

# The Aspect

**Our Vision: To grow as a Christian Community  
Reflecting God's Love.**



**Our path now takes us into the future'  
Jesus said "And remember I will be with you always"  
You are not alone, you are welcome.  
Join with us and enjoy the Holy Spirit.**

**Dene Holm, Gravesend and Swanscombe  
Methodist Churches**

**June - July 2014**

**This magazine is free - Please take a copy**

# Gravesend Methodist Church

Registered Charity No1132238

**A very warm welcome to our Sunday Worship Services**  
**Sunday Worship Services.11.00am Gravesend Milton Road.**  
 Evening Communion Service 1st Sunday in month

**Church:** Milton Road Gravesend. Kent. DA12 2RE (front) Tel: 328249  
**Halls:** Wilfred Street, Gravesend Kent. DA12 2HA (rear) Tel: 328249

## Church Stewards:

Mrs Sheila Allison, Senior Steward	Tel: 535881
Mrs Hazel Davis.	Tel: 822570
Mr Titus Mak	Tel:07453594545
Mrs Mary Onisimo	Tel: 536779
Mrs Fran Spencer	Tel: 746628
Mr Emmanuel Eshun	Tel: 364277
Mr Steve Brereton	Tel: 325656
Velma Williams	Tel: 364881

Church Treasurer: Mr Michael Butler Tel: 362740

Church & Hall Bookings: Gravesend: Mr Robert Hawkins Tel: 536702

## Care Team.

Pauline Wood:	Tel:533722	Maitland Pearce: Tel:322916
Alan Wood:	Tel:533722	Fred Hollick: Tel:361434
Phebe Povey:	Tel:359744	Linda Brereton: Tel:325656
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**Gravesend Methodist Church Website**  
**[www.gravesendmethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.gravesendmethodistchurch.org.uk)**

*The love of God comes close,  
 Where stands an open door  
 To let the stranger in,  
 To mingle rich and poor,  
 The love of God is here to stay  
 Embracing those who walk his way,  
 The love of God is here to stay.  
 From Rejoice and Sing 107*

## Our Path takes us into the future.

### The Road to Emmaus

Over the last few editions of the Aspect we have been thinking and praying about the future of our church in Gravesend. We have looked at “The Way Forward” and we know that Jesus calls Himself “the way, the truth and the light.” We have seen how steep and narrow the “Path Ahead” can be as we went through the passion of Jesus over Lent, and how exciting it can be with the Resurrection.

Our path now takes us into the future with the certain knowledge that we are not alone. As Jesus said in Matthew 28: 20, “And remember! **I will be with you** always, yes, even **until the end of the age.**” Jesus has stayed with us throughout our journey; His Spirit guides and cares for us. Remember the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They met Jesus upon the way and failed to recognise Him;

**Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing Him.**

**(Luke 24: 13-16)**

It was only after He explained the scriptures to them and finally broke bread with them that they realised who He was;

**When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.**

**<sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”**

**(Luke 24: 30-32)**

We are no different. We know that we have been called to be His disciples.

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We know that we must walk a path with Him but it is only by understanding His teaching and breaking bread with Him that we will see the truth and be able to fulfil His call.

Over the coming weeks and months each of us must make the effort to understand more about what Jesus was teaching us throughout His life and with His parables. We do this through our worship on Sunday, our daily prayers and bible study but most effectively by discussing our faith with each other. By sharing our thoughts and feelings about God and His Son with those closest to us we will grow in faith and understanding. Why not arrange to meet for coffee or a meal with someone close to you. Use this time to discuss the teaching of Jesus and what it means to you both. Don't be surprised to find Jesus "breaking bread" with you as you talk! Since the first Pentecost His Spirit has been with us and this gives us the strength and courage to go out into the world to fulfil the great commission;

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

His teaching tells us how to fulfil this commission. It is by understanding His teaching that we are able to see Him on the road with us, and enter the Kingdom His Father has created for us.

Simon

Your lay worker



Side by side with Christ your Saviour  
 May you daily walk with Him;  
 Seeking guidance from the Master.  
 Guide your heart from every sin.  
 Daily give your sole attention  
 To his word, to ceaseless prayer  
 Then you'll know his precious presence  
 To be with you everywhere.

*From Seasons of Comfort and Joy by Anne Stanfield*

## **Will we share about going to Church?**

Telling stories is a wonderful way of talking about Jesus. It worked for him when He wanted to talk about God, His Father, Himself, or the Kingdom of heaven. People loved to hear him and gathered in their droves. Shouldn't we, then, tell stories ourselves in order to draw others to Jesus. It worked for Paul. He was persecuting the Church of Christ because he was convinced that it was heresy, and should be destroyed. He hadn't counted on the truth coming out! As he was on his way to Damascus, Jesus, himself, spoke to him and that was the start of a wonderful journey of faith and action which brought thousands of people into faith and is still instrumental today. Even today we talk of a Damascus Road experience, so great was its influence on the early church and those who followed on. It has become part of our language. Little did he realise.

In recent months we have heard the personal testimony of members of our congregation. We have been moved by what we have heard, and I hope we have also been encouraged. For this telling of stories isn't something which should happen only in church. It's something which should be part of us. On a Monday morning as we meet up with colleagues and friends, I suspect conversations will often involve football, gardening or trips out. What will our response be to those things. Will we share about going to church and perhaps say something of what we heard which had moved us?

Testimony has always been part of spreading the Good News of Jesus. What happened to us is personal; it is real; it moves us. Therefore it will move those to whom we speak, because our enthusiasm will be catching. In Paul's case there were others who knew the truth of what he was saying. They had talked with him and prayed with him. They had enabled him to escape the authorities' in Damascus. They had journeyed with him. His whole life became focussed on spreading the 'Word'. Is our life that focussed that we are able to simply share ourselves, and our lives, as they are as a result of the arrival of Jesus into our way of life.

*Continued from page 5*

It's not something to learn overnight. It takes an awareness of God in a situation. It takes practice and a little courage. My experience is that people are polite, often welcoming, and often on the same wavelength, which I hadn't expected. Many will do nothing as they hear us. Some will, but it was always that way. We aren't Peters and we aren't Pauls but we are like many of the disciples, just ordinary followers of Jesus without a leadership role, preaching skills and without training other than what we learn through association with our Lord.

When was your Damascus experience? How life-changing was it, or have you had several over the years? What difference did it make to your life? What did it teach you? Have you ever shared it?

.....

## **Look around and enter into a new experience!**

We are creatures of habit are we not?

We have our little areas of mental and emotional castles in which we feel safe and secure. We have our positions in our Church pews where we feel safe and secure. Hands up if that is how you feel. You will observe that I am also guilty. Next Sunday I intend to leave my safe, habitual pew, and sit beside someone I have not shared a pew and a service with before, or have had a conversation with before.

Will all of you have the courage to break out of your safe castle, look around, and enter into a new experience and adventure? Will we all embrace and experience the warmth and love of our Christian Faith. God bless us all.

Matt

.....

This I learned from the shadow of a tree.  
That to and fro did sway against a wall,  
Our shadow selves, our influence, may fall  
Where we ourselves can never be.

*Anna Hamilton*



# Church Anniversary and Gift day

## Sunday 8th June

*To all who gather regularly to worship at Gravesend Methodist Church*  
**Request**

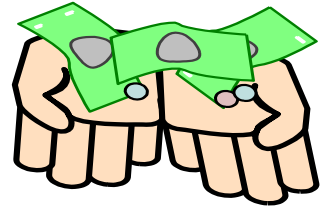
Our annual Church Anniversary and Gift Day will be held **on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June**. It is an opportunity for each of us to make a **special one off gift** as a means of expressing our gratitude to God for His faithfulness. It also recognises the many blessings He has given to us, and return a portion to Him as a personal thanksgiving.

**Our target for Gift Day is £9,000.**

Gift Day is in fact vital in assisting the church to meet its financial commitments in what are very challenging times, both economically and spiritually. It is the responsibility of each one of us to ensure good stewardship to further the witness of God's love and grace in the community and beyond.

### Your response

If you can repeat giving the same amount as last year there is every likelihood that we will achieve the target. If you belong to the weekly envelope scheme please make use of the Gift Day envelope in your box of envelopes for **your special contribution**. An envelope will also be placed in the pew on the day.



### Thanks

I am grateful for the generosity shown over the years to this annual appeal and for your ongoing regular donations that enable our church to meet its day-to-day financial commitments.

Should you be unable to attend on the day, please hand your Gift Day envelope to a steward or post it to me - **Mike Butler, 35 The Warren, Gravesend DA12 4DA**. (Kindly make cheques payable to **Gravesend Methodist Church**).

### Invitation

Reverend Andrew Lindley, our former Minister, will lead the Sunday morning service at 11.00 and you are especially invited to give your support to hear his words of encouragement as we continue our discipleship journey. Following the morning service you are invited to join him and his wife, Margaret, a much loved couple, for an informal lunch in the church hall which will be followed with a time of fellowship at 4.00pm Please give your name to Carol Day, Kate Hardy or Phebe Povey if you wish to attend.

Yours in Christ, Mike Butler Treasurer.

*2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each should give what has been decided in their heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver".*

## **Please remember in your prayers.**

### **Those who are unwell or recovering from illness:**

James' cousin Emma. Jean Wright. John (Fran's father). Diane (Joyce's niece) Janet Butler (Joan Shrubshall's daughter). Anne Smith. Anne Downs. Janet (Friend of Anne and Vic). Fred Hollick. Maureen Wiltshire. Olive Johnson (Sam Wright's sister). Ian Cooper (Gary's father). Hannah Smith. Ken Sangster. Mark Papworth. Margaret Parkes (Kate's mum) Dave Sweeting, Joyce Thompson 'very unwell' in hospital following a stroke. Rev John Hellyer (Chairman of the District).

### **Those who need our prayers:**

Agnes Hunt. Maxine Fielder. Doreen Osmotherly. Joan Shrubshall. Faga and Mary Onesimo. Rosalind Freeman. Betty Fleming. Mitchell Curtis. Lesley Smith-Charles. Trevor Blake Morris. Merrie Bellamy. Ruth, Abigail, Daniel and Lydia Pike. Alan and Pauline Wood. Olive and Ron Acland. Betty Fleming. Brian Greenhow. Morag Wigzell. Don and Pat Philpott. Hayley Power. Dee Bennison. Maureen Packham. Mrs May Bryan. Margaret Lindley and Family. Rev. Noreen Daley- Lee and her husband, Lafton with their son, Emmanuel, (our prospective Minister and her family) as they start making plans and preparations to move to Gravesham in August.

Gravesend Street Pastors. Co-ordinator. Anwar.

Gravesend Foodbank and clothing for the Homeless.

The 'Frontline. Training for all the Church. Our Church life and all in our Church families.

Our two church priorities of Whole Life Discipleship and work for with Children and Youth, especially Explorers.

**The Light of God surrounds us. The love of God enfolds us. The power of God protects us. The presence of God watches over us. Wherever we are, God is.**

## **New life**

A baby boy was born to Vieda and Ramunas Zirnelis on the 21st May at 7,24 am weighing 3.360kg, We wish them all God's blessings.

They are members of the Lithuanian Church.



## **GIVING: A personal experience.**

A few words of background.

Many years ago, memory tells me about thirty years ago, maybe more, we, Margaret and Stuart Wright, with our family of four teenagers were members of St. Barnabas Church at Istead Rise.

At that time the church there was housed in an interim building which now remains as the hall of the new church..

Along-side that original building was a small grass field; very useful for children and youth activities.

The grass needed regular cutting, so the church council bought a rotary mower.

Fine, but we had nowhere to store the mower. We decided to buy a small shed to house the mower; but we had no money in the church funds for a shed!

Finance was then, as now, a constant headache .Nothing new under the sun?

It just happened at that time that a small book, entitled “Tithing”, came into our possession. ‘Tithing’ means giving regularly one tenth of our income to the local church for the church to use for God’s work.

The writer of this book, Dr. R T Kendall, Minister of Westminster Chapel, puts forward a strong Scriptural case for us Christians to tithe our giving. A few of us read this small book and felt that God was speaking to us through it. So copies were obtained for all the PCC to read, not simply for financial reasons but equally for the blessings and surprises that tithing brings. I’ll come to these in a short while.

However, anything that affects our purses and wallets strikes deep and is a challenge to our way of living. First reaction is to put up the shutters; Margaret and I were no exception.

But the topic wouldn’t go away.

It seemed that the shed for the grass mower was a “way in” for us to take a close look at what the bible tells us about tithing our money.

In the words of the Prophet Malachi at the end of the Old Testament, God tells us,-“Return to me and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty”. But you ask, “How are we to return?”

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“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me” says God.

But you ask, “How do we rob you?”

“In tithes and offerings”, God replies. “Bring the whole to tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. After some deliberation and praying, Margaret and I decided to examine our incomings and outgoings. We concluded that increasing our giving to full tithing, would be a strain, so we agreed to progress in steps towards the biblical giving of a tenth of our income to God’s church.

I recall this took some time, but we got there eventually.

Others in St. Barnabas also responded.

I have to admit we have faltered more than once over the ensuing years, but our conviction about tithing remains firm.

We were encouraged along the way by two significant surprise increases in our income and I recall telling Ron Smith, our Vicar at the time.

I asked if he thought there was a connection. He just smiled.

We have experienced some of the blessings God promises and “for which we will not have enough room”, blessings of a spiritual kind and of God’s presence with us in our daily lives.

Blessings echoed By Dr. Kendall in his new book titled, “The Gift of Giving”.

He writes, “The purpose of this book is to make what is threatening, thrilling. It may well be a book that will change your life. I am sure that becoming a tither provides a definite breakthrough for every Christian. It unlocks the door of his heart, mind and will. It releases, it emancipates, it frees. Becoming a tither is a milestone in a Christian’s life”.

“Obey Him, He will bless you. He loves to bless you; this is the way He is with His Own. Our obedience moves his heart, He is touched by our gratitude. He cannot hide how he feels. Here is the Principle, “You cannot outdo the Lord”.

.....

*A church financial budget is simply a way of worrying before you spend the money, as well as afterwards.*

Dene Holm Church & Community Centre  
Dene Holm Road, Northfleet

# Summer Fete

## Sat 21<sup>st</sup> June



2 p.m.



***“Midsummer Madness”***

***with children’s  
fancy-dress competition***

***Bric a Brac***



***Cream Teas***

***Cards***

***Cakes***

**Admission 20p**

**Accompanied Children Free**

For further details please contact Mrs Melva Mann tel 334155

## Gravesham Foodbank



The Foodbanks and poverty continue to be in the news as the government defend their benefits, whilst the Mail on Sunday published an article on Easter Day which was in part critical of Foodbanks. Interestingly, that resulted in significant immediate donations of money from the public to the Trussell Trust/Foodbanks. Just before Easter we were given Easter Eggs by the City Praise Centre and so families needing our support around Easter went home with an unexpected present.

Usage of our Foodbank is slightly down in numbers in the last couple of months whilst voucher giving agencies try to ensure that any “tryer ons” are weeded out. You may recognise some of our clients from previous visits; but please remember that some of our clients do not have the stable home lives that we do and changes to their benefits etc quickly have a knock on effect.

Having said that usage is slightly down, so are donations generally. A big thank you goes out to our supporters; if you do not donate, or only donate sporadically, please can you reconsider your position as we need all the help we can get. Please spread the word to friends and family that Foodbank only exists because of the generosity of the British public. Thank you.

GrMC Foodbank Hub Manager

### Church Flowers



Please remember your special occasions by donating flowers to decorate the Church.

They brighten up the day and makes God’s house feel lived in. Fresh flowers are an inexpensive way of saying welcome and proclaim “Love lives here.”

Pauline and Mike Butler will be glad to receive your donations. We thank Jean Rayner, Val Hollick and Pauline Butler for their wonderful displays

# Charity Golf Event

## Deangate Ridge Golf Club

### Thursday 12 June

[www.deangateridge.co.uk](http://www.deangateridge.co.uk)



**8.45am registration, Tee off from 9.30am**  
**£35 per golfer incl golf fee, coffee & bacon roll on arrival**  
**and a 2 course lunch at end of play (from 2pm)**

Enjoy a Golf Event and support local charities at the same time.  
Please contact Dave Young - tel 01 474 814706 mob 07816 964964  
or email [david.young3@btinternet.com](mailto:david.young3@btinternet.com)



## "RACE FOR LIFE"



As many of you know, my lovely sister Jean died of cancer last year, and my niece Diane is now fighting terminal cancer.

Many people in our church family have, or have had cancer, and it is a disease that we seem to be hearing about more every day.

Our family – including me – have been taking part in the “Race for Life” for the last five years.

“Race for Life” is part of “Cancer Research UK” who are determined to “Hit Cancer where it hurts” funding vital research into the cause, prevention and treatment. It is vital that their work continues so that the 200+ types of cancer will be no more, and we can live without that fear. On July 13<sup>th</sup> I am once again taking part in the “Race for Life” with the family, including Diane. (I expect Diane and I will be walking leaving the others to run!!)

Please will you support me, so that together we can help fight this disease for everyone that we know, and the many that we don't know!

**"WATCH OUT CANCER WE'RE ARMED & READY!!"**

Thank you all for your love, prayers and support. Joyce.



## Tulips from Amsterdam - (almost)

When I was learning about countries of NW Europe for geography GCE some years ago, the Netherlands was the most densely populated country, for its size, in the world. I don't know the 2014 equivalent but the Netherlands must hold the record for the greatest number of tulips grown each year.

Recently, we spent a week in Holland admiring them in all their vibrant splendour, growing in coloured stripes in fields like huge, unopened packets of coloured pencils, brightening up the very flat landscape. They stood upright, like sentries, proud of their beauty and to be on display to other admirers. A bowl of perfumed hyacinths is a delight for the sense of smell but a field of them is just intoxicating.



For many years we have wanted to visit the world renowned gardens at Keukenhof, so that was a must on our itinerary. The displays of spring bulbs combined with the flowering lilacs, azaleas, rhododendrons, cherry blossom and Horse Chestnut trees made for a breath taking and memorable visit. Even my highly critical, landscape designer husband was impressed by the quality of the displays and individual blooms. Tulips have been bred in all shades of the spectrum and also a variety of shapes, tall and short, frilly, and double/triple blooms on one stem.

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When mixed in displays with narcissus, grape hyacinths and other spring flowers, even on an overcast day, they were a brilliant feast for the senses. I hope there are experiences like this in Heaven!

There is a Dutch saying that 'God created the world, but the Dutch made Holland'. This is a reference to the fact that a lot of Holland has been reclaimed from the sea over the centuries.

However, I'm sure that God is pleased with what the Dutch have done in the way of decorating their country with wonderful plants, shrubs and trees as well as producing tasty fruit and vegetables to eat. It is a very neat and clean country. The settlements reminded me of big model villages and the towns intersected by canals really are as picturesque as you see in travel brochures.

We didn't see Peter with his finger in the dyke and we didn't see anyone wearing clogs but we did see windmills and their 21<sup>st</sup> century equivalents, buttercup speckled polders with cows munching fertile green grass and bikes, bikes, bikes. Bikes were everywhere and would surprise you from all directions, many of them with contraptions attached to the front or being towed from behind for children and babies. It's also a great place for mobility scooters. It's a wonder we got out of the towns unscathed!

We came home with enough digital photographs to supply the church calendar for the next century, if not longer!

If you ever get the opportunity to travel to Holland then I would recommend you do it in Spring and make sure you go to Keukenhof.

Hazel Davis





## Action for Children.



**Saturday 21st June** is the day of the annual street collecting

We have a permit to collect in Gravesend town centre all day.

We need as many people as possible to volunteer a small amount of their time on that day to 'shake a tin in town'

No minimum (or maximum) amount of time and whatever time of day to suit yourself.

Please see Robert Hardy, or any support group member, who will be more than happy to add your name to the list.

## Want to ride your bike around Brands Hatch ?

There will be a unique opportunity to do this on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

Take a look at the posters in the church hall if you would like more details.

## Action for Children Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Action for Children Sunday is a time for the Methodist Church to celebrate the work we do together throughout the year. It usually falls on the second Sunday in July, as this is closest to the anniversary of their founding on 9 July.

Our morning worship at 11am that day, will celebrate their work.

## Coffee morning at Church on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July

– looking for lots of support – Please do come along. All proceeds that day to Action for Children.

## Old Mobile Phones and Ink Cartridges

Don't forget to keep the old mobile phones and old ink cartridges coming to me for recycling and getting a donation for Action for Children at the same time.

Thanks

Robert Hardy - Treasurer - Gravesend Action for Children Support Group

# CHRISTIAN AID



**christian aid** We work with poor communities across the world to bring lasting change for the most vulnerable people on earth, regardless of faith, gender or race.

Please put your kind gift in this envelope, and a local volunteer will collect it later in the week.

Or text GIVE to 70040 to donate £5 today\*

**THANK YOU**

All volunteers carry a Home Office-approved badge and certificate. You can also return this envelope directly, by posting it to Freepost Christian Aid. Or you can donate by calling 0900 000 000.

\*You will be charged £5, plus cost of one standard text. Christian Aid will receive a minimum of £4.98. By using this service you agree that we may contact you in future, unless you text OPTOUT to 70040.

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Scott charity no. SC339158  
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14 803 J1944

**£5** could buy 150 bricks to help a family made homeless by war build a safe place to live.

Our thanks for all those who helped during Christian Aid Week. Although our total was down on last year, a great effort was made by all collectors. The Saturday coffee morning on 3rd May raised £45, thank you for supporting us.

**A coffee & cake morning for Christian Aid is being held at Mavis Prater's**

**House (19 Hadley Close, Meopham) on Saturday, 7th June from 10.00 till midday. Please come along and support us.**

Many thanks. Sheila Allison, Doreen Foxwell and Mike Butler

2013 CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTIONS 2014 Draft				Inc/dec -			Gift	
Envelopes	Amount	Collectors Name	Road	Envelopes	Amount	comparison	Aid	
13	50.94		Abbey Road	0	0.00	-50.94	0.00	
31	54.67	Bob Hawkins	Arnold Road	21	50.94	-3.73	0.00	
12	24.90	Marry Onesimo	Collington Close	0	0.00	-24.90	0.00	
10	14.55	Tina Foster	Christchurch Rd/Cres	0	0.00	-14.55	0.00	
11	20.31	Anne Smith	Campbell Road (odds)	10	33.32	13.01	0.00	
17	23.81	Maxine Fielder	Coombe Road	13	28.44	4.63	0.00	
10	25.81		Cygnets Gardens/White Avenue	0	0.00	-25.81	0.00	
46	175.92	R Hardy/C Holt	Darnley Road	48	137.93	-37.99	39.92	
	0.00		Devonshire Road	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
27	65.22	Sarah Smith	Hillingdon Road	24	75.16	9.94	40.85	
23	61.10	M Wiltshire	Laurel Avenue	20	70.63	9.53	28.00	
14	20.57		Malvina Avenue	0	0.00	-20.57	0.00	
19	65.26	Janet Parham	Meadow Road	20	60.83	-4.43	0.00	
10	16.73		Milroy Ave	0	0.00	-16.73	0.00	
13	16.00	T Owen	Parrock Road	15	41.50	25.50	5.00	
29	52.59	M Butler	Scott Road	29	44.46	-8.13	2.00	
20	60.58	Robert Rose	The Avenue	n/a	45.70	-14.88	0.00	
11	18.14	M Butler	Thomas Drive	10	17.35	-0.79	2.20	
8	55.21	Maitland Pearce	Windmill Street	10	63.30	8.09	25.00	
	0.00		Whitehill Lane		0.00	0.00	0.00	
13	19.49	M Jenner	Whitehill Road	10	13.68	-5.81	0.00	
6	8.45		White Avenue/	0	0.00	-8.45	0.00	
10	144.25	Church	Methodist Church	16	152.73	8.48	117.00	
	0.00		Extras		150.00	150.00	0.00	
<b>353</b>	<b>994.50</b>			<b>total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>985.97</b>	<b>-8.53</b>	<b>259.97</b>
<b>total</b>				<b>Gift Aid</b>		<b>64.99</b>		

## SISTERHOOD

All the ladies at Sisterhood have been enjoying the varied speakers who have visited us in the last couple of months.

Again this year, during April and May we have missed three meetings, due to Bank Holidays. Our Cream tea in April was enjoyed by all. We were given Easter Communion by Vic Downs and speakers included Mavis Prater, Doreen Foxwell and the Gravesend Epilepsy Network, which were enjoyed by all our members.

We start June with David Ware and end on 14th July with our usual Garden Party.

If you would like to come along and join us, we meet Monday afternoon 2.30 – 3.45 pm. We are a friendly group and would love to see you.

My thanks to both Barbara and Doreen who have been assisting me in leading our Meetings.

Sheila Allison

### Sisterhood Speakers June-July 2014

June	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mr David Ware
June	9 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Anne Downs
June	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mr Alan Wood
June	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs Helen Martin
June	30 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Jenny Force
July	7 <sup>th</sup>	Open Meeting
July	14 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Party .



## Thank You

A very BIG THANK YOU to you all for your prayers, caring concern, cards and telephone calls during the period of my diagnosis and treatment. This helped so very much during a time of concern and was very much appreciated.

With love and thanks. Maureen and Don Wiltshire.

## Gravesend Property Points

As the fine weather comes our way the DIY team will be seen more outside than inside the premises on Wednesday mornings etc. doing the fine weather jobs like painting. In recent weeks we have completed the redecoration of the ladies toilets, carried out wiring for the AV system, completed the basement improvements and re-decorations, and identified winter storm problems. The bad weather resulted in a leaking lead valley next to Nuxley Toys, requiring a contractor to replace the timber construction as well as the lead, and also the destruction of a window in the tower. You may have seen scaffolding outside the church for the valley repair but did you know that there is now even more scaffolding inside the tower/spire. In addition to replacement of the damaged window by a specialist contractor, we needed to do something to stop water blowing into the spire openings and soaking the tower ceiling/stairs. As a result the DIY team have reconstructed the grilles and replaced internal spire strengthening bars which had rusted through. You get interesting views of Gravesend from up there and it keeps us fit, which must be good – 50 ladder rungs had to be climbed each time we wanted another screw etc! Challenges, challenges. In addition, a draft Risk Assessment for the premises has been made as well as carrying out Small Appliance Electrical Testing (believe it or not there are over 100 of those to test). What challenges will the summer bring?

Eric Davis for Property Team

## TWO EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN DENE HOLM CHURCH GARDENS

On **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 2p.m** Dene Holm will be holding their **Summer Fete**. Besides all the usual stalls and refreshments there will be a Fancy Dress Competition for the children.

On **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 2p.m.** there will be a fund raising **Cream Tea Afternoon in aid of Street Pastors**. Home produce will be on sale including homemade cakes, preserves and crafts. Competitions and a chance to win a hamper of goodies will also be on offer.

Do come along and enjoy both these afternoons in the pleasant surroundings of the Church gardens.

## News from Swanscombe.

We held a joint Lent course with St Peter and St Paul's Anglican Church which was led by the Rector. Those who attended, about 10 in all, found it thought provoking and helpful. Hopefully more will come next year.

We also joined with the Anglicans for a short walk of witness along Swanscombe High Street on Good Friday Morning and then gathered at our Church for Prayers, followed by tea and hot cross buns.

The Easter Service led by Gareth, was a time of real rejoicing in the risen Lord.

The scaffolding has now been taken away and the repairs to the North and South wall have been completed. However the damp plaster inside the Church has still to be removed and the Church will have to be closed for at least one Sunday because of the smell and the dust. The door sills need replacing as they are rotten, the steps will have to be mended and the doors repainted. All this will take place soon.

Daisy Boak (Janet and Barry Errington's Grand-daughter), celebrated her 15th Birthday on Sunday, 4th May, by being confirmed and received into membership. We are all delighted she has taken this step and wish her God's richest blessings. Her Mother provided cake for everyone afterwards.

We are pleased that Gareth will be continuing his ministry with us until the end of August.

Our Church Anniversary takes place on 29th June when Ian Packham will lead the service. We will have a salad lunch in the Church afterwards. Everyone is welcome to come.

Please also remember our Coffee Mornings which take place on the second Saturday each month from 9.30 until 11.00am. We would be delighted to see you there.



*Joy is the plant, faith is the route.  
Hearts rejoice when souls believe.*

*Charles H Spurgeon*

## Our Generation

Our generation will be known for nothing.

Never will anybody say,

We were the peak of mankind,

That is wrong, the truth is

Our generation was a failure

Thinking that

We actually succeeded

Is a waste, and we know

Living only for money and power

Is the way to go.

Being loving, respectful, and kind

Is a dumb thing to do.

Forgetting about that time,

Will not be easy, but we will try.

Changing our world for the better

Is something we never did.

Giving up

Was how we handled our problems.

Working hard

Was a joke.

We knew that

People thought we wouldn't come back

That might be true.

Unless we turn things around.

'Read from bottom to top now'

**Pessimism turns to optimism in dual poem.**

This poem was written by 14year old Jordan Nichols from Sans Francisco and put on the internet and Face book by his brother Derek.

*Thanks to Marian for this poem*

# Fathers Day June 15th.

## Don't forget dear old dad

Here are some excerpts from books given to the Editor by his ever loving daughters, together with advice!!

### **A father is:**

An ordinary man doing his best to stand in for superman.

A source of good but expendable advice.

A very nearly expert.

A man who knows- but would like to look it up just to be on the safe side.

A man who goes down fighting.

Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into adventurers, story tellers, singers of songs.

Dads can do anything, the youth of dads was packed with excitement and their minds are packed with anecdotes.

They have sound views on politics, dogs, sport and saving the environment.

They have drawers and boxes and sheds full of valuable gadgets and string.

They can tell unforgettable stories.

There is a touch of magic in a dad.

They are no longer ordinary men, they are special.

Dads don't just give their children love, they give them the ability to love.

Fathers know their place-last in line for the shower and first in the line to pay for everything.

The way to a dad's pocket is through his heart.

They say about dads: How embarrassing he can't even understand his computer.

The world has an infinite need of loving fathers, who with mothers are the hub of the home.

So Please don't forget dear old dad.

## The Laugh and Groan pages!

### Encyclopaedias.

Sorting out books for a local fete, a parishioner came across some well-worn and dusty illustrated encyclopaedias. Treasured from his childhood.

Unwilling to part with them, he put them on a shelf in the garage where his grandchildren spent many happy hours looking at the pictures.

These books, however, caused him great embarrassment the day the minister came to visit.

One of his grandchildren suddenly said: "Grandad, can we go and look at those dirty books you keep in the garage?"

### Found

*From a church notice board.*

Contact lens found in church>See the vicar - if you can.

### Just a tap on the Shoulder.

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of his cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped inches from a plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab, and then the still shaking driver said "I'm sorry you scared the living daylights out of me."

The frightened passenger apologised to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much.

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab – I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."

### Adam and Eve.

Adam bit the apple and, feeling great shame covered himself with a fig leaf.

Eve, too, felt shame and covered herself with a fig leaf. Then she went behind a bush to try on a maple leaf, a sycamore and an oak!



## **This page gets worse, keep smiling!**

### **A Tibetan Phone Call.**

So I called up the spiritual leader of Tibet, and he sent me a large goat with along neck. Turns out I phoned dial-a- llama.

### **A goat and a Fish.**

A baby goat falls off a cliff and is swallowed by a big flat fish

A fisherman lands the fish and cuts it open.

Out jumps the baby goat to whom the fisherman says "What's a kid like you doing in a place like this."

### **Chess.**

A Church was celebrating its 100th anniversary, and several former ministers and the bishop was in attendance.

At one point, the current minister asked the children to gather at the front for a talk about the importance of the day.

He began by asking them, "Does any one know what a Bishop does?"

There was silence. But finally, one little boy answered gravely, "He's the one you can move diagonally."

### **How to Maintain a Healthy Level of Insanity.**

Sit in a parked car wearing sunglasses and point a hairdryer at passing cars...then watch them slow down!

Order a Diet Water whenever you go out to eat, with a serious face.

Sing along at the opera.

When the money comes out of the cash machine, scream "I won! I won!"

Skip down the street rather than walk and see how many looks you get.

### **Heredity or Environment.**

An 18 year old student received very poor results following his A level examinations. His father expressed his disappointment and asked his son if he had anything to say. The boy replied "I'm not sure whether it was caused by heredity or environment".

## **Holiday Club time at Dene Holm April 2014.**

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 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, with ages from 4 to 14, came for each of the five mornings, under the leadership of Melva Mann and twelve other assistants. In addition to others drawn from the local Churches, 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 of 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 – "cats eyes"), and Alan Hollaway (inventor of Blu tack).

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 three 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.



## **Reporting of dates and Events:**

People have expressed their concerns in the fact that their events are not mentioned in our “Dates for the Diary” nor mentioned in ‘The Aspect’

The Editor and the booking secretary try to glean information from various sources but unfortunately we are not mind readers.

Therefore as with any other news media, unless you tell us we don’t know. A simple fact of life.

If you want your organisation or event to be published please contact the Editor.

The same thing goes for the heating at Gravesend. If you do not tell the Bookings secretary when you are meeting, muchas froid (very cold) similarly if you are not meeting on your usual day the heating will be wasted.

The heating clock is set on Fridays, so all the events for the following week must be noted by Friday, similarly cancellations.

Please remember to turn out all the lights before you leave. Energy is an expensive item.

## **Please Note:**

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**June – July 2014**