

South Kent Circuit Magazine, April/ May 2020 edition

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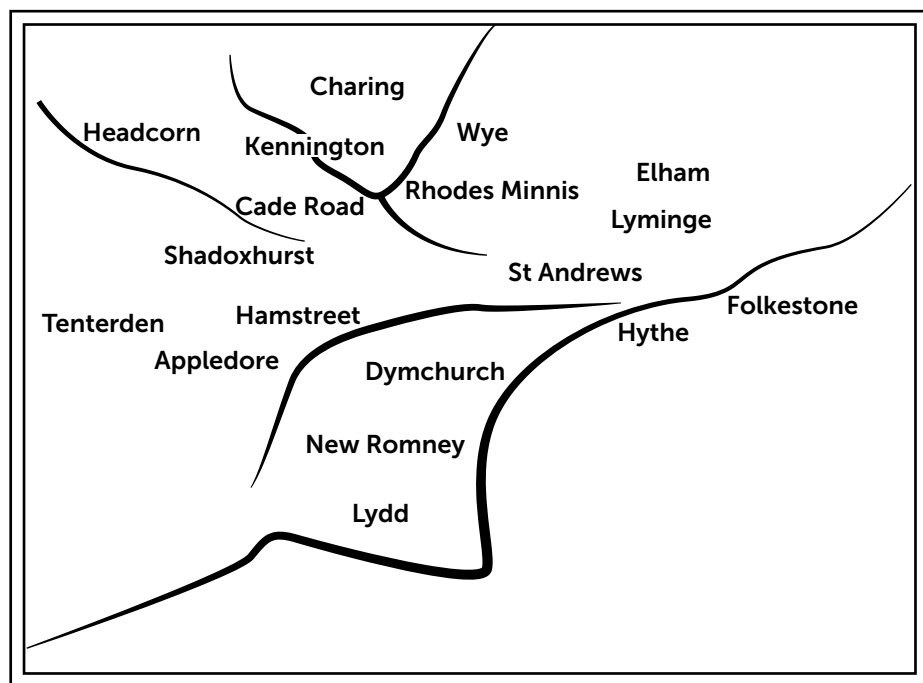
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It is advisable to check to see which events may have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus situation.

SOUTH KENT CIRCUIT MAGAZINE

April/May 2020



South Kent Methodist Circuit Ministerial Team

	Telephone	Rest Day
Rev. Sam Funnell	01303 240228	Tuesday
Rev. Robin Blount	01233 629611	
Rev. Dr. Paul Dean	01233 879358	Monday
Rev. Tricia Fogden	01233 758250	Monday
Rev. Helen Hollands	01233 621216	Friday

(NB Rev Helen Hollands is be on Sabbatical)

Rev. Judy Muxlow 01580 291016

Rev. Kevin Taylor 01303 261500

Circuit Office 01303 270190

Hours: Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 9.00am -2pm. Closed Wednesdays

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 February/March issue: 9 May 2019**

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PLEASE CLEARLY MARK ALL ITEMS 'MAGAZINE'

From the Manse

In addition to serving in the South Kent Circuit, I also have a half-time role as Ecumenical Development Officer for the URC Southern Synod. At present, while we are without a Synod Moderator, it falls to me to attend various Church Leaders meetings including a breakfast meeting of the London Church Leaders. The most recent one was at the Old Deanery, St Paul's, a splendid recently restored Grade 1 listed building with spacious reception rooms on the first floor and paintings on the walls of bishops and others church figures.

The most recent breakfast meeting in London was chaired by Anglican Bishop Sarah Mullally and focussed on the ECO-church theme, which is also a focus for us in the South Kent Circuit. There was a presentation on 'The Churches and Climate Action' by Andy Atkins, CEO of A Rocha. In our Circuit some churches have been using A Rocha's questionnaire to try to improve our environmental credentials, so it was good to meet Andy and a colleague of his who is a mission partner from India. This missionary is using an urban garden project to reach out to people of all faiths and none. He mentioned a son and a parent who came there, and the child was told off for getting his hands dirty. The son replied, "But mummy, this is where our food comes from". Getting that message across to people who have little connection with the land seemed like a victory.

After hearing the urgent reasons for climate action, there were reports at the Leaders' breakfast of what the churches are doing. There is to be a Climate Sunday on 6 September 2020 to be a focus for church action in the run up to the COP meeting this year. The Anglican church is investing in a Climate Stock-market Index. Cardinal Vincent Nichols mentioned the central purchasing scheme for churches and schools that the Roman Catholics are using. He also drew attention to Pope Francis' call for "an ecological conversion". On May 24 (Aldersgate Day for Methodists), it is the 5th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, a papal encyclical emphasising the importance of Franciscan spirituality at this time of environmental crisis. In the spirit of receptive ecumenism, let me share with you section 11 from *Laudato Si'* to suggest how relevant St Francis is for us today:

'11. Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them "to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason". His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists. His disciple Saint Bonaventure tells us that, "from a reflection on the primary source of all things, filled with even more abundant piety, he would call creatures, no matter how small, by the name of 'brother' or 'sister'". Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects

the choices which determine our behaviour. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.'

Such a thoroughly Christian vision of our relationship to creation is deeply inspiring and calls us to action, I hope you will agree.

Paul Dean.



Bible Month – June 2020

Bible Month is an annual initiative whereby, during the month of June, we are encouraged to focus on and engage with one particular small book of the bible and study it in some detail, over the course of 4 weeks. Last year the

book was Colossians, this year it is Ruth.

Material written by an expert is provided to help ministers, preachers, worship leaders and those who lead small study groups in churches. This year the material has been produced by Dr Rachel Starr from Queens Theological College in Birmingham.

On March 7th Rachel gave a talk about Ruth which was filmed live in Salisbury and 'live streamed' to other venues across the District, including Cade Road, where 16 people, including friends from the Hastings Bexhill and Rye circuit, met for the day. After a morning of talks on the 4 chapters of Ruth, in which we received much insight about the context of the story of Ruth and its links to other parts of the Bible, we were able to text in our questions to be answered live. There was then the opportunity to engage in some group activities. I think we all felt we had gained a lot from the day and went away excited about Bible month and feeling we knew a lot more about the background of Ruth and its many poignant links with today's world – including refugees, food poverty and the treatment of women.

The circuit would encourage all churches and preachers to engage with this special month, so that there is continuity for congregations – it would be a shame to hear $\frac{3}{4}$ of the story and then miss the final week. Likewise weeks 3-4 might not make sense if week 1 had been missed.

If anyone would like one of the booklets to use at a Bible Study, house group etc., spares are available from the circuit office. You can also find out more here www.preachweb.org/biblemonth. For preachers who were unable to attend on the training day, you will be able to watch the video online – contact Lisa for further info.

Circuit Prayers

(These prayers are based upon John 20:19-29 and Acts 2:1-4)

The disciples rejoiced when they saw their Lord.

We should approach our God with rejoicing in our hearts.

Putting aside all our cares, we should focus on the one who is risen from the dead.

Risen Lord, we are members of your family and like your disciples, we are all so very different: we have different personalities, different friends and families but you offer grace and love to all of us and we ask you to make us one, in your name, whatever our individual background and history may be.

Jesus says:

‘Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

The disciples came together in the upper room when they were afraid.

And you, Lord Jesus, were there.

They came together again when they had cause to rejoice.

And you, Lord Jesus, were there.

Thank you that however we might be feeling at different times, you are always with us. So open our hearts and minds to see you, Lord.
Amen.

Lord, if we are honest we have to confess that, like Thomas, we sometimes

find it hard to believe in you and we ask for proof.

We may be ashamed about that and try to keep it to ourselves.

We even try to keep our feelings from you.

We pray now for honesty in our relationships, not only with you, but also with each other; that we will be able to echo the words of

Thomas:

‘My Lord and my God.’

Amen.

Prayers for Others

We live in a world where many doubt.
We pray today for those who doubt because
no one has ever shown them the love of Jesus.
Lord, have mercy on each one.

We pray for those who doubt because
the circumstances of their lives
just don't hold any sign of a God of love.
Lord, have mercy on each one.

We pray for those who doubt because
they have been hurt or let down by others,
or have never learned to trust.
Lord, have mercy on each one.

We pray for those who doubt because
war or natural disaster
has destroyed them or those they love.
Lord, have mercy on each one.

We pray for those who doubt because
they are in the dark night of illness or grief.
Lord, have mercy on each one.

Lord, we pray for all who doubt your love
for whatever reason:
shine your resurrection light in their lives.
Lord, have mercy on each one. Amen.

Personal Prayer

'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'
Thank you, Lord, that you are so patient with us, when we can be so
impatient.
You never force us to believe but you rejoice when we do.
Thank you Lord, that you can break down our barriers and set us
free to love and worship you. Amen

Jesus said to Thomas: 'Do not doubt but believe.'

Thomas replied: 'My Lord and my God.'

Jesus says to me: 'Do not doubt but believe.'

I reply: 'My Lord and my God.'

Blessing

May the blessing of the God who danced at the dawning of creation, be with us,

May the blessing of the Son who challenges us to dance the pain of the world's suffering, be with us.

And may the blessing of the Spirit who invites us to join in the dance of celebration, be with us from now into eternity. Amen.

'Saints Alive!'

a Musical celebration for Pentecost

by Roger Jones

with performers drawn from churches in
Dover, Folkestone and Ashford

There are 3 opportunities to attend:

Friday 29th May 7.30pm

St Andrew's Methodist Church
Surrenden Road, Folkestone, CT19 4DY

Saturday 30th May 7.30pm

United Church Cade Road
Ashford, TN23 6JE

Sunday 31st May 6.30pm

The Beacon Church and Christian Centre
Bartholomew Street, Dover CT16 2LJ

At each venue there will be a retiring collection for local charities

News from our Churches

Charing Elizabeth Ellen

Wednesday 26th February was the beginning of Lent. During lent we at Charing collect non-perishable items which will be given to Ashford Foodbank after Easter.

March 6th was World Day of Prayer, with a service prepared by the women of Zimbabwe on the theme 'Take up thy mat and walk'. This is always an ecumenical service when we are joined by friends from Charing and Charing Heath Anglican churches.

Dymchurch Diana Blackwell

Knitters and Stitchers have continued to meet during the recent cold and wet weather. Numbers have been much as usual as members have been glad to get together to exchange news and enjoy company. Another container has just left for Zambia.

Meeting Point is still growing in numbers and is proving to be very popular during these winter months.

We still have several members of the congregation who are unwell and we continue to keep them, and those who care for them, in our thoughts and prayers.

Due to storm Ciara we did cancel one morning service but have continued to meet since despite strong winds and much rain.

We were pleased to unite for worship with Lydd on the occasion of their Church Anniversary – 134 years. It was good to see the church so full. The service was led by Kevin and the congregation included several of Lydd's uniformed organisations.

The World Day of Prayer celebrated this year on Friday 6 March was written by the Christian women of Zimbabwe, who call us to Rise! Take your mat and walk. The challenge is to constantly seek love, peace and reconciliation. We met this year in the Parish church with a combined congregation of all our Dymchurch churches. This is always a happy occasion and we enjoy working and planning the service together. Our Offering amounted to £152.96.

The blessings of Easter to all in the Circuit.

Forthcoming

Good Friday – Refugee Lunch from 11.30am in aid of Christian Aid followed by a Meditation led by Kevin. Please join us.

Elham Alice Mills

Here we are approaching Spring again. Daffodils are in full bloom everywhere and the days get longer and we hope things will improve weather wise. We are fortunate compared with so many areas and we thank God for this and pray that he will make things better for those affected by the floods .

It's a quieter time after the busy Christmas season. We continue with our Breakfast meetings bi-monthly – the next one is the first Saturday in April at 8am in the hall. Our Monthly prayer meetings, first Thursday evening in the month at 7-30pm also continue. Several months ago a prayer-tree was introduced in the hall, so that anyone using the hall could place a label on the tree asking for a prayer to be said on their behalf. This has proved to be a help and comfort to a lot of people.

We send our good wishes to Elsie who we all miss now that she is in residential care and also to Pat who we all miss seeing at Chapel since she has been in poor health recently.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

Folkestone Marjorie Williams

We had another of our 'tea services' on the 9th February, these services are shorter than normal and at 4 p.m. Sam led the service and tea was provided after by various members and the young men did the washing up. Thanks to all who contributed to a great afternoon.

Another of our Iranian friends, Reza, was baptized recently. It is so good to have these young men at our services each week.

On Shrove Tuesday we served hot drinks and pancakes at our usual coffee morning and raised £43 which was wonderful as the weather has been so bad. This money will be a help as, like many other churches in the circuit, we have ongoing maintenance challenges.

Our coffee mornings continue each Tuesday, all are welcome.

Prayer Meeting is alternate months at 10 a.m., usually on a Wednesday. If you are interested please telephone the Church and leave a message with your number, someone will then let you know the date and time.

After the recent bad weather we look forward to the coming of spring and summer and hope that our circuit friends are safe. We send Christian love to all of you.

Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet Bill Miller

After the activities over the Christmas period things tend to be rather quiet in January and February. Despite the storms, worship continued in our church.

On February 23rd David Smith led a family service with the theme "The

Transfiguration of Jesus". The Fun Club for children actively participated with the congregation for parts of the service. One of the youngsters read a lesson and another led us in a "sending out" prayer. Older folks exchanged personal "Mountain Top Experiences". Overall it was a service much enjoyed by all those present.

Some future events in our church,

Friday 10th April – Good Friday service at 10 am followed by a short procession with the cross round the village.

Sunday May 24th – Cafe church at 10.30 am

Headcorn Colin Pearson

The year has started off quietly for us at Headcorn, but March sees us becoming rather busier. Like many others, the first Friday in March saw us join in the World Day of Prayer. We have two services each year, spread across the four village churches, and this year it was our turn to host the morning service. We enjoyed a memorable service with a good congregation, which included a (modest) contingent of men.

Our Cake and Company afternoons continue to attract visitors who enjoy the opportunity either to join in various games (and it's amazing the words now allowed in Scrabble) or simply to chat over tea and cakes. We have been very pleased at the way the venture has developed, but are now thinking about how we can best carry it forward.

Although we were not able to start our Lent Group at the beginning of Lent, we are delighted that Robin Blount is going to lead us in his series on "The Easter Story Unwrapped", and are looking forward to sharing in those.

Quiz

Headcorn Methodist Church is offering the opportunity to take part in another Fun Quiz this time titled "Shopping at the Greengrocers". Copies of the quiz sheets are available now from your church stewards in exchange for a donation of £1.00 towards the cost of essential maintenance work. Closing date for entries is Saturday 16 May.

St. Michael's Methodist Anglican Church Centre Hythe Dudley Shipton

As the great Festival of Easter approaches no doubt our Churches will receive an increase in the number of people in the congregation and it will be a delight for all to see. Maintaining our congregations and maybe even inviting new people to join us for worship is an important part of our witness. We need to reflect upon the place of outreach in the community. This is the constant theme of St. Michael's Joint Church Council of the Methodist and Anglican Churches in Hythe.

Future mission and a base in the Town from which to offer the work and teaching of the risen Christ has concentrated our minds. With few people in the congregation

at St. Michael's under fifty years of age we may have faith that the New Life of Easter and the love of God for all people, along with the work of the Holy Spirit, will maintain a Christian presence in Hythe for the next twenty years, but it is also dependent upon our vision for the future.

Up to fourteen different organisations use the premises at St. Michael's, the weekly Tuesday Fellowship has a regular attendance of around twenty people and the fortnightly Community Coffee Morning attracts at least forty people, hence some of the needs of the community are being met.

The already well established Parish Office has now been moved to premises at the Old Police Station opposite Waitrose. With its office and an additional room that can be used for Bible Study, prayer, and meetings for up to a dozen people it is centrally placed in the Town and along with its Notice Board it registers the concern and need for the Parish to be part of the community.

The discussion is now focused on how the St. Michael's building might be able to accommodate shared office facilities and provide an accessible venue to facilitate better engagement with the re-imagined mission of both denominations.

The Church leadership of ordained clergy intends trialling an open-door policy in St. Michael's Church during the summer months. This is also going to require the practical support of the lay members of both Churches for the shared vision of the two Churches as they seek to enhance the outreach within the local community.

Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed.

Lydd David Richards

Greetings from Lydd to all our churches.

Here we are in Lent, first day of Spring has passed but the winds and rains continue. We've had heavy winds with the storms over the past three weekends but our service attendances have held up. On St David's Day we held our 134th Church Anniversary and we were blessed with an excellent service led by our minister Rev Kevin Taylor. We were pleased to have The British Legion present with their standards and Fred, a D-Day Landing veteran, also came along. From the younger generation the scouting organisations were well represented with their standards also, and Kevin involved them in the service. The service was a United Marsh Service so members from New Romney and Dymchurch attended to raise the congregation to about 60, and most stayed behind after the service to partake in the lovely refreshments.

Most members have had their medical problems, attending doctors and hospitals, but thankfully they are now recovering.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to hosting the World Day of Prayer on 6th March - a service which has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe. We hope and pray that this service will also be well attended.

Although our numbers are few, we trust that at our Church Council Meeting on April 2nd we shall be able to plan for another year.

It's good to see the Dementia Café, Yoga and Little Chicks groups doing so well

using the school room, and we continue to pray that their use of the Church Hall will help them form a link with the Church.

Lyminge Mary Blanch

As many of you already know, Dean Hayward and his partner Shawn are moving to Cornwall in May. We have known Dean all his life and watched him grow into the lovely man he has become. He was a member of the church youth club and always showed an amazing talent for music, which eventually resulted in Peter Naylor teaching him to play the organ. Dean was the first organist to receive the Methodist certificate from Valerie Ruddle and we remain very thankful for all he has contributed through his musical gift. His well-known choir, the Haywardians, will be giving a concert at Lyminge at 7.30pm, Saturday, 18th April, which will be an opportunity to show our appreciation.

As I write, Lent lunches are well underway with proceeds once again to WaterAid. However, following the World Day of Prayer service, this year prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, it seemed appropriate that the proceeds from the lunch that day should go to the Zimbabwean charity supported by Pam Couchman, as a token of our appreciation for the many years she has organized this special Friday.

The Tayne Centre markets re-started on the 21st March and will continue on 3rd Saturday of each month, 9am-12noon. Come and browse and enjoy refreshments.

We will be holding our usual Good Friday vigil at 11am outside the church, followed by coffee and hot cross buns. All are welcome.

We continue to hold in prayer all who struggle with ill-health and fear for the future, that they will know that the love of God surrounds them in their need.

At this time of the year, we remember all those taking exams, particularly those which will define their future, praying they will know loving support from family and friends.

Note for your diaries: Haywardians Concert – 7.30pm Saturday, 18th April.

New Romney Wendy Prigmore

Iam writing this as the sun is shining after such dreadful weather. We do get strong winds blowing across the Marsh but it seems we are over the worst.

Looking back over January and February we have had some interesting services. The combined Marsh services have been well attended especially at Lydd for their Anniversary when we enjoyed seeing the Uniformed Brigades presenting their standards.

Storm Ciara did not deter 3 members from attending but when Storm Dennis was due it was decided to cancel the service. The week after that we had Barbara Lunn leading us and although only a handful of us were present, she gave us an

uplifting message.

We seem to have had more than our fair share of illness which has depleted our numbers. Every week there was another name to add to the prayer list! Thankfully most of them are now showing signs of improvement. We also remember those in residential care and those who are housebound.

Our popular Saturday Coffee Mornings, with cake stall, plant stall and others will restart on the first Saturday in March from 10-12. All are welcome, do join us.

As we are now in Lent we must look forward to the joyous occasion of Easter not forgetting, of course, the suffering Jesus endured culminating in His crucifixion. What a sacrifice!

Rhodes Minnis Chris Tutton

It is with much sadness that we report the death of one of our members, Mrs. Ronnie Mozley who after some months of failing health, died on 4th February, 2020. I well remember the first occasion when Ronnie attended worship at Rhodes Minnis. Rev. Arthur Crozier was the preacher and as I was standing outside the Chapel just before the service, I started looking up the lane to see if any other people were coming when along the lane came a couple with three boys dressed in the uniforms of the Boys Brigade and another lady who I had seen on occasions driving around the locality. That lady was Ronnie and the family was her brother and sister-in-law and their three sons who were staying with Ronnie for the weekend. It transpired that Ronnie's brother and family attended a Methodist Church in Hastings and had suggested Ronnie attended Chapel with them that morning.

That was the beginning of Ronnie's connection with the Chapel over the next twenty something years. Ronnie was still working at that time and would attend on a Sunday when her shifts permitted. Once she had retired she was there every Sunday and became a member of the Methodist Church. She would spend a lot of time visiting old people's homes giving hand massages to the residents and she became our pastoral visitor for many years.

Ronnie was buried in Elham cemetery on 24th February and by the time you are reading this, we shall have held a memorial service on 16th March, led by Dudley Shipton at which we shall remember Ronnie, what she had done for the wider community over the years and what she had meant to the lives of our small number of worshippers at Rhodes Minnis.

Shadoxhurst Lisa Cooper

We continue to enjoy a variety of worship styles including our monthly café church services which continue to attract a good number of visitors of all ages. Our most recent café style services have been on the themes of 'salt & light' and 'journeys'. Our next will be on Easter Day and chocolate eggs may feature!

Once a quarter we have a united service with Appledore, taking it in turns to host. And in April we will join as usual with the Anglican church - almost next door to us - for a St George's Day service followed by refreshments in our chapel.

We hold coffee mornings on the second Monday of each month which, as well as raising money for various nominated charities, provides an opportunity for company and chat. Anyone is welcome to join us.

A number of us, plus friends from other churches, have been enjoying Robin Blount's latest study course on Tuesday evenings in Lent. Thank you Robin.

On a sad note, we report the death early in March of Bob Farrow at the age of 95 years. Although he had been unable to attend church for some time, many from the former Ashford Circuit, especially Local Preachers, will remember Bob who was our organist for 30 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret, his long term companion and carer, at this time.

St Andrew's, Cheriton Christine Slater

Our Covenant Service took place on Sunday 12th January which was as usual a moving and uplifting service led by Rev Sam Funnell but then the congregation were shocked and saddened in equal measures to hear that Sam would be leaving us this September rather than next to take up a new post. We will miss her and Daisy Dog but wish her well.

The biennial Cheriton Lights festival took place on the weekend of 22/23 February. Ruth Bamford rallied the troops as usual and as a result it was a successful time of outreach to the community. On Saturday night we had a Strange Cargo live band playing in the church - Steel Skin Soul. This brought hundreds of people into the church where we offered free drinks and 'in memory' candle lighting. On the Sunday our own band played and Rev's Sam and Kevin were in attendance. Phyllis Couchman made dozens of friendship bracelets with local children. There was a fabulous light and sound installation in our car park. It is always a wonderful weekend with hundreds of local people coming into the church. Maybe some might feel moved to return on a Sunday!

On Friday 28th February there was a meeting to go through the preparations for this year's World Day of Prayer which was hosted by St Andrews on Friday 6th March at 2:30pm. The women of Zimbabwe wrote the service and told of some of their stories about day to day life and their worries for the future. There was a taste of Zimbabwean music and children from All Souls School took part as well as friends from other churches. Refreshments afterwards included some Zimbabwean foods.

On Easter Sunday our 8am service will be led by Sam and include Holy Communion. There will then be time for a well-earned breakfast where we can partake of the wonderful bacon and egg rolls ably cooked by Darron before Ralph Bradshaw leads the service at 10 am before Sam is back again to lead the 6pm service.

Tenterden Christine Endersby

Since Christmas we have had some problematic asbestos removed. The cost, which we had not budgeted for, was very high but we are extremely grateful to CLT for giving us a grant of a third towards the essential work.

Our endeavours to find more lettings have not been as successful as we had hoped, but we are still looking to be able to let out our premises on a more permanent basis.

We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Joan Price. Her Thanksgiving Service will be held at the end of March in our Church followed by Tea and Cakes for everyone.

We are also busy preparing for our turn in holding the Lent Lunch. These are held every Friday from 12-2.00 and are prepared by each Church in the Churches Together in Tenterden Group. Our turn is on 27th March when we prepare and serve soup, bread and cheese and tea and coffee. All proceeds go to Christian Aid.

We also have several members who have been poorly recently and we do try to keep in touch with them as well. We send our good wishes to all our members who are not so well and also to others who may not be able to get to Church in the Circuit.

Grace Court Val Redding

Refurbishment of the housing complex is now complete. Each flat has an easy access bathroom and also a new fireproof front door. Corridor and stairway areas have been redecorated and re-carpeted throughout, a considerable improvement.

Residents are able to discuss and have input into various concerns of their lives at Grace Court in regular meetings with manager Sue Maule - often this involves coffee and cake.

The varied social events of the Live at Home Friday club continue successfully.

MHA Live at Home Scheme Folkestone

Live at Home Folkestone was very busy over the festive period with fun activities including Christmas parties, a trip to the panto at the Tower Theatre and a carol service with Rev Sam Funnell and Michael Foad accompanying on piano. We received lots of support from the local community with volunteers helping out and generous donations from the Asda Foundation, Poundland and the Co-op.

We continue to offer activities to help reconnect local people with their communities across the town with an increase in volunteer and member numbers. In January we launched a 5 week pilot intergenerational group which saw Live at Home take a group of older people into Mundella Primary School weekly, on Tuesday afternoons, for two hours of fun with the year 4 pupils. This was a huge success with some lovely friendships blossoming across the ages and lots of creative, fun activities including robot constructing, garden bird feeder making and a games afternoon. Over the 5 weeks we saw all of the teachers and some of the Governors calling in to

see what all the giggling was about. As a result of this success we have been invited back indefinitely. This terms activities will tie in with year 4's curriculum topic of dinosaurs – who know what will happen next!

Our other groups continue; Out to Lunch on Tuesdays, Seated Exercise on Thursdays and Friday Club on Friday afternoons. If you would like to join us as a member or a volunteer at any of our groups please call Emma or Sasha on 01303 258723 for more information.

You can keep up to date with news and events via our Facebook page, search for Live at Home Folkestone or contact our office for a copy of our quarterly newsletter.

Best wishes to you.

Emma

Live at Home office telephone: 01303 258723

Folkestone Rainbow Centre Mary Blanch

We were all shocked when the CEO, Ali Chambers, announced she was leaving to take up a post with MAF. However, God always has these matters in hand and the new CEO is Mary Stredwick, who until recently, has been the Manager for CARM, Caring for All Together on Romney Marsh. A committed Christian, she is well known in the area and we hold her in our prayers as she takes up this post in April.

The Winter Shelter ended at the beginning of March and Ali reported that it had been a good time for all concerned, particularly due to better risk assessments. There had been many positive outcomes, some clients being repatriated and many found accommodation.

The new Manager for the Foodbank is Debbie Morris, who comes with exciting new energy for this much-needed project. The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, 13th July, at The Grand, when the speaker will be Natalie Williams, a Trustee of the Trussell Trust.

For those enthusiastic knitters, please note the Knit-in has been postponed until the autumn.

In the meantime, please support the Rainbow Rogation Pilgrimage, taking place over the weekend of the 16th/17th May. A small team of intrepid walkers aim to walk the boundary of the Rainbow family (some 60 miles!) and if you are interested in joining them or cheering them on, details can be obtained from the Centre or go to virginmoneygiving.com.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support.

“Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind.”

— Albert Einstein

Jesus at school

As St Luke's Gospel records, Jesus, at about 12 years old, amazed scholars in the Temple at his grasp of ideas and, so absorbed was he, that when his parents eventually found him, he received a telling off from his mother because of the (quite understandable) anxiety he had caused her and Joseph. This prompted me to find out about likely schooling at that time in Nazareth.

It seems that for boys, from 75 years before Jesus was born, education from 5 or 6 was compulsory with defined stages at 10, 13 and 15. They would meet in the Rabbi's house. Children were not to be beaten and older boys were expected to help the younger ones. As expected, concentration was upon mostly what we call the Old Testament. Apparently, no excuse for missing school was acceptable 'even building the Temple'.

From this arises the most fascinating speculation, namely, how was it for the local Rabbi with Jesus in his class? Presumably, out of school hours he would have been very proud of his pupil but what about during lessons? Was Jesus always two steps ahead? Did he even ask Jesus for his opinion? Did Jesus ever, in his enthusiasm, presume to challenge or correct him? Given what we know about the very rich tradition of Jewish humour and Jesus, later as a teacher, did his sense of fun sometimes reduce a serious lesson to laughter? Did the Rabbi ever say, 'I want to ask you all a question and Jesus will you not answer please so as to give everybody else a chance'?

Bringing this all up to date, did parents in the villages nearby, want to get their boys into the Nazareth school? After all its OFSTED rating would take into account that one of its pupils had shown up very well even at Temple level.

Geoff Chapman

Meetings Organiser – Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones project began in January 2017 committed to the 'Servant Church' and its implications. Since then it has held meetings and published eleven handbooks. It is now intended to widen its activity with the need to recruit a meetings organiser. It is assumed that the person appointed would have some familiarity with social media. If you are interested please contact Geoff Chapman 01233 813011 or geoff@chapman.invictanet.co.uk

Circuit News - New Housing Missioner

The Circuit Leadership Team is pleased to announce that, following interviews with 3 shortlisted applicants in February, we have appointed someone to the role of 'New Housing Missioner' to live and work on the Chilmington estate in

Ashford, starting 1st September 2020.

Tom Lewis is a very experienced Methodist lay worker currently working with families and young people in Hitchin, Herts. In addition to working primarily in Chilmington, he will have a 1/3 time advisory role across the Kent section of the District, and the URC synod area, advising on outreach work in other large new housing developments.

Please pray for Tom, his wife Sarah and their children, as they prepare to join us in South Kent this summer.

World Day of Prayer 6th March 2020

The Service for our Parish was held this year at Lydd Methodist Church. The service was written by the women of Zimbabwe and held on Friday 6th March. It is held throughout the world, using the same format in various languages, from dawn until dusk. We were asked to display the flag, 3 candles, red, white and yellow, indicating PEACE, LOVE AND RECONCILIATION and mats and bookmarks made of raffia. We also displayed water pots, rice and grasses and some ladies brought in their tambourines. The theme of the service was based on John 5 verses 2-9 'Rise, take your mat and walk'.

Representatives from 4 churches took part including 10 ladies doing readings and reading prayers and a pianist from 'All Saints' Church.

During the service we were challenged about whether we wanted to be healed and move forward in our lives. Commitment cards were filled in and most of the people promised more prayer, reconciliation and care for others.

It was difficult for us to make physical contact with each other because of the Corona virus threat so we greeted each other with our hands posed as in prayer and a nod of the head.

About 20 people attended from the local churches including 2 from a neighbouring village who had seen the advertisement in the local Methodist newsletter.

The ladies of the church provided refreshments after the service including some lovely homemade cakes and hot cross buns.

Our thanks to all who took part and so far have raised £129.50 for world wide work.

During the meditation I made reference to the charity 'TOOLS WITH A MISSION' who last November sent a crate of re-cycled tools to Zimbabwe. Anyone who is clearing a garage and has tools or sewing machines for re-cycling to Africa can contact me direct. 01797 690307

The Service next year will be at St. Peter's but we hope to make the opportunity to discuss the timing and the commitments made.

Rosemary Clarke (Secretary to local Committee)

Daffodil Day 2020

What a great day we had when we went to Daffodil Day! The singing was uplifting, the speakers were exciting, and the soloists and organ playing were very special. It really does one good to be in a large congregation and taking part in an exciting act of worship.

Sadly the size of the congregation was halved by fears over the coronavirus but everyone who was there enjoyed it. This year there were not enough people to hire a coach and we went by train but we enjoyed the sights of London on a fine sunny day. I would like to thank Eileen Morgan for organizing a coach, which does deliver you to the door, for so many years. Next year's event is to be held on Saturday, 6th March and it would be super if we could organize a coach full of South Kent Circuit folk. Put the date in you diary!

Pauline Harden

Obituary

Pamela Scarlett 1937-2019

On the 20th January family and friends gathered at Charing crematorium for a service led by Revd Helen Hollands, and subsequently at Wye Methodist church to say farewell to Pamela. Her life had been infused by a remarkable energy and we had much to remember. Born in West Norwood into a family of limited means, she recalled her first bed being the bottom drawer of a chest of drawers. Her father was called up in 1942, and arrived home unexpectedly in 1944 on embarkation leave, with a travel permit for Liverpool to visit close family there. While they were away their house sustained a direct hit – a providential escape which meant the family stayed in Liverpool. Returning to West Norwood later, the council offered them accommodation in a Nissen hut for one year, which in fact lasted for five. Pamela remembered no running hot water, a small coal fire for heating and an outside toilet. The huts were lined with asbestos sheets for warmth.

She left school at 17, as her father had become sick, and the family needed financial help. She became a member of her local Methodist church and a Sunday School teacher, later becoming responsible for circuit suppers and organising missionary meetings. Her enthusiasm for Guiding activities led her to establish two Brownie packs and a Ranger group. She later became District Commissioner for Brixton and Divisional Commander for South Lambeth.

In 1963, after nine months courtship, Pamela and Bernard married. He was a local preacher on her circuit, and a teacher who later became a headmaster, in spite of severe disability. They had not expected children, but confounded medical diagnosis by producing two sons, which Pamela regarded as little short of miraculous. They made their main home in London, visiting Wye regularly in holiday periods. Between raising a family Pamela opened a playgroup, which was oversubscribed

from the beginning. Others followed, including leading a group for children with special needs for 26 years. She became a governor of the Windmill School for such children, rising to become Chair of Governors. She spearheaded a move to a new site, supervising the negotiations and funding required. It took 10 years; she finally retired in 2014.

Sadly her last years were engaged in an ongoing battle with cancer, but Pamela's indomitable spirit was not cowed. Even transferring to Brambles Care Home, she continued to express her care and concern for those there.

John Wesley, in his Rule of Conduct, advised: 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can...as long as ever you can.' If ever anyone embodied this rule, it was Pamela, and our lives are richer for knowing her.

Maureen Burnham

Eco Church and Palm Oil

Palm oil is the most commonly produced vegetable oil and is found in many things from soap and candles to biscuits.

Traidcraft advises that we should not avoid palm oil altogether. In fact palm oil is a very efficient crop, requiring fewer pesticides and fertilisers and less land in comparison to similar products like soybean or coconut oil. It is also important to remember that the production of palm oil has provided jobs for millions of small-holder farmers, helping them to work with dignity, earn more money and provide a better life for themselves and their families. Plus, avoiding palm oil altogether could have worse effects in that it might take support away from companies who are working their hardest to improve the situation. What we need to do is focus on using palm oil responsibly and that means trying to only buy products where the palm oil has been sourced sustainably. Traidcraft uses FairPalm, a sustainably sourced palm oil, and the palm oil in many organic products is also sustainable. Check labels for other products that state they only use sustainable palm oil.

Judith France, Cade Road

"Science investigates; religion interprets. Science gives man knowledge, which is power; religion gives man wisdom, which is control. Science deals mainly with facts; religion deals mainly with values. The two are not rivals."
— Martin Luther King, Jr



MUSIC NIGHT

When?

Saturday 25 April 2020

6.30 start.

Where?

**United Church, Kennington. Next to the
Rose Inn, Faversham Road, Kennington.**

Why?

**To raise money for Christian Aid, to enjoy the
talents of others, and to have a good time**



Please contact Stewart French (thefrenchfamily@hotmail.com)

Christian Aid

Millions of Cyclone Idai survivors in Zimbabwe still facing hunger as Southern Africa experiences major food crisis

A year after Cyclone Idai destroyed crops, ruined lives and left millions of Zimbabweans without food, a grave hunger crisis continues to affect the southern African nation, Christian Aid has warned.

Zimbabwe is today facing its worst drought in four decades, with communities experiencing repeated failed crops and millions of people left hungry as the country's vital grain reserves have been wiped out.

Nearly one in three children under five are suffering from malnutrition.

The storm hit Mozambique on 14 March 2019, before sweeping through neighbouring Malawi and Zimbabwe. Approximately three million people were affected, at least 900 killed and more than 2.5 million left in need of humanitarian assistance and protection.

In Zimbabwe, many lost their crops and livestock to the storm, with no second planting season on the horizon. With the country – once known as the 'bread basket' of Africa – heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture, more help is needed as the drought and food shortages continue.

Christian Aid's Zimbabwe Country Director, Nicholas Shamano said: "The people of Zimbabwe are struggling to find enough to eat, and while climate change and more extreme, and frequent, weather conditions have contributed to high levels of food insecurity, failing infrastructure continues to hinder the nation's recovery.

"Investment in agriculture has been lacking for years, and now the country's grain reserves are exhausted with the country now relying on grain imports to meet the country's needs.

"Currently, what the country really needs is guaranteed humanitarian access, with the support of both local and national authorities, to provide much needed support, especially food, to affected communities."

Christian Aid partners were on the ground immediately after Cyclone Idai hit, supporting affected communities with essential supplies. These included: maize meal, sugar, dried fish, cooking oil, salt and tea leaves; cooking utensils, water storage containers and blankets; as well as soap, toothbrushes, towels, laundry powder and washing buckets. This support was provided alongside awareness-raising activities on topics such as climate change, hygiene, disaster preparedness, accountability, safeguarding and protection issues.

Today, communities in Zimbabwe continue to be supported by Christian Aid's local partners, who have been repairing and rebuilding homes, running livelihood recovery activities, offering psychosocial support and providing agricultural resources. Christian Aid and its partners MeDRA and Africa Ahead handed over 147 new homes to Idai survivors in Zimbabwe's Chipinge, Buhera and Bikita districts, in December 2019. All this has helped to ensure families have somewhere safe to live and can start to rebuild their lives.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 4th April 10am - United Church Cade Road Ashford – visit of Rev Steve Day to speak about his work as a mission partner in South Africa – see below for further details

Saturday 18th April, 7.30pm at Lyminge – Haywardians Concert

Saturday 25th April, 6.30pm – United Church, Kennington, Ashford - Music Night concert in aid of Christian Aid – contact Stewart French for more details

Saturday 9th May, 10am-3.30pm - United Church Cade Road Ashford – Advanced Safeguarding course – NB this event is only for those who have already booked to attend. If you find you can no longer come please let Lisa know, as there is a waiting list and someone else may be able to take your place at short notice.

Friday 29th, Saturday 30th, Sunday 31st May - 'Saints Alive!' a Musical celebration for Pentecost. See advert on page 7 for details of times and venues.

Advance Notice

Sunday 26th July at St Andrew's at 6pm check Circuit Farewell Service for Sam

It is advisable to check to see which events may have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus situation.

'A Sojourn in South Africa: Reflections of a Mission Partner'

The South Kent Circuit's **One World Group** is pleased to announce the visit of Rev. Steve Day to the Circuit. Longstanding members of the old Ashford Circuit may remember Steve and his wife Jane, who returned to the UK last year after several years working in Johannesburg.

United Church Ashford, Cade Road
Saturday 4th April 2020
at 10:30

(with refreshments from 10am)

All are warmly invited to come and hear their story

