (see article)

Sat 13th April – **Representative Synod** (all day) Worthing

Mon 15th April – **Holy Week Service** - Rhodes Minnis 7pm – all welcome!

Wed 24th April – **Presentation about Pam's trip to Zimbabwe** – Folkestone, 7.30pm

Thurs 16th May – **Presentation about Pam's trip to Zimbabwe** – Kennington, 7.30pm

Sat 18th May – **Haywardians Concert** at Lyminge

### Advance notices:

Tues 11th June – **Circuit Finance meeting** for church treasurers – Cade Road, 7.30pm

Sun 7th July – **District Farewell service for Rev. John Hellyer** at Redhill (see article)

Weds 10th July – **Local Preachers' and Worship Leaders' Meeting** – Rhodes Minnis 7.30pm

Sat 27th July – **Circuit outdoor Taize service** – details TBC

Sun 28th July – **Circuit Farewell Service for Deacon Carys Woodley** – Lyminge, 6pm  
(all churches are invited to contribute refreshments for after the service)

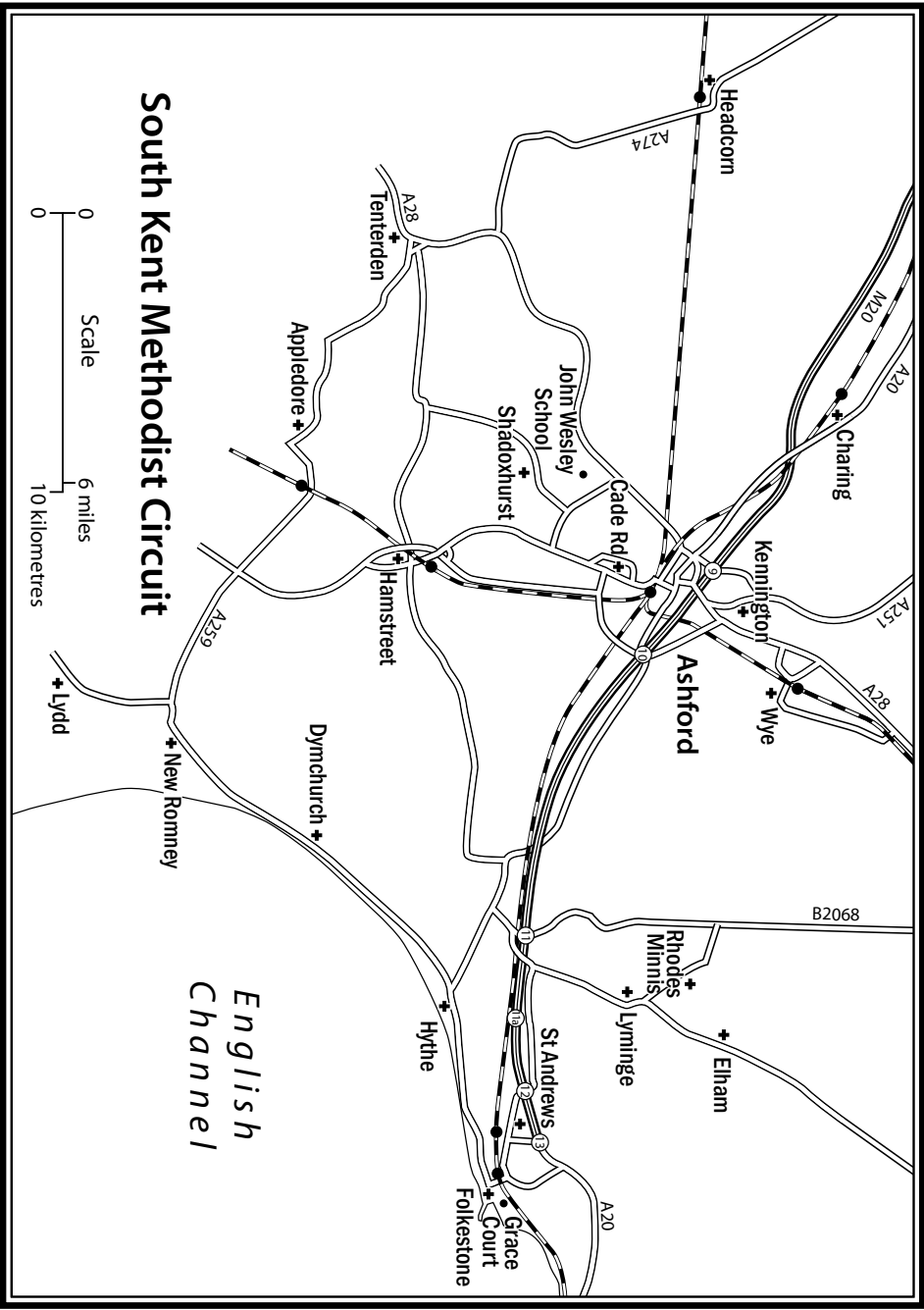
Sun 20th October – **Think Mission Sunday** – start thinking now about how your church might mark this!



**"The devil, darkness, and death may swagger and boast, the pangs of life will sting for a while longer, but don't worry; the forces of evil are breathing their last. Not to worry...He's risen!"**

**– Charles R Swindoll**





# South Kent Methodist Circuit

Scale  
0 6 miles  
0 10 kilometres

*English Channel*