Messenger APRIL& MAY 2019

MARK 16:6

CHURCH&COMMUNITY GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of the North Kent Circuit

Sunday Preaching plan for Gillingham & Hartlip

Third Avenue | Morning | 10.30am

Hartlip | Evening | 6.30pm

APRIL 2019

07 Apr	Rev Robin Selmes	Judith German
14 Apr	Colin Waldock Palm Sunday	Rev Robin Selmes Palm Sunday
18 Apr	Maundy Thursday 7pm Communion	
19 Apr		Good Friday 6.30pm
21 Apr	Rev Robin Selmes Easter Sunday Communion	Rev Robin Selmes 9.30am Easter Sunday Communion
28 Apr	Anthony Brown	Vic Downs
28 Apr	Anthony Brown MAY	
•	-	
05 May	MAY	2019
05 May 12 May	MAY Rev Robin Selmes	2019 Ian Watton Rev Robin Selmes

Hello & welcome to the latest edition of the New Messenger...

This last week (Monday 4 April), Third Avenue held the Memorial Service for one of our members, Elizabeth Mitchell, a wonderful charismatic 96 year old, who had a zest for life and would stop at nothing to fill her days with as much activity as possible ~ even skydiving for her 90th Birthday!

Elizabeth was a gracious lady who will be sorely missed, but who leaves us with a valuable lesson... 'live life to the full!'

This edition of the New Messenger is packed full of things going on, in and around our community for you to get involved in: from feeding us spiritually ~ with events over Holy Week and Easter, both here and at Hartlip; to literally feeding us ~ with 'Tea at 2pm'; Hartlip's 'Spring Tea' or our own 'Church Anniversary Afternoon Tea & Concert'!

You can also feed your mind with our book and film reviews; God in the Arts; poems and our various brain teaser puzzles; or why not join our monthly discussion group exploring the 'Big Questions' in life?

Thank you to all who have contributed to this edition, and we just encourage you all to continue reading, writing and sharing your thoughts, poems, reviews and events...and enjoying life to the full!

Mark and the Editors

You can contact us anytime by email: **messenger@gillinghammethodists.uk** by post: New Messenger | Third Avenue Church & Community Gillingham | ME7 2LU or come and chat to any of the team. Deadline to receive articles for the **JUNE | JULY edition will be 20 May 2019.**

A message from our Minister Rev Robin Selmes...

Fear in death, hope in the resurrection

We all have things that really irritate us on a daily basis. We all have 'pet hates'. Usually they're little, petty, insignificant things that people shouldn't worry about but do:

The toothpaste being squeezed from the wrong end. Traffic Jams caused by road works. People misspelling words or using the wrong grammar.

While there are plenty of pet hates that we all share, there are certainly others which are personal, private, maybe even peculiar. For instance, many years ago I knew someone who could not cope with the crunching noise of someone eating crisps. So, when they saw someone opening a packet they would normally run to the nearest exit just to avoid the noise.

Like that person, we have learned to live our lives avoiding things, staying away from whatever 'gets under our skin'. But not everything can be avoided, and there are things in our lives that go beyond 'pet-hates'. Sometimes there is something that evokes an emotion that is exponentially more intense than just a simple irritation. Something that you fear confronting? I had a friend who lived in fear of spiders and even the thought of them would send her into a panic attack.

Equally there is one great fear common to all, which is greater than all other fears. It is a fear that plays on most peoples minds at certain times in their lives. That fear, is the fear of death. For me, when I was a teenager it was not so much the physical process of my own death but the thought of not knowing what



happens after death. During intense times in my life the subject used to play on my mind, making me anxious and worried.

I think the disciples were no different than anyone else when it came to the fear of death. Even though they had been with Jesus, and had witnessed His power over death on several occasions, the fear of death was always with them; never more so than when He spoke of His own death. Every time that Jesus told His disciples "I am going to die", they were uneasy; and they sometimes even tried to persuade Him to change His mission to avoid it.

But Jesus was not intimidated by the thought of his death. He did not think of death as the final chapter. In fact, he saw everything in life from the perspective of his death. And not just from death, but beyond death, from the perspective of His Resurrection.

This is why on numerous occasions Jesus would provide a word of encouragement to His followers by assuring them that His death was the very means by which they would be united with Him forever.

In other words, death becomes a door, and not a wall. It becomes a beginning and not an end. The death of Jesus changed the way that the disciples looked upon their own death, and the deaths of all who would trust in Jesus. They understood that death, for them, resulted in their immediate entrance into the presence of our Lord in an eternal dwelling place. That's the GOOD NEWS!!

Therefore, our response to the death and resurrection of Jesus determines our relationship to death.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The bible tells us that over the 40 days after His resurrection Jesus showed himself to many, so that we might have an assurance of our own resurrection in Him – so our relationship with Him should be one of trust.

So, through trust in Jesus Christ we can look forward in hope in the knowledge of eternal life. We can also look forward to seeing those loved ones who have gone before us. Likewise, I look forward to meeting and talking to Paul and Peter and millions of others. And I look forward to praising Jesus and God as we stand before their throne in heaven. Can you just imagine standing next to millions of believers and singing Amazing Grace or How great thou Art, with Jesus standing right in front of us?

WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN WHAT A DAY OF REJOICING THAT WILL BE, WHEN WE ALL SEE JESUS WE'LL SING AND SHOUT THE VICTORY



A message from our youth Pastor...

Youth Café

Youth Café is going well with our numbers steadily increasing. We have a great team of regular volunteers. Please pray for this group and the young people that we meet with. Many do not come from a church background and, although we do not teach about God in the group, we are sharing the love of God with them.

Youth Bible Study

This term we have been watching YouTube videos and basing our discussion around them. One week we looked at a video that was a conversation between a group of Christians and a group of Atheists. Another week we look at a conversation between people of faith and people of science. These have been really



interesting videos and our discussions have been brilliant, with the group sharing the things they believe, but also the things of our faith that they struggle with.

Youth Group

This group is still going well; recent activities have included pancake evening and playing board games/cards. We have a day trip planned for the Easter Holidays.

Sunday mornings

God Squad and Spirit Squad are going well, currently the two groups are working together on the Mothering Sunday service (although by the time this article comes out, they will have already done the service). God Squad spent the month of February looking at the book of Revelations (at their request!). It was a really interesting few weeks, as it is one of the more complicated books in the Bible and splitting it into a 4 week teaching period was challenging. But we did and the young people really took to all the imagery in the book and found they were able to relate it to popular films such as Lord of the Rings. Spirit Squad spent the same month looking at different religions, different denominations and atheism/agnostics. They engaged really well in the topics and were able to share about people they know who have different beliefs to them. We also discussed with them how we can share God's love to people who disagree with us and what we believe.

Please continue to pray for all our young people and the youth ministry here at Third Avenue.

A simple scheme, made with love for the young women in our community

Problem: In the UK, some young women in our schools are finding it difficult to access sanitary products.

Result: Tearful panics in the loo, wadded up toilet roll, anxious embarrassment, missed lessons, missed education.

Solution: People from the community, sponsor and stock a red box filled with sanitary products and spare pants. The Red Box will support disadvantaged young women throughout their entire period.

The Red Box Project is a community-based, not-for-profit initiative, which aims to support young people throughout their periods by providing red boxes filled with free period products to local schools. The box is kept at the school with the nurse, reception, or a member of staff. And, although schools are already on the case and stock a limited supply of sanitary towels to cover emergencies, what makes this project special is that it aims to ensure enough supplies to get the young women through her entire period.

This is a simple scheme, made with love for



the young women in our community. Why? We believe that a young woman's education shapes her future and her dignity is our responsibility.

We, at Third Avenue, think that this is a fantastic community project and one that we would like to support as a church. The idea is that, as a church we donate sanitary towels, pants (in a variety of sizes) and feminine wipes. Then once our red box is filled, the local project coordinator will come and empty the box and we can start filling it again. What we have collected will be distributed to primary and senior schools and colleges in the local area.

Our red box shall be located in the church foyer alongside the 'food bank' and 'socks in a box' collection boxes.

For more information about the project: Website: www.redboxproject.org Facebook page: The Red Box Project Medway at Gillingham or speak to Issy Pemberton. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to Action for Children, either by the box lanterns or envelope donations. The Action for Children envelopes raised **£83** and a further **£250.26** was raised from this year's lantern boxes. A fantastic total of **£333.26.** Lynda Watton

christian

CHURCH&COMMU

HOW ACTION FOR CHILDREN WORKS

GARETH DAVIES-JONES

Music for Justice

Calling all who long for Social Justice.

Where? St Williams Church, ME5 9LR

When? Sunday 7th April @ 6.30pm

Why? Preparing for Christian Aid Week

Cost? Voluntary Contribution towards costs with surplus to Christian Aid

More info: Mark Salter 07719 183 940

A singer-songwriter in the troubadour tradition ... songs with deep humanity at their heart Net Rhythms Very beautiful music. I can thoroughly recommend this Bob Harris, BBC Radio 2

christian ald Coffee Morning

Sat 4 May | 10am til noon Bring & Buy Cakes | Books | Tombola

Admission 50p

includes refreshments

If anyone is able to make cakes or savouries and provide tombola prizes please speak to Lynda or Frank Watton



Especially for those living alone or in need of company

You are warmly invited to share tea \$ cakes with friends

Wednesday 10th April & 8th May between 2pm & 3.30pm



Everyone

Our focus on God's Creation for future generations

Genesis 2:15 | The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

We all try to do our best to recycle and reduce pollution, our carbon footprint and generally lessen the environmental effects of modern lifestyles. This has been greatly illustrated in the response to our 'bring your own cup' campaign after we also switched to biodegradable | compostable cups made with potato starch instead of a plastic liner bonded to the paper. We are keen to evaluate many different aspects of protecting the ecology and environment in and around the church. In the past year this has resulted in investment in more LED lighting, the installation of meshes over the airbricks to avoid the damage to the building fabric of nesting bees, and we have begun to install anti-bird nesting wire in the church eaves to avoid further damage to the ageing building. We evaluate the effects such work might have, and in the case of displaced birds we

consulted a keen 'twitcher' and member of the RSPB who advised fitting a couple of nesting boxes for the Swifts that return each year. Furthermore, we wanted to obtain nesting boxes from a sustainable and reliable source. The RSPB Swift nesting boxes we are installing are made from FSC British Cedar from certified renewable and properly managed sources. All profits made are reinvested by the RSPB. Do you have any suggestions that will help your church lead by example in the stewardship of God's Creation for future generations? Would you like to help implement such ideas? Please let your Sunday Steward, Mark or Paul know.

The Journey of Life

Travelling Light!

Father God, so often you surprise us By what you ask of us, and we are Confused, anxious, uncertain, unsure, Not believing that you would choose us To serve you unworthy as we are.

Yet you accompany us on our journey, Leading, guiding and directing. Give us, the ability to know your will, The humility to align our will with yours That brings us to a response.

Lord Jesus, so often, we experience Life-changing circumstances; Our world is altered, shaped and orientated And the unexpected, the unbelievable, Is brought to pass.

Give us the faith to believe That with you, all things are possible As we follow your example On the great journey of life, Accompanied by your loving care. Holy Spirit, so often, we fail to acknowledge The immeasurable wonder of your life within us. Help us to understand the plan you have for our lives; So that in all our daily activities.

Your hope will fill our hearts.

Give us, a lasting sense of your presence, Patience, and peace, as we wait on your timing, A reassurance that all our experiences, Joys and sorrows, Bring us closer to you.

Triune God, give us obedience To follow where you lead, Be with us in all our uncertainties, So that all that you have promised Will come to pass.

May we depend on you, and trust Only in your love for us, And so have the everlasting joy That comes with the message Of salvation in Christ.

Evelyn Grainger-Smith





Pat Pocock | 1935-2019

We were blessed with a wonderful Mother.

Mother was born in Great Yarmouth by the sea. She loved it there, and although she was only young when her family moved to Kent, she always spoke of Norfolk with great affection and delight. She and Dad both had such loving families and family was very important to them. Mother had one brother, Alf, and two sisters – Doris and Joan. She was the youngest, and when she was a child, they moved to Chatham.

Her first job on leaving school was as a secretary in an Art College in Rochester. One of her best friends, June, told us Mother was fun and loved to sing and dance.

She also loved clothes, and she and June used to get on the early train to Charing Cross – go and get breakfast, and then walk to Regent Street and Oxford Street to look in C&A, and try on the hats! They always wore high heeled shoes –winkle pickers. And one day Mother exclaimed on the way home "I hope my face doesn't look like my feet feel!" After the college, Mother worked in London as a short-hand typist.

When Mother met our Dad, dancing at the Central Hotel, they were both known for flirting, and their friends were intrigued as to what would happen when they got together! Our Dad apparently told a friend, "That's the girl I'm going to marry," before he had even asked her out!

Mother had a huge capacity for love and was devoted to her nearest and dearest. When she married Dad in 1962, they were desperate to start a family of their own, and were devastated when Mother was told that she would never have children. When Helen came along 7 years later, she was told by the doctor she was a miracle:...then Claire came along 18 months later, so she got 2 for the price of one!

Mother was always willing to devote her life to her family and our needs and wishes always came first. She never learnt to drive, although Dad did try to give her a couple of quick lessons in a car park! She uncomplainingly walked up and down Darland Avenue and Barnsole Road, taking us to all our after school clubs and activities.

Mother made our home a warm, comfortable and safe place to be.

Her mottos were:

Treat others as you wish to be treated.

If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.

Mother was extremely happy to become a Grandma, first to Daisy, and then to Declan. She always took great pleasure in seeing her grandchildren, and hearing all about them.

Mother was kind and caring and a great confidante to her friends. She was always very willing to listen to the problems of others, and could be trusted to keep other people's confidences secret.

Mother was very brave and determined, displaying real courage and inner strength when needed. When Dad was made redundant and money became tight, she decided that she needed to find a job. Having not worked for over 20 years, she was terrified and full of self doubt. She applied to work as a lunchtime assistant at Danecourt Special School. The head saw in her the warm, caring side that would make her the perfect person to work with these children, and she gave her the job.

Mother later progressed to becoming a part time teaching assistant, and happily worked there until her retirement.

Mother had a few piano lessons as a youngster, but was mostly self taught. She was never confident enough to play in front of people. However when the school needed someone to play for them in assemblies and concerts she bravely took over. She felt it was important for us to learn instruments ourselves, for which we are both so grateful.

Dad and Mother were overjoyed to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in 2002. However, Mother was completely devastated when Dad was diagnosed with cancer. She was so strong when Dad was ill, nursing him through the cancer and was by his side when he died. She never got over losing him, and would often say that it never got any easier. Mother lived alone for 13 years, and bravely created a new life for herself, with the help and support of her family, friends and neighbours. She enjoyed volunteering at the Gillingham Cancer Research Charity shop, making the teas at St. Paul's Drama group, singing in a local choir with Amy Cocker and shopping with her neighbours on a Saturday morning, as well as going to church every Sunday. These activities were made possible by the kind lifts given to her by many people, including Derek Elmore (her nephew) taking her to drama and Cyril Berry taking her to church.



Mother loved spending time with Amy and they would often hop on a bus, using their free bus passes, to go off on an adventure for the day.

Mother also maintained close friendships with her neighbours in Audley Avenue, many of whom she had known for 40 or 50 years. She enjoyed going to a heart exercise class each week with Kath Wells opposite, and the neighbours all kept an eye on each other.

Mother could be very funny, with a bit of a

naughty, cheeky sense of humour. She often saw the funny side of situations, and liked to have a private giggle with us or her friends. She told one tale of being sent out of class at school, because she just couldn't stop laughing!

In recent months she continued to often make us laugh –funny moments such as her saying whilst looking in a mirror –'*I don't know* where I am –I can't see myself! Oh – I've found myself!' And...

I don't know where I am – I'm all up the Pole! And our favourite...

'Mother, your vest has got a hole in it – 'well of course it has. I've got to be able to get it on haven't I...?!!'

She coped with many health issues over the years, mostly heart related. However, the onset of dementia was not noticed by us for some time. Early last year, Mother moved into Mayfair Lodge. She loved to go singing each week and performed together with Helen in the choir at their Christmas concert. We like to think that she is singing away up in Heaven.

Mother was a Christian and her faith was very important to her. She enjoyed attending church all her life. When we were young, we started coming here, to what was then St. Paul's, so that we could enjoy the Sunday school. Mother continued to come to this church every Sunday until she moved into Mayfair Lodge. She then went with Helen to her church in Potters Bar. Mother's faith sustained, comforted and uplifted her throughout her life.

God was definitely there in the timing of His calling her to Heaven. She had loved seeing everyone at the annual family party at Aunt Jacque's house in Chatham on the Saturday afternoon, the day before she passed away. Twenty-three members of our family were present. Back in Potters Bar, she had given Daisy and Declan a goodnight cuddle before they went to bed.

Sadly, a short time later, whilst she was settling into bed, she had a major heart attack. Despite fighting bravely and making it to hospital, she passed away the following evening. We were by her side throughout. When we said goodbye, Helen had a comforting sense of light ahead, with Jesus in front waiting for her, and felt peace and hope that she is in a good place.

After such a difficult 13 years without Dad, we know that Mother would have been so happy to be reunited with him. We feel sure that he was there that Sunday evening to welcome her with open arms and lead her into her spiritual life. Claire felt that he was there saying, 'You took your time!'

A dear old friend always used to say, you only get one Mother. We were blessed with a wonderful Mother, for which we will always be grateful. She made us smile and laugh, filled our hearts with such happiness and taught us patience and love. There is a true bond that can never be broken and there will be a massive hole in our lives without her.

Her Daughters, Helen & Claire





Sunday 21st April 2019 5.30am.

led by Reverend Bonni-Belle Pickard with communion

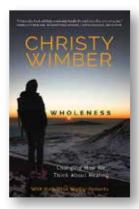
Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site

TQ744621 http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/blue-bell-hill

following which all are welcome to breakfast at St. Alban's Church, Upper Robin Hood Lane, ME5 9QR.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Book & Film reviews... from Parish Pump



Wholeness – changing how we think about healing Christy Wimber & Katherine Welby-Roberts | Monarch | £9.99

The world is changing; culture is shifting. Never has safety and security been more desired. People are longing for safe spaces where they can find real love and acceptance.

And with the world changing, so are people's struggles. But is the current ministry of our church meeting those needs? Perhaps it is time to review how we can best deliver the ministry people need NOW.

How can we best love, care for and pray for them?

Learning to Breathe – my journey with mental illness Rachael Newham | SPCK Publishing | £9.18 Amazon

"It begins slowly, so slowly that I hardly notice at first. My chest tightens and my heart begins to beat a fraction faster. I try to draw breath, but instead I choke on oxygen I can't inhale. As I realise that I can't breathe, the panic wraps itself around me... I can't make myself draw a breath."

Rachael was aged just six when she had her first suicidal thought. Over the next decade, life would become increasingly fraught with depression and self-harm, and her outlook only bleaker. Before her 18th birthday, Rachael would twice try to take her own life. And yet amidst this darkness, a flicker of faith lived on. This is Rachael's story of her journey into, and out of, the darkness of depression.



With unflinching realism and complete honesty, she shows us what it looks like to live with mental illness, and how God can find us and rescue us even in the most desperate of places.



The Minimalist Home - a room-by-room guide to a decluttered, refocused life | Joshua Becker | Waterbrook Press | £16.99

A popular minimalist blogger and author of 'The More of Less' shows you how to methodically turn your home into a place of peace, contentment, and purposeful living. One of today's most influential minimalist advocates takes us on a decluttering tour of our own houses and apartments, showing us how to decide what to get rid of and what to keep. He both offers practical guidelines for simplifying our lifestyle at home and addresses underlying issues that contribute to over-accumulation in the first place.

The purpose is not just to create a more inviting living space. It's also to turn our life's HQ - our home - into a launching pad for a more fulfilling and productive life in the world.



MOVIE Nick and Carol Pollard from EthosMedia.org share thought-provoking reflections on the latest films.

Celebrating difference?

'The message in this film is one of inclusion, not just accepting difference but celebrating difference' said the actor Colin Farrell at the world premiere of Disney's new film *Dumbo*.

In the opening scenes his character, Holt Farrier, returns from the war without one arm, which shocks his children. 'It's still me' he says, and that is perfectly true. But his follow-on 'everything is going to be just like it was before' is more wishful



thinking than reality. He can no longer perform on his beloved circus horses, so is assigned to dressing as a clown and cleaning up the elephants' dung.

And it is in their cage that he discovers the newborn baby elephant with big ears. The ringmaster who had hoped for a 'precious bundle of joy' calls Dumbo 'a monster... damaged goods' and tries to cover up the ears with a special bonnet, in the same way that he tries to cover up Holt's missing arm with a fake one.

Dumbo is the quintessential outsider who is rejected and ridiculed just because of his looks, whilst Holt also faces his own rejection because of his disability. Tim Burton, who directed the film, not only brings to it his well-known talent for the fantastical but also his skill in provoking the audience to think about the value of the outsider – those who don't fit the popular mould. And as the film progresses, Dumbo's large ears enable him to



rescue others in a dramatic scene in which Holt also plays a key role, regardless of his disability.

So, we are caused to think about the value of 'difference'. If others make us feel unhappy with how we look, or if we face sudden changes to our bodies, do we feel pressured to cover up and try to continue just like we were before? Or can we celebrate the

differences and embrace the changes, bringing them out into the open and using them for the good of others?



In cinemas from 29th March

ETHOS MEDIA.org

EthosMedia.org provides free resources to help people explore spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues through the latest feature films.

"The Mond Crucifixion" by Raphael



The National Gallery at Trafalgar Square in London houses one of the finest collections of European paintings in the world. It is home to 2,300 works spanning the centuries of artistic creation. During this year we shall be journeying through the gallery to explore one of those treasures each month. By Rev Michael Burgess.

This month's painting in the National Gallery is known as the Mond Crucifixion. It has an interesting history, because Ludwig Mond, the German born scientist and industrialist, offered to lend the painting to the Gallery in 1892. The trustees for some reason declined the offer. Ludwig Mond was undeterred and at his death in 1909 he bequeathed to the Gallery over 40 paintings. It was an amazingly generous gift, and included this Crucifixion by Raphael.

It belongs to the artist's early years and was painted when he was just 20, for a church altarpiece in Urbino in 1503. On Good Friday we hear those words from Lamentations, 'Is it nothing to you who pass by? – look and see.' We might look on the cross of Jesus and see a sign of agony and death. But here in the Mond Crucifixion, all seems serene and still. It is a far cry from the harshness and cruelty of the Gospel accounts. Look at the angels with their ribbons and feet resting on the clouds, the hands and feet of the four bystanders so delicately painted, and beyond, the softly lit Umbrian landscape with a river, trees and low hills stretching away into the distance.

It is as if Raphael has frozen this moment of death on his canvas to tell us that here is an enduring message of love and generosity for Mary, John, Mary Magdalene and Jerome gathered below. Our Lady and John look at us, inviting us to discover there the solemn beauty that moves their lives and that can move us.



In our worship on Good Friday we encounter this paradox of the cross – a sign of suffering and death, but a sign also of generosity. We can think of the generosity of Ludwig Mond, the generosity of Raphael sharing his gifts with us, but above all the generosity of our Prince of Glory. Here, in the words of Isaac Watts' hymn, we see how 'love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.'

NORTH KENT METHODIST CIRCUIT

MISSION FORUM FRIDAY MAY 3rd 7.30pm

Kindly hosted by Gravesend Methodist Church WORSHIP // SHARING // RESOURCES // PRAYER

An evening to encourage each other, discuss evangelism resources and potential opportunities, and pray for the extension of the Kingdom!

Contact Bart Woodhouse on 0779 259 6318

Email:bart.woodhouse@gmail.com



I remember vividly a simple poster I saw on the notice board of our local Methodist Chapel. It had a silhouette of three crosses on a hill, and underneath the words, 'FOR YOU'. Nothing fancy or clever, but a clear presentation of the Easter message, and it struck me deeply.

At Easter our thoughts are drawn to the death and resurrection of Jesus. These events are central to our faith, but sometimes we can over-complicate their meaning. The heart of it, though, remains very simple: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and on the third day was raised to life (1 Corinthians 15:3).

He died to show his love for you. He gave his life as a demonstration or proof of the love He has for each one of us, no matter who we are or what we have done. He was motivated to lay down His life for us, not out of duty or obligation, but compassionate love. See Romans 5:8

He died to set you free. Sin has entangled every one of us. We are under its power and unable ourselves to loosen its grip. At the cross Jesus dealt with sin once and for all by dying in our place. Now, when we turn to Him for help, we can be released from the hold it has on us and find complete forgiveness.

He died to bring you home. The Cross makes it possible for us to be reconciled to God. Like the prodigal son we were once far away from God, but now because we have been forgiven, we can return to our true home in God. A welcome awaits us, and a joy-filled reunion is possible.

This Easter, why not think about these two simple words: FOR YOU.

Rev Tony Horsfall | Parish Pump

FOR YOU

14th Gillingham



Our thanks to everyone for making Girlguiding members and their families so welcome at the Thinking Day Service. I received many positive comments from leaders and parents.

At the end of this term the Brownies invited their mums to join them for a meeting. They played parachute games, planted a bulb, made a friendship bracelet and pampered their mums hands with hand scrubs and hand creams. The Brownies had a lovely evening sharing time with their mums.

The Brownies are looking forward to their pack holiday this Easter. We are going to a Girlguiding centre near Sevenoaks and our theme is "Disney around the world". We will be doing lots of craft based on Disney films and have some fun outdoor games and challenges planned including a wide game and a campfire. In the next magazine we will let you know how we get on.

Thinking Day Time Machine

Snowy Owl | Helen Garland

Well done! Well done! Well done! The Thinking Day service was GREAT. an inknown couple sat in front of me ? grandparents? as they left the lady said "We'll come most time" I think her hubband got a list carried away with his "wiggles" and clasped his back - I wished him Thank you Robin - I'm proud to be part a braidy reasonry. of Guiding Smongapet B.

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Hartlip Methodist Church & Retreat Centre

Since writing the report for the last issue of the New Messenger we have had a variety of familiar and less familiar faces in the pulpit with our own Minister and local preachers who regularly worship in Hartlip, as well as first visits by preachers from the Sittingbourne area. We were able to welcome Rev Robert Zachar to take a service here. He is responsible for the Methodist churches in Newington and Sittingbourne and joined the circuit team in September. He had been to the building before but not to preach. He introduced himself in September, at his welcome service, as being a quiet man and not a showy preacher, but has proved himself to be very caring and a deep thinker. Thank you Robert!

Events coming up include our Lent Meditations in Holy Week: Monday to Thursday at 12-12.30pm. Bring your lunch and stay longer if you wish, with tea and coffee provided. Our Good Friday service is at 6.30pm.

Another date for your diary is our Spring Tea on Saturday 11th May, from 2.30pm.

Harlip

Methodist Churc

Margaret Bowerman

Daily Meditation at Midday

HolyWeek

Mon 15 April Tues 16 April

Wed 17 April Thurs 18 April *Lectio Divina* led by Rev Robin Selmes *Meditation through Words & Music* led by Derek & Heather Gallagher *Ignatian* led by Margaret Bowerman *Mindfulness* led by Rev Robin Selmes

Fri 19 April Good Friday Service 6.30pm

An opportunity to slow down, to open your hearts to God and experience the events of Holy Week. Bring your lunch & stay longer, as you experience the inner peace of Hartlip Chapel & Retreat Centre





Exciting News!

Over the past 18 months we have been approached by several church groups to consider how we could utilize the church foyer space to accommodate existing groups and further our work in the community.

Currently the major financial downside of using the foyer space is the heating as it is not zoned and works with the worship area. However, following much discussion and deliberation on the part of the Church Council we have now committed ourselves as a congregation to refurbish the foyer area with a view of making it totally independent from the worship area and fit for mission.

This will give us more options to use the foyer area for meetings, teaching and for different uses by others within the community. In the long run this may also bring in additional income for the church.

What do we plan to do?

Installation of a zoned heating system which would save up to 70% on our church heating costs when using the foyer area.

The carpet is looking well-worn and will be replaced.

Additional lighting will be installed.

Installation of new locks on the glass foyer doors.

Erect new leaflet racks and a Prayer Loom. Upgrade various electrical appliances.

From the quotes we have obtained we estimate the overall costs to be **£9,000.**

We are looking to all the members of Third Avenue to support this project with committed giving during our Gift day and Anniversary celebrations in June so that we can raise this money. We have over 140 people in our congregation and if roughly two thirds of those people give to our project, recognising that some will be able to give more than others, then the project is fully possible and could be achieved by the end of this year.

As we invest some of our resources for the future work, witness and mission of Third Avenue, we are very aware that God calls us to be generous and willing givers, doing so from the heart.

Rev Robin Selmes

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, give grace to us, the living stones who form Your Church, to reflect prayerfully at this significant time in the life and witness of Third Avenue, on our love for You and our neighbour. Make us mindful of the many gifts You give us and we ask that Your Holy Spirit will inspire and direct us in our giving; remembering that we are only giving back.

with the Kingfisher Singers at 6.30pm

Anniversary

fternoc

iec,

at 4.30pm



Saturday 22 June 2019

Afternoon Tea & Concert Afternoon Tea only Concert only

CHURCH&COMMUNITY

£8 £3.50 £5 Children 16 & under free

in aid of our

Vel 2019

A safe place to explore & share, to exercise & relax, to talk & be heard

Talking Point 12pm to 1pm Chrysalis 1pm to 1.30pm Listening Ear from 1.30pm

Each year we buy 6000 disposable cups!

rentoall

Paper cups will always be available, but have you considered bringing your own suitable cup/mug for your Sunday morning brew?

CHURCH&COMMUN



Medway Foodbank operate a system of calculating donations by weight and these figures do not include any non-food items such as toiletries and household cleaning products. The total amount donated throughout 2018 is 389.9 Kg (859.5 Lb).

All donations are distributed to the various Foodbank centres located throughout Medway, with an additional centre in Larkfield.

There are controls in place for anyone who needs a voucher to use the service to help to ensure that the items donated only go to those who are in need.

During the year, a total of 2063 vouchers were issued, which assisted 4888 individuals, 2935 adults (60%) and 1953 children (40%). The four main reasons for people applying for Foodbank vouchers are:

- 1: Low income 1473 (30%)
- 2: Benefit changes 1003 (21%)
- 3: Benefit delays 901 (18%)
- 4: Debt 648 (13%)

Other reasons for requesting a voucher include Domestic Abuse, III health, Delayed wages, Homelessness and Absence of free school meals during the school holidays.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Medway Foodbank either by donating or by providing financial support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information regarding Medway Foodbank.

Jim Hancock Third Avenue Church & Community Representative

Third Avenue Crèche Facilities

Recently we have been looking at the Crèche facilities at Third Avenue and how we can improve the worship experience for both young children and their parents, as well as the wider congregation.

We offered 2 options for the congregation to consider:

Option 1 | Looking at a dedicated crèche space, off the main worship area and... **Option 2** | Not having a dedicated Crèche area, with the parents/carers looking after their young children in the church.

Many thanks to all those who offered their thoughts and ideas and after careful consideration we are proposing to go with Option 2, where we no longer provide a dedicated Crèche area.

As we want to ensure that worship is a good experience for all, we would just ask that the children are as quiet as possible during the prayers and message. Therefore, we would encourage parents to bring 'quiet' toys! The church is also pleased to be able to provide a **'Busy Bag'** full of activities to keep your child entertained during the service. Many thanks Kirstie and Jenny who have kindly put these together for the church.

The foyer will also be available, but as sound travels easily into the sanctuary area, this will need to be used as a quiet zone. Baby changing facilities are now available in the disabled toilets off the foyer.

Many thanks | Leadership Team



Diana handing over the egg baskets to Helen the playgroup supervisor

Craft Club and Kiddiwinks Celebrate Easter

The craft club meet in the blue room, next door to Kiddiwinks playgroup, and enjoy listening to the children playing. Sometimes they are brought in to collect their coats and lunch bags and are always interested in what we are all doing.

Every Tuesday in

Welcome

the Blue'Room

The craft group thought it would be nice if we knitted and crocheted Easter baskets and fill them with little eggs for every child as a treat as part of their Easter assembly.

We thoroughly enjoyed preparing the baskets and seeing the smiling faces of the children make us all feel so happy.

Brama Group News...

Since my last article for the magazine, we have performed 4 public performances (& 1 private performance to the District Cubs & Beavers) of the panto 'Robin Hood' by Vicky Orman. Although, as usual, the last few weeks of rehearsals seemed to have their problems, in the end we managed to pull it together and put on a reasonable show.

Having reviewed our finances, we are pleased to make a donation of $\pounds750$ to the Church Treasurer plus a further $\pounds250$ from the Junior Section, making a total of $\pounds1000$.

Moving on to our next production, as indicated in the last magazine, we are delighted to have obtained the licence to perform the West End musical 'South Pacific' by Rogers & Hammerstein on Friday 5th & Saturday 6th July with a matinee on the Saturday. The cast has been selected & the show will be co-directed by



Steph Healey & Keith Jackson, with Irene Gardiner as Musical Director. This promises to be an exciting show & we are expecting to have considerable interest from outside of our usual patronage so, when tickets are available, we urge you to book as soon as possible.

Finally, the Junior Section are putting on an **'Evening's Entertainment'** on **Tuesday 14th May at 6.15pm**, admission \pounds 2. Do come along & support them.

Keith Jackson | www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk

Bring & Share Lunch & General Church Meeting Sunday 19 May

After the morning service in the Community Hall



We invite all Church Members & Congregation to attend Thank you We are pleased that our friend David Brock, one of the organists at Hartlip, has agreed to write a series of articles for the New Messenger on 'Hymns', with the first, printed here, on the beautiful hymn...

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

This hymn is the six concluding verses of a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier entitled **The Brewing of Soma,** soma being a plant found in India from which an intoxicating juice was obtained: this was used in religious rituals. The poem contains a catalogue of feverish distractions from the proper purpose of worship, ending these distractions with the words:

In sensual transports wild as vain We brew in many a Christian fane¹ The heathen Soma still!

Then follow the six verses with their calm and familiar beauty.

The tune by Sir Hubert Parry comes from his oratorio Judith of 1888, and was first published as a hymn tune in *Repton School: Hymns for use in Chapel* (1924) and given the name of Repton.

The compilers of the *Methodist Hymn Book* (1933) did not use the tune Repton, but it was included in the *School Hymn Book of the Methodist Church* (1950) and *Hymns and Songs* (1969).

David Brock

¹Poetic word for Temple

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, Forgive our foolish ways! Reclothe us in our rightful mind, In purer lives Thy service find, In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard Beside the Syrian sea The gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above, Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee The silence of eternity Interpreted by love!

With that deep hush subduing all Our words and works that drown The tender whisper of Thy call, As noiseless let Thy blessing fall As fell Thy manna down.

Drop Thy still dews 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.

Breathe through the heats of our desire Thy coolness and Thy balm; Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small voice of calm.

the BIG Questions Our monthly DISCUSSION GROUP

TUESDAY | 07 MAY | 7.30PM

In Christ Alone ~ Accepted or Contested?

Led by Rev Robin Selmes

Our local preachers value your prayers as they preach in different Churches around the Circuit...

07 Apr	Karen Willing
•	Mandy Harris
	Derek Gallagher

- 14 Apr Karen Willing
- 21 Apr Trish Robb

ILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of a

- 28 Apr Judith German Derek Gallagher Mandy Harris
- 05 May Margaret Bowerman
- 12 May Brian Davies

Burham Kingswood St Luke's

Eccles

Burham

St Luke's Hope Street Sittingbourne

Newington

Hope Street



Iola News...

Lola hereHello to everyone, hope you are all well and looking forward to the milder weather now that spring is here? Trudy told me that the clocks went forward one hour on 31 March. Not sure what she meant, as our clock on the wall never moves anywhere!? Still, as long as I get fed I will not worry about that one!

We visited Trudy's Auntie Pat and Uncle Patrick recently. Uncle Patrick, pictured, has dementia and is cared for by Auntie Pat at home. He is a lovely man, very guiet and gentle and is always

pleased to see me. Auntie Pat is always there supporting him, helping him with his everyday needs. Whilst we were there Auntie Pat was cooking for all of us. She cooked me the best steak dinner ever! Talking about food, I can smell that my next meal is on it s way! Must go...

WoofWoof..... love Lola x

You are what you think about

Negative thoughts can actually harm you, physically. In a recent study by the universities of Exeter and Oxford, it was found that if you listen to that critical inner voice, you will end up with an increased heart rate, consistent with feelings of being under threat and distress. On the other hand, positive thoughts have the opposite effect. Those in the study who were encouraged to be kind to themselves when things went wrong, reported more selfcompassion, connection with others, and had feelings of relaxation and safety. No wonder that Paul urges us: "Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble. whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things... And the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4: 8,9. **Parish Pump**

The Cross Stands Empty

The Cross stands empty on the hill, For, dearest Lord, it was God's will, That You should suffer on that tree. With pain and insults there for me. So, washed from sin, clothed in grace, Faithful Lord, I raise my face. May my countenance reflect The shining glory you expect; As from Your dwelling place on high, Above the clouds, beyond the sky, You look down with wondrous Love. And beam on me from Heaven above. Your Hope, Your Peace, Your constant care, And assurance that You are always there. **Evelyn Grainger-Smith**

Thank you from Daphne Pay

I would like to thank my church family for all their kind visits to me and for the lovely get well cards they sent while I was having rehab at Amherst Court. It was a great comfort to me, thank you all very much.

Touch of the Master's Hand 1 by Myra Welsh

T'was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer Thought it scarcely worth his while To waste much time on the old violin, But held it up with a smile. "What am I bidden, good folks," he cried, "Who'll start the bidding for me?" "A dollar, a dollar," then, two! Only two? "Two dollars, and who'll make it three? "Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice; Going for three ... "But no, From the room, far back, a grey haired man Came forward and picked up the bow; Then, wiping the dust from the old violin, And tightening the loose strings, He played a melody pure and sweet As a carolling angel sings The music ceased, and the auctioneer, With a voice that was quiet and low, Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?". And he held it up with the bow. "A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two? Two thousand! And who'll make it three? Three thousand, once: three thousand, twice: And going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply: "The touch of a master's hand." And many a man with life out of tune, And battered and scarred with sin, Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd, Much like the old violin. A "mess of potage," a glass of wine; A game, and he travels on. He is "going" once, and "going" twice, He's "going" and almost "gone." But the Master comes and the foolish crowd Never can quite understand The worth of a soul and the change that's wrought By the touch of the Master's hand.

Submitted by Mervyn Rees

Methodist Central Hall Westminster 2019

HEALING CONFERENCE

'Healing the whole person'

SATURDAY 18TH MAY 10AM - 4PM

All are welcome to the Methodist Central Hall Westminster 2019 Healing Conference in association with Premier Lifeline.

Our speakers include Rev Peter Edwards, Jonathan Clark, Alison Bryan and Ollie McEwen. Worship will be led by Dave Bilbrough. Tickets available from methodist-central-hall.org.uk

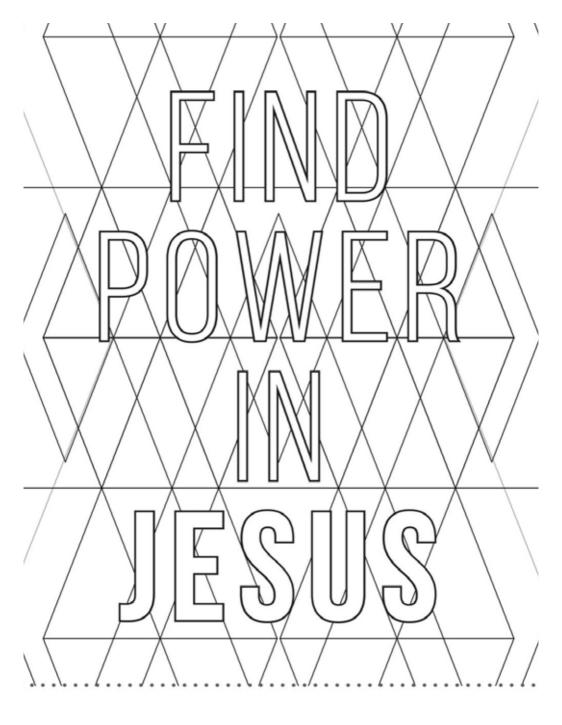
Fun and Games...

Word Search

This May, the Church remembers the visit of the virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Both were pregnant, and the visit gives us a poignant glimpse of two humble, ordinary women, caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God, and total acceptance of His will, shine through. After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background and makes few appearances: when she loses her Son in Jerusalem, when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is on the cross. Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds

Visit Virgin Mary Cousin Elizabeth Pregnant Glimpse Humble Ordinary Women Great History Trusting Faith God Acceptance Will Jesus Jerusalem Cana Special Honour Generations Blessed





Take time out for some 'mindfulness' and colour in this amazing quote...



Apr19 C deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

Sudoku

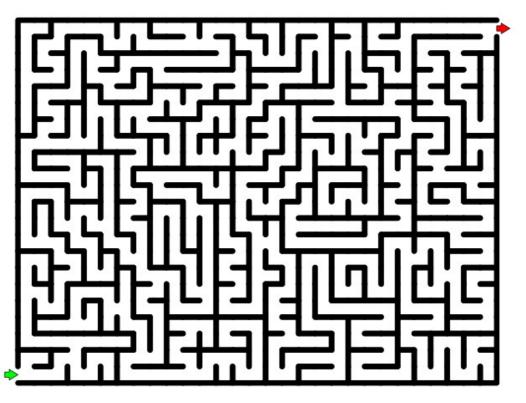
Easy...

Intermediate ...

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Crossword

Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30-31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

Church Bulletin Board

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walked on water'. The service tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'

Ladies, don't forget the garage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not working around the house. Bring your husbands.

> Don't let worry kill you off -Let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'break forth into joy'.

Irving Benson and Jesse Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the Church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours'.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Puzzle solutions...

Word Search...



Crossword...



Sudoku Easy...

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Intermediate...

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6	3	5	7	8	2	1	4	9
7	9	4	3	1	6	5	8	2

There is no charge for this magazine, but if you are able, a contribution of at least **60p** would help towards the cost of production and enable us to distribute to the wider community **Many thanks**

Rev Robin Selmes

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