



North Kent Methodist Circuit

# grapevine

CIRCUIT NEWS AND PREACHING PLAN



*inside...*

WELCOMES, A ROYAL VISIT  
A DAY AT THE GRAVESEND HUB  
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AT HARTLIP



Issue Twenty Three  
Autumn 2022

# Looking forward to Autumn

**September marks the start of another Connexional year for the North Kent Methodist Circuit and there is much to celebrate!**

In this issue we welcome Rev Alex Terrett as the minister for Gravesend, The Brent, Swanscombe, and Dene Holm. Alex comes to us from just over the border with the London District and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for helping churches and communities discover 'God's deeper vision' and how to work together towards seeing that vision become reality. She has especially enjoys working with children and young people and leading worship that is 'prayerful, contextual, accessible, and relevant for today'. Alex will be living in the Westwood manse in Gravesend. We look forward to working with Alex!

In this issue you'll also find an account of a 'presidential' visit by the current Methodist Conference President, Rev Graham Thompson, to Hartlip Methodist Church to celebrate its 200th anniversary (a bit late due to COVID) and bless their new rose window. We also celebrate a 'royal' visit as Gravesend Centre Manager, Vicki Clarke, was invited to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. To balance out Vicki in her 'royal' splendour, we also have a short article about what 'a day in the life' at the Gravesend Centre is actually like for Vicki.

We're delighted to announce that four other persons are joining our circuit staff this autumn. Karen Willing and Florence Cheng will be doing a 'job-share' for the Youth Pastor position with Third Avenue and the Chinese congregation. Oscar Siu has been selected as the full-time Lay Pastor for our Chinese Congregation, and Peggy Au Yeung is a new Cantonese teacher for the Chinese School.

We extend a warm welcome to all these and look forward to the ways they will bless our circuit!

Bonni-Belle



# Hello from the Revd Alex Terrett

Kevin and I are very much looking forward to joining you in September in the North Kent Circuit. We are currently summoning the strength to dismantle the greenhouse which took weeks to build and for which we have somehow managed to lose the instructions!

We will be joined by one of my three sons who is a stonemason and works around the South East, and also our cat Lilly who isn't that keen on moving, but will I'm sure settle in once the mouse population has been located.

The year I arrive will be my twelfth year in ministry, having served in the Chislehurst and Orpington and Bromley Circuits. This will be my first stationing outside the London District, however I have worked in Dartford for a previous employer so we know the area quite well. It's always good to see how things are done somewhere else.

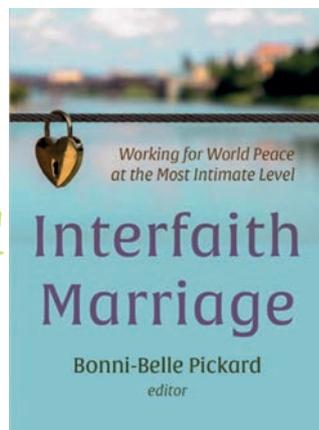


I swim a couple of times a week, can't visit a garden centre without buying a plant and enjoy dressmaking with varying degrees of success. Kevin is employed as an HGV driver and covers most of the UK; he enjoys a game of golf and is a great cook.

See you all soon,  
**Alex**

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## Interfaith marriage



How many people do you know who have married someone from a different faith tradition? What challenges have they faced? What support have they had? How can our church better support them? What can we learn from their interfaith journey? These are some of the questions tackled in my new book, *Interfaith Marriage: Working for World Peace at the Most Intimate Level*.

After several of our children married spouses from other religions, I set out to find some answers to these questions for myself. Much research, many interviews, trips to India and the United States, and a DMin degree later, I was able to put together my discoveries in a book. That volume is available now on Amazon (and I have some hard copies myself).

Whether it's your own son or granddaughter or nephew or next-door-neighbour or yourself who has married someone from another faith tradition – or you're just interested in ways to make the world a better place through interfaith conversations – this book is for you. **Bonni-Belle Pickard**

# *A day in the life of Gravesend Daytime Hub*

**“Vicki, I need you!”. Looking up from my desk, I see one of our regular users, completely inebriated, shouting, and swaying from side to side. As I walk over to her, she says, “I don’t feel well”, before collapsing on the ground and having a seizure. I shout to my colleague Kerrie to ring an ambulance and then shout for someone to pass me the Naloxone. (This is a drug used to reverse the effects of an overdose that almost all my volunteers are trained to use). As Kerrie gets through to the ambulance and Abbi (an outreach worker from Serveco) and I get ready to inject the Naloxone, the service user suddenly sits up and says, “Don’t you dare inject me with that.” I respond with, “OK, now you are responsive, so you don’t need this,” at which point she collapses into another seizure.**

While this is going on another service user steps forward and says, “She is faking it, Vicki. She does it all the time.” Again her seizures suddenly stop as she sits up and shouts at him for being nasty to her, before lying back down and having a third seizure. At this point we all realise it is an act and wait patiently for the drama to stop. When she realises the act is not fooling anyone, she then takes nine Valium pills out of her pocket and shoves them all in her mouth. She does not swallow them but refuses to spit them out saying she wants to die.

Meanwhile her friend who is also very drunk decides he is in fact her cousin and wants to fight with the world for making her upset. As I tell him to calm down and step away, Abbi stands in front of him and tells him to look at her and calm down. After a few raised

voices the drama ended. Less than an hour later, both the girl and her “cousin” arrive at my office door with a beautiful card containing a written apology for their poor behaviour.

In the middle of the chaos a quieter guest is asking for help to fill in a form to get his citizen card and two others are requesting new clothing. We have another twelve guests sitting quietly eating their full English breakfast in the other room and three waiting on hot showers and for their clean laundry to be returned.

Serveco, CGL (a drug and alcohol charity), Gravesend Borough Council Housing Needs Team and Counselling Services are all available and work from the hub to help provide a holistic service to our guests. Our guests can speak with any agency attending the Hub and are able to get answers and help quickly. When situations arise like the one described above, it is helpful to have a multi-agency approach to diffuse and resolve difficult situations. Only by knowing each of the guests well are we able to gain their trust; knowing each guest’s personality is important when deciding the best way to deal with their outbursts and emotions.

No two days are the same. Every day brings a new problem or situation that needs to be dealt with quickly. There is always a mixture of laughter and tears as we help those that are struggling. We can be the voice of reason, a mother or father figure, or a friend. The volunteers at the hub are all trained to be the support our guests need at a time of chaos in their lives. This is the work God gives us at the Gravesend Centre Hub.

**Vicki Clarke,  
Gravesend Hub Centre Manager**

## *Vicki Clarke, Gravesend Centre Manager at the Royal Garden Party, May 2022*

In recognition of her excellent work at the Hub of Gravesend Methodist Church Centre, Vicki Clarke was invited to attend the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Vicki had lunch at Westminster with Adam Holloway MP, who has been a huge support to the daytime hub over the years and she was introduced to Sir Lindsay Hoyle. The magical day then finished with tea at Buckingham Palace with members of the royal family. Congratulations, Vicki!



# Welcome



We welcome **Oscar Siu** as our **Chinese Lay Pastor** from 1 September 2022. Oscar will be working primarily with our Chinese congregation, but he is also eager to interact with the rest of the circuit as well. We look forward to the gifts and graces that Oscar brings.

Oscar Siu (traditional Chinese: 蕭翔宇; Chinese pinyin: XIAO Xiangyu) was baptised at the Methodist International Church, Hong Kong, and is now a member of the Cambridge Methodist Circuit. He has served in different local Methodist churches as a preacher and worship leader. He has been actively involved in the teaching, preaching, caring, and evangelistic ministries at a Chinese Church in Cambridge. He is called into ministry and is passionate about serving Chinese migrants in the UK in Cantonese, Mandarin, and English.

Oscar is a research associate for the Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, working on a research project on the theology of hospitality to Hong Kong migrants in the UK. He has completed two Master's degrees in theology at the Divinity School of Chung Chi College, Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is the husband of Tara Qu, who is a PhD student in Cambridge working on her research project in Old Testament Studies.

# My name is Florence



Greetings, it is my pleasure to join the North Kent Circuit as the job-share Youth Pastor. Coming from Hong Kong, I am delighted to serve the Chinese community in the Medway Chinese Methodist Church.

It is a blessing that I grew up in a Christian environment, where I went to church at a young age and attended the school run by Hong Kong Methodist Church. I was nurtured with a strong foundation of knowledge and Christian discipline. Alongside working as a professional musician and music educator, I am also an active church musician and Sunday school teacher for children.

It is my passion to share culture, music and arts as well as God's grace and teaching, especially with the young people. As a youth worker, my aspiration is to advocate spiritual development in faith and cultural integration. I wish to serve and enlighten children and young people at Medway Chinese Methodist Church to flourish in God's love and faith, to be able to contribute in creating a loving community.



## *And from Karen...*

I am really excited and looking forward to working more with the young people at Third Avenue church and in the community. I am also looking forward to working with Florence on the other part of

the job share and seeing how the English and Chinese Church can work together. We can build on the work that Helen did and look to the future, excited about what God can do and how the young people can grow in his life.

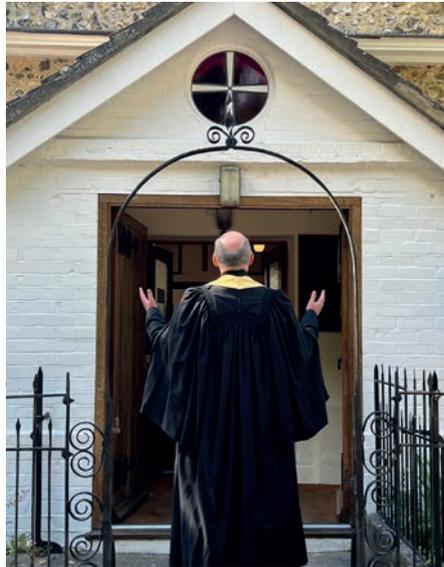
# Celebrating 200+ years at Hartlip

Just over 200 years ago, William Drawbridge was a resident of Hartlip and a local Justice of the Peace. He feared that crowds being drawn to the village to hear the preaching of Bible Christians from Devon might become disorderly, so he stood back to observe the proceedings.

Preaching that day was young Anne Cory and despite his fears, the crowd listened intently to her words. As a result, William was so deeply moved that he offered the land on which the Chapel now stands and some money to build his Cardiphonia, as he called it. The word means "the Utterance of the Heart" and you can still read it above the entrance to Hartlip chapel.

On 3rd July, on his first Sunday as President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Graham Thompson visited Hartlip where, together with a capacity congregation, he celebrated its 202nd Anniversary. Graham preached on the words of St Paul from the Letter to the Ephesians (Chapter 4:1-6) and gave us guidance and encouragement to follow three main essential principles in our daily actions and unspoken attitudes: *be humble; be patient; be united*. Not only did Graham lead a most joyous service but towards its conclusion, he dedicated a new exterior circular porch window as a reminder of over 200 years of Methodism in the village of Hartlip. Symbolically, the window itself was designed and installed by Kentish stained glass artist, Steve Harries, along the lines of the Orb and Cross of the Methodist Church.

Following the service, the congregation was treated to the famous hospitality of Hartlip (its provision of an attached Retreat Centre forms the major part of its ongoing church mission) in the form of a delicious afternoon tea which literally added 'the icing on the cake' of what had been a wonderful day of commemoration and celebration.



But this was not entirely the whole 'icing on the cake' perhaps, for during the offertory we were able to listen to and join in the rousing chorus of the 'Hymn for Hartlip' specially written and composed by Heather Gallagher, originally for the 200th Anniversary in 2020. At this point, it should be explained that the Chapel was initially founded in 1820 but only officially opened in 1821.

The actual 200th Anniversary of its founding was never celebrated because

the Chapel was closed during 2020 on account of the Covid Pandemic. Subsequently, as the Chapel was again closed through Covid sanctions in June 2021, Heather's hymn was recorded by the Third Avenue Worship Group and included as part of a second attempt to celebrate the 200th Anniversary in a specially recorded service broadcast on YouTube.

Derek Gallagher

# *A Hymn for Hartlip*

This Church was founded here on Holy Ground  
When Bible Christians came our way.  
It soon became a place where love was found  
And still resides today.  
So through the years this space has come to be  
A source of solace and of peace.  
It stands for welcome hospitality  
And prayers that never cease.

## **Refrain:**

*Now we lift our voices high!  
Sounds of joyful singing fill the sky!  
Thanking God for all the blessings we share  
For Love surrounds us everywhere.  
Now we lift our voices high!  
Echoing the Saints from times gone by!  
Let us sing together all of our days,  
A never ending hymn of praise!*

Now what the future holds we cannot tell,  
There is no certainty for sure.  
But when we're here we know that all is well  
Whatever we endure.

## **Refrain**

For Hartlip's found a home within our hearts  
And we give thanks for what is past,  
We'll trust in God just as the future starts  
And praise Him to the last!

## **Final Refrain:**

*Now we lift our voices high!  
Sounds of joyful singing fill the sky!  
Thanking God for all the blessings we share  
For Love surrounds us everywhere.  
Now we lift our voices high!  
Echoing the Saints from times gone by!  
Let us sing together all of our days,  
A never ending hymn,  
A never ending hymn,  
A never ending hymn Of praise!*

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=sSYc0F7ilj4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSYc0F7ilj4)

# North Kent Circuit

## Preaching Plan September - November 2022

		SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER					NOVEMBER				
		4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
												Remembrance Sunday		First Sunday in Advent	
BEARSTED	10.30	TOLHURST <i>hc</i>	LA	ZACHAR	SHEPHERD	READ <i>hf</i>	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	G HARRIS	ZACHAR <i>us</i>	BYARD	MYLES	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	M HARRIS	
BURHAM	10.30	OATES <i>us</i> @ 4pm	LA	LA	OATES <i>hf</i>	LA	KASONGO	LA	SHEPHERD	OATES <i>hc</i>	WILDING	OATES @ 2pm	LA	BYARD	
CHINESE	13.30	O SIU	P LAU <i>hc</i>	D LAI	R LOK	P LAU <i>hc</i>	O SIU	R LOK	S LAI	O SIU	P LAU <i>hc</i>	R LOK	O SIU	D FOO	
DENE HOLM	11.00	ROWE	DOWNNS	LA	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	LA	ROWE	PICKARD	LA	GRAY	LA	DOWNNS	TERRETT	LA	
ECCLES	10.30	MARKOVA	OATES <i>hf</i>	LA	LA	WILDING	LA	OATES @ 3pm	OATES <i>hc</i>	KASONGO	LA CAFÉ	G HARRIS	OATES <i>hc</i>	LA	
THIRD AVENUE	10.30	SELMES	WATTON	SELMES/ W-HOUSE <i>hc</i>	ZACHAR	SELMES <i>hf aa</i>	BYARD	SELMES <i>hc</i>	SELMES	WATTON	SELMES	GALLAGHER	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	
	16.00	-	-	PICKARD/ STUNELL <i>lp hc</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
GRAVESEND	11.00	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	LA	PRITCHARD	HARFLEET	LA	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	S SMITH	TERRETT	M HARRIS	WOODHOUSE	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	ROWE	DOWNNS	
HARTLIP	18.30	WILLING	SELMES <i>hc</i>	GERMAN	V DOWNNS <i>hf</i>	LA	GALLAGHER	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	GERMAN	WILLING	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	GERMAN	
HEXTABLE	10.30	M HARRIS	LB-SCOTT <i>hc</i>	GRAY	MATTHEWS	LA	LB-SCOTT <i>hc</i>	HARFLEET	BYARD	LA	BURCH	LB-SCOTT <i>hc</i>	LA	MATTHEWS	
HOPE STREET	10.30	LA	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	LA	LE MASONRY	LA	LA	BOWERMAN	LE MASONRY Café	LA	<i>hc</i>	M SMITH	A TWILLEY	
KINGSWOOD	11.00	LA Café	MYLES (METH)	BAPTIST	ANGLICAN <i>hc</i>	LA Café	NEWELL (METH)	BAPTIST	ANGLICAN <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN Area <i>hc</i>	LA	LA Café	BAPTIST	ANGLICAN <i>hc</i>	
LARKFIELD	10.00	OATES <i>hc</i>	NEWELL	WILDING <i>aa</i>	BYARD	OATES <i>hf hc</i>	MYLES	M HARRIS <i>aa</i>	ZACHAR	LA	CARPENTER <i>hc</i>	OATES	WILDING <i>aa</i>	LA	
NEWINGTON	9.30	US	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	MARKOVA	M SMITH	ROBB	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	MARKOVA	US @ Bearsted	M SMITH	LA	WADE	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	
ST. LUKE'S	10.30	LA	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	SELMES <i>hf</i>	TROTT	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	GALLAGHER	YAMOAH	TROTT	SELMES <i>hc</i>	KASONGO	WATTON	
HOLY TRINITY	10.00	ST ALBAN'S <i>hc</i>	ST DAVID'S <i>hc</i>	ST WILLIAMS <i>hc</i>	TOLHURST	ST WILLIAMS	ST DAVID'S	ST ALBAN'S <i>hc</i>	ST DAVID'S <i>hc</i>	ST WILLIAMS <i>hc</i>	TOLHURST	ST DAVID'S	PRITCHARD	ST ALBAN'S <i>hc</i>	
SITTINGBOURNE	10.30	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	LA	WADE	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA <i>hf aa</i>	M SMITH	MYLES	US @ Bearsted	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	YAMOAH	LA	SELMES	
SPITAL STREET	10.30	GRAY	HARFLEET	PICKARD <i>hc</i>	LA	WOODHOUSE <i>hf</i>	LA	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	BURCH	DOWNNS	S SMITH	GRAY	HARFLEET	WOODHOUSE	
STOKE	18.30	-	ROBB	-	-	-	WOODHOUSE	-	-	-	-	WOODHOUSE	-	-	
PENINSULA STROOD	10.30	WOODHOUSE	ROBB	TROTT	WOODHOUSE	BURCH	LA	TOLHURST <i>hc</i>	WADE	WOODHOUSE	ROBB	WOODHOUSE	TROTT	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	
SWANSCOMBE	10.45	LA	LA	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	M HARRIS	GRAY	LA	DOWNNS	LA	TERRETT	LA	LA	S SMITH	GRAY	
TONBRIDGE RD	10.30	SHEPHERD	LA OATES 3pm	OATES <i>hc</i>	R VINCENT	SHEPHERD	SHEPHERD	OATES <i>hf</i>	WILDING	NEWELL	OATES <i>hc</i>	M HARRIS	SHEPHERD	G HARRIS	
THE BRENT	10.30	LA	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	LA	MYLES	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	HARFLEET	GRAY	MATTHEWS	LA	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	LA	PICKARD	MYLES	
	16.00	PICKARD/ HOLLANDS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
UNION STREET	10.45	WILDING	PICKARD <i>hc</i>	LA	PICKARD <i>hf</i>	G HARRIS	PICKARD <i>hc</i>	R VINCENT	PICKARD	LA	SHEPHERD	PICKARD <i>hc</i>	NEWELL	PICKARD	
ONLINE SERVICES	10.30	PICKARD	WOODHOUSE	LB-SCOTT	THIRD AVE	PICKARD	-	WOODHOUSE	THIRD AVE	LB-SCOTT	PICKARD	OSCAR SIU	-	OATES	

### Circuit Welcome Service 4pm 4th September at The Brent

*aa* All-age / *hc* Holy Communion / *us* United Service / *hf* Harvest Festival / *lp* Local Preacher Accreditation  
Please note: These services are conditional upon government guidance and are subject to change.

**For the Winter issue:** Please send contributions as a Word document, no longer than 500 words, to [bonni-belle.pickard@methodist.org.uk](mailto:bonni-belle.pickard@methodist.org.uk) to arrive by 20 September 2022. If you can, please attach a suitable high quality image, but do not embed it in a document.