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Charity No 1134870

Circuit News

Summer 2014



Dates for your Diaries

May

- 17th** Faversham Brass Band @ Hope Street. 7pm. Tickets £5
"Fiddle & Faff" @ St. Luke's MC. 7:30pm. Tickets £5.
Contact Ian 01634 723477
- 19th** Hour of Quiet, Prayer & Reflection @ Bearsted MC.
11:00-12noon.
- 31st** Flower Festival at Eccles MC

June

- 1st** Flower Festival at Eccles MC (see news)
- 7th/8th** St. Luke's 50th Anniversary Celebrations (see news)
- 14th/15th** Flower Festival @ Larkfield MC (see news)
- 21st** Midsummer Madness Summer Fete @ Dene Holm MC.
2pm
- 28th** Strawberry Tea @ Gillingham MC beginning at 2pm
Contact 01634 575139 re catering. All welcome
- 29th** Youth service 10:30am @ Gillingham MC followed by
BBQ. Contact 01634 575139 re catering. All welcome

July

- 13th** Open air service on the church green @ Gillingham MC
3pm. All welcome
- 19th** Concert by "Dolce" @ Eccles MC starting at 7pm.

GILLINGHAM

Gillingham Methodist are very excited at the appointment of Helen Young to the role of Youth Worker. Helen commences her role on 28th April and is moving from Fordingbridge in Hampshire. At Gillingham we have a large number of children in our Sunday club but over the last few years we have struggled to hold on to our older teenagers so for us this is a very important appointment. Helen's role is to be a good role model to our young people, to disciple them and to live out her faith here in Gillingham. Helen will also take responsibility for our youth Drop-in which was started 4 years ago with the help of Gillingham Youth for Christ and supports the young people from our local secondary school. Helen will also be working with the school in what ever capacity will enhance the gospel. Three years ago the Leadership Team and Church Council started the journey to appoint a Youth Worker and the exciting journey for our young people now begins. Please commit to pray for Helen. We are grateful to both the Circuit and District for providing grant funding to support this valuable work.

Community Outreach—Listening Ear. GMC has a number of activities that are supported by the church, if not by volunteers, then by the very fact we make the church facilities available. The group runs on a Friday. We have two sessions from 11:30am through to around 3:30pm and then again at 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Within the first session we have the **Chair Exercise Group**. This started at the beginning of January and has proved very popular . There are around 26 people on the books and average 20 people per session. The session consists of 30-35 minutes of exercise, 10 minutes relaxation then tea and cake (lots of cake supplied by the participants!). The group continually express their thanks to GMC for the use of the building and hospitality. The two bariatric chairs are in place and used weekly, these were paid for from a grant via one of the Ward Councillors. Due to demand, a second chair exercise group started on Friday 25th April at 2:15pm. The groups are open and a welcome is offered to anyone from the community and church to participate in the exercise but also to chat to the participants over coffee and cake around 2:45-3:00pm.

Depending on need and situation, people coming into the **LE** can be signposted relevant groups and bodies and if needed arrangements made to see a trained counsellor.

Many of those who attend have mobility and pain management related conditions so whilst the exercise is not overly energetic they are appropriate to their needs.

See Dates for your Diaries for events at Gillingham MC. If you are coming to the Strawberry Tea or the Youth Service and BBQ it would be helpful if you could let the church office know for catering purposes. Contact either 01634 575139 or email office@medwaymethodistchurch.org.uk

HEXTABLE

We were treated to an amusing evening with Christian Comedian Paul Kerensa at the end of March and were pleased to welcome a few of our Circuit friends on that occasion.

Gary Hopkins, one of our worship leaders, married Anna in April which was a general celebration for all in the Church. We wish them every happiness.

Easter was celebrated with a Good Friday Service, early communion followed by breakfast on Easter morning before our usual morning worship then a united service at St. Paul's Swanley Village in the evening. Easter Monday was the date for our annual Church ramble which included an historic tour of Bexley before heading off down the river Cray and through Joydens Wood where the bluebells were magnificent.

Our Boys' Brigade Company hold their Awards Celebration on Saturday 17th May and our Girls' Brigade Company hold their Celebration of Achievements evening on their Company night Monday 7th July.

As we move into the better weather our BB & GB will be out and about a bit more. Our Girls have just returned from their junior weekend camp at Holcot, Edenbridge and the boys will be attending a Battalion weekend camp in June. These are action packed events where members and staff return happy but tired! Our BB/GB summer camp under canvas will be held at Whitecliff Bay, Isle of Wight from 16-23 August—another energetic event!

Our church also have an Away Day to Littlehampton on Sunday 13th July and hope to end the day in a local church for a service as we did last year.

We now have a Zumba class establishing itself meeting most Wednesdays as our latest evening venture.

Hope Street

We are presenting a concert by Faversham Brass Band on Saturday 17th May at 7pm. Tickets are £5 with tea/coffee & biscuits. They have visited us twice now and always produce a very enjoyable concert to suit all tastes.

Hope Street was privileged to host The Churches Together in Sheppey Palm Sunday evening service.

During Lent the Churches encourage their congregations to share in discussion groups and there were reports from these groups during the service which was led by Stephen Morgan.

St. Luke's

A service of baptism and recognition of 3 new members was held on Palm Sunday.

Building Project. We have now nominated Lee Evans Architects to produce the plans for our new Build Project and are currently awaiting the plans so that we can carry out costings and work out our fundraising strategy.

Church Communications. We have recently updated our church directory. 40% of the congregation have asked for details of current and future events via email. We hope this will improve communications within our local church.

Contact the Elderly. On Sunday 18th May we will host an afternoon tea at 3pm for members of our local Contact the Elderly group. Contact the Elderly is the church's adopted Charity for this year.

St. Luke's is celebrating 50 years! Commencing at 10am on Saturday 7th June there will be a Special Coffee Morning with a display of our first 50 years. Continuing on Sunday 8th our morning service at 10:30am will be led by Rev David Faulkner to be followed by lunch. Everyone welcome at these events but if you would like to come to the lunch please contact Val Gibson on 01634 290079. We would also welcome any photographs, articles, personal memories or anecdotes which could be included in the display.

ECCLES

We give a warm welcome to visitors to our Country Lunches at 1pm on the first Wednesday of each month. Where we serve Homemade Soup and Dessert for £3.00.

We are arranging a Flower Festival when the Church will be open for visitors on Saturday 31st May and after our morning service on Sunday 1st June until 4pm. Refreshments will be available.

Our Church Anniversary Fish and Chip Supper with Raffle will be on 14th June and our Church Anniversary Service will follow on Sunday 15th June at 10:30am.

On the 19th July you are invited to join us for a musical evening. A concert by a duo on Piano and Cello, who are calling themselves "Dolce". The evening will start at 7pm.

OTHER NEWS

Please continue to pray for Rev John Hellyer as he recovers from an operation following a heart attack.

Also please remember Rev Clifford Newman and Rev Tony Graff and their families in your prayers at this sad time.

Don't forget to tune into Deacon Pru's show on Sheppey FM from 7:00pm—8:30pm on a Wednesday evening.

Guests at 7:40pm and "Prayer on the Air" at 8:10pm

<http://sheppeyfm.org.uk/>

Dene Holm

Junk tables, songs, games, football in the church garden, team competitions, quizzes, crafts and refreshments, all added up to another 5-morning Holiday Club at Dene Holm in the first week of the Easter school holidays. This formula is well tried and brought into the church 28 children, aged 4 to 14 years old, as registered for "Mega Makers", the latest holiday club material from Scripture Union.

On average 24 children came for each of the five mornings, under the leadership of Melva Mann and 12 other assistants. In addition to 7 drawn from Dene Holm, there were 3 from Gravesend MC, 2 from the local URC and 1 from the local Anglican church. It is good to receive this ecumenical assistance and we are grateful for it.

The Bible base of "Mega Makers" is the accounts of Jesus' calling of His first disciples, His calming of the storm and healing the daughter of one of the Temple rulers, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. This was backed by a video, inter-team quiz and crafts. The crafts were each related to the work of a particular inventor, such as George Stephenson (railway engineer), Humphrey Davy (miner's safety lamp), Percy Shaw (inventor of reflective road studs - "cat's eyes") and Alan Holloway (inventor of Blotack).

A celebration of God's work was shown through choosing one of these different inventors for each team and during the week learning about them and making models from the junk table of some of their inventions. Sharing these details with the children enabled them to make discoveries about God and how His love for us is wider, higher, longer and deeper than we can ever imagine.

Other crafts included making a blanket and an Easter Garden. Two songs used each day were "Our God is a Great Big God" and "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". On 3 mornings there was also football led by Dave Young.

The week ended on Friday when over 60 of the children, their families and the helpers had a buffet lunch together, with food provided by Melva, Sylvia Angel and the mother of one of the children. We thank God for another successful Holiday Club, with old contacts remade and new ones developed.

Holy Trinity, South Chatham

We are delighted to announce that after a long time without ministers we now have a new Team Rector, Rev Elaine Cranmer, who joined us at the beginning of February. The institution service was a great occasion, attended by both Co-Superintendents of our circuit, other church leaders and local dignitaries as well as the normal congregation and a coachload of visitors from Elaine's previous parish. Rev Clifford Newman read the Gospel. With such a crowd the singing was wonderful and the whole evening was a time to remember.

Elaine grew up in the north-east of England and trained as a teacher. She was licensed as a Reader in the Diocese of Durham in 1981. In 1990 she came to London, working in secondary schools and whilst there began exploring her vocation to ordained ministry.

She spent three years training with the South East England Institute for Theological Education (SEITE) alongside her teaching role and left teaching for full time ordained ministry in 2000. She was curate in Charlton, then moved to St. Luke's in Eltham where three years later she was appointed Area Dean.

She has two grown-up sons and is now awaiting her second grandchild. Away from work she enjoys watching football, cricket and cycling. She likes getting the chance to walk, sing, visit the theatre and cinema and is a keen photographer.

Holy Trinity is now advertising for a vicar to join the team and support Elaine in her ministry. More news on this in the future.

