

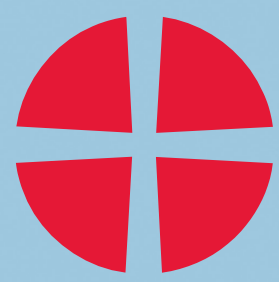


North Kent Methodist Circuit

# grapevine

CIRCUIT NEWS AND PREACHING PLAN

Farewells  
&  
Welcomes



Issue Thirty  
Summer 2024

# Farewells & Welcomes

**This Summer Grapevine includes farewells to two of our circuit ministers moving on to different 'vineyards', Rev Gill le Boutillier-Scott and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet. Both these women have been beloved and important parts of our circuit mission and ministry, especially in the western area of the circuit over the past few years.**

Elizabeth arrived with her husband, Grahame, in 2019 with diaconal ministries at The Brent and Spital Street. She will be moving to a circuit near Bath to take up some intense community work in that area. Elizabeth has blessed us all with her gentle spirit and willingness to help wherever she could.

Gill le Boutillier-Scott arrived in 2020 to cover Hextable when we weren't able to get a minister through the regular stationing process. Gill was recently widowed at that point and, with four children at home, was available for part-time ministry near to her home in Sevenoaks. She has been a valuable leader of the Hextable congregation since then and took additional responsibility for Spital Street over the past year. Gill's enthusiasm for the gospel and people has been an inspiration to many!

Our Circuit Administrative Staff team has also seen some changes over the past few months. Following an extensive review of the Admin Staff team over the past year, three new positions have been established. Angel O'Nyon will be filling the new Finance and Administrative Assistant role, doing many of the tasks she had before but with a new focus. Lynn Rainer and Chris Chare have opted to take redundancy. That means we're saying farewell to Lynn and Chris in their current roles, though both will continue to be active in the circuit and their local churches.

The new Admin Staff will be headed up by James Walker as Operations Manager. As above, Angel O'Nyon will be continuing on the team, with the new Property Officer role being filled in a job-share by mother and daughter, Stephanie and Nyx Roux. This issue of Grapevine includes introductions to James and Stephanie and Nyx, and we look forward to meeting and working with them all!

As always, there is much work to do in this 'vineyard' and we are grateful for the ministry being done by so many volunteers, lay employees and active and retired ministers. Thank you all for all you do for God and God's people in North Kent!

**Bonni-Belle**



## **Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet**

We will all be very sorry at The Brent to be saying goodbye to Deacon Elizabeth in July as she leaves our Circuit to take up her new position. Elizabeth joined us in September 2019 and very quickly became a much-valued member of our Messy Church team, very much embraced the "messy" in Messy Church and we look forward to hearing about the craft activities she will be doing in her Muddy Church sessions and seeing whether we can try these out in Dartford!

Elizabeth has often led our time of worship in Messy Church and we thank Elizabeth for all her support over the years, including helping with planning, leading an activity and most importantly, chatting with the families. We hope she has enjoyed being a part of our Messy Church family.

Elizabeth's calm and listening ears have been valued and appreciated by all of us here at The Brent. Whether it's an email of thanks, a phone call to

say "How are you?" or a card through the post, these are all ways that we have experienced her pastoral care over the past five years.

Elizabeth's work with the Dartford Foodbank has included giving out bags to our clients during the pandemic, standing outside in all weathers, sitting and chatting with those that need comfort, and praying with those who have asked for prayer. She will be missed in many ways.

Our Minister, Alex, has described herself and Elizabeth as complete opposites!

*"I am very loud and in your face, while Elizabeth is a quiet and considered person. I have really enjoyed being her colleague. We've shared some laughs. I will miss her wisdom."*

*The sessions of the Lent group she has led have included a great deal of time to think and reflect. She is great at slowing things down and just being. Her prayers are considered and beautifully spoken."*

All of us at The Brent have appreciated Elizabeth's pastoral care and support during her time as our Deacon and we will miss her kindness and calming manner. We hope that as Elizabeth and Graham look forward with excitement to their new venture, their time in Dartford will bring back fond and happy memories. We wish them well.

**Karen Dudley (the Brent)**



### **Revd Gill Le Boutillier-Scott**

The Reverend Gill came to us at one of the most difficult of times. Many of us were still confined to our homes amidst the Coronavirus outbreak. At the point of taking up her appointment, in-person services had just restarted on a booking-only basis with limited spaces in the church to keep distancing rules. Rather than having a big introductory service, Gill's introduction to the congregation and vice versa was one that had to be gradual, with the handful that could worship in the church and the virtual fellowship on Zoom after services on a Sunday morning. In some ways this was not without its merits, as it allowed Gill to build relationships and get to know people over a period of time rather than deal with a sudden onslaught of strangers.

The thing that has really stood out in Reverend Gill's ministry is her urge to get beyond the church building; to get outside and either take the

message out there or offer ways of gently coaxing people in, as well as trying to encourage the church to fully engage in that mission. Particularly over the past year, Gill has led a number of services and events aimed at making that first step through the doors less daunting for the newcomer, often asking the congregation to invite friends, neighbours and colleagues along. At the heart of things, Gill is a passionate evangeliser and one who is always looking for a way to reach out to people, meeting them where they are.

If any of you have watched the more recent online services recorded live in the church, you can see a joyful energy in speaking of God. It is that energy and joy in the word of God and delivering the good news of Jesus Christ that we hope will leave a lasting imprint on the life and work of Hextable Methodist Church as the Reverend Gill moves on to pastures new.

It has been a joy to have Gill, along with her children, Isabella, Noah, Eva, and Elias, as part of our church family at Hextable and we wish them every blessing for the future.

**Gary Hopkins (Hextable)**



### **Chris Chare**

I distinctly remember interviewing Chris Chare some years ago to fill the newly created circuit position of Churches Support Administrator. The post had been requested by several churches which needed help, especially with their finance matters. Chris had recently retired from a career in finance and he was looking for a new outlet for his gifts and experience. Chris was a member of Newington Methodist Church and was the son of an Anglican vicar. He said he'd always wanted to use his gifts in the work of the church but knew he hadn't been called to be a Local Preacher. Churches Support Administrator seemed the perfect opportunity!

That was in 2016 and in the years that followed Chris's role grew to include a wide variety of property issues as well as finance, from buying and selling manse and churches to organising quinquennials and compiling lists of contacts for property-related professionals from plumbers to roofers to electrical specialists. Chris navigated his way through countless Property Consents processes and learned far more than any of us want to know about asbestos and PAT testing and manse soffits inhabited by nesting birds!

Chris has also helped with sending out agendas for the Circuit Property meetings and taking minutes for that group and the Circuit Leadership Team. We are very grateful that he has agreed to continue to provide local churches with support for those financial queries, which he will do as a volunteer for five hours a week. If you've got such a query, or a new Treasurer who needs to be 'shown the ropes', Chris is the one to contact!

**Bonni-Belle**



### **Lynn Rainer**

Lynn has been working in the circuit since before North Kent became a circuit! She started many years before in the Kent Thameside circuit when Rev Tim Croomes needed some clerical help and she's continued with her quiet, behind-the-scenes efficiency ever since. When North Kent became a circuit, she became the Circuit Meeting secretary, a position that only she has held in the circuit. In that position, she has faithfully sent out agendas and papers and kept the minutes for dozens of circuit meetings. She's also the one who does the behind-the-scenes preparations for the quarterly Circuit Plan, patiently requesting availability forms from local preachers, ministers, and churches alike - and then chasing down all those who forgot to send their forms in on time! Lynn has had the unenviable task of double-checking all the Plan entries and getting the entire document on to the circuit website - and then assisting with the inevitable changes that have

to be made when preachers find themselves unavailable. It is a thankless task!

Lynn also took on the assignment of organising our circuit Archives, going through innumerable boxes of church and circuit documents that had accumulated over the years; sorting, 'weeding' what was or wasn't needed; shredding the papers that shouldn't (or couldn't - because of GDPR) be kept; filing what should be kept within the circuit; and arranging for the deposit of other documents that the law requires be kept in the public archives. It has been a long and tedious and often dusty task, but Lynn has persevered - especially during the long months of the pandemic when much other work stopped - and our circuit archives are currently in very good shape! Each year, Lynn and I spend at least one day each year manually checking through all the documents in the circuit safe; these are now all listed on a spreadsheet with scanned copies also available.

At other times, Lynn worked with Angel to address email and phone queries; she oversaw the circuit Mission Fund contributions to the connexion; she produced a Worship Directory every year so that visiting preachers would know what to expect when they led worship at one of our circuit churches and she kept herself up-to-date on circuit, district and connexional matters.

Lynn will continue to be a valuable asset at the Hextable Methodist Church where she and her family have worshipped for many years. She will also stay heavily involved with the Boys Brigade and the Sunday School at Hextable. I imagine Hextable will also find a few more roles for her now that her circuit responsibilities are lessened.

Overall, we want to thank Lynn for her patience and faithful forbearance in working out a myriad of behind-the-scenes details that have made circuit life easier for us all.

**Bonni-Belle**



**James Walker**

I am really excited to be taking on the new role of Operations Manager for the North Kent Methodist Circuit and building the work around the circuit's needs. I have been working in the voluntary sector for over 20 years, following an early career in central and local government positions. I hope to use some of the skills from my job history in this position.

I am hoping to learn a lot about the circuit and everything that you do to support your local communities and I am really keen to look eventually at how my role might develop even more community engagement and thus attract funding.

I have a great supportive family, living with my wife and two daughters (19 and 20 years old). I love spending my spare time with them and visiting new places and shows all of the time. I like to stay fit and healthy, attending the gym regularly despite my limited mobility following a car accident several years ago. I also do a lot of mindful activities to help my wellbeing.

I have been a qualified Mental Health First Aid instructor for almost 10 years and I love providing this training to help people better understand mental health issues and look after not only themselves but also those around them. I am hoping to continue to provide these training sessions going forward for anyone in the circuit that might be interested in learning new skills.

I am looking forward to meeting as many people as possible over the first few months of taking up this role.

**James Walker**



### **Nyx Roux**

When this opportunity arose, I was excited to have the opportunity to learn and develop new skills in an area in which I have only a little experience. I have been involved with some property renovation and repair projects with my parents, involving a mix of some of the hard labour like stripping old bathrooms along with the more precise work of painting and input into the design and layout. I look forward to developing myself and my skills as I grow into the management and administration work because I want to further my knowledge and understanding of managing property. I also recognise it as an opportunity to give something back to the church.

I am learning to play the Bass Guitar as a hobby and to gain appreciation of the difficulties behind creating an album. I feel I have made a lot of

progress with the different techniques used and the musical theory behind playing Bass!

I have always had an interest in music and understanding the production of a song and the underlying meanings of songs and albums. So often in contemporary music, as in church music, the lyrics carry and teach meaning and values. For example, it's interesting to discover an artist and find out how their experiences in the lead up to an album they have released is reflected in the album. I particularly enjoy genres of music and artists that carry a meaning, or share an idea and value that I share. A few of my favourite artists are Frank Ocean, Kendrick Lamar and Little Simz because their music has a deeper, hidden meaning which can be interpreted in multiple ways which lead to enjoyable and intriguing conversations with my friends.

I enjoy meeting new people and getting to know them and I really enjoy working in a team. I am enthusiastic and energetic and look forward to working with the circuit to ensure the smooth running and best use of its buildings.

### **Nyx Roux**



### **Stephanie Roux**

I am looking forward to working with you in the North Kent Circuit as one of the Circuit property team. I have been a Methodist for many years and have always been involved in the life of the church. I have worked in a number of church roles and, as you may remember, I was the District Property Secretary in the South East a few years ago. In that time, I also volunteered for the Circuit property secretary role in the Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit for a couple of years. Since then, I have been the DPS for Cumbria District and Lancashire District. I have learnt much about property and mission over the years and about our Methodist structures and the support they can provide. I hope to help the North Kent Circuit in any way I can and I look forward to all that I will learn from you.

Our properties are a sizeable asset and a pledge and trust from past generations, but they can also be burdensome and expensive. This leaves the Circuit, as the primary centre for Mission, with a huge task of making sure our properties are fit for purpose, a safe and welcoming space where Methodists can minister to their communities. We need to ensure that they become (or continue to be) a great resource. The key to looking after our property lies in the phrase 'a stitch in time saves nine'. Regular inspections and maintenance will help us to reduce the feeling of 'overwhelm' when it comes to our buildings. The Circuit has many properties entrusted to it for care, but it can also provide the guidance that managing trustees need to keep their churches fit for purpose. Working together, we can achieve much more through support and shared ideas. I look forward to working with you, in this shared role with Nyx, to find the best solutions for your church and for the Circuit property, to having a common plan and goal for our property as a tool for mission.

I'm married to Adrian and have three children. I have a love for gardening, especially the thrill of growing plants

from seed. It is always amazing to see little green leaves emerging from the soil. The potential contained in a tiny seed is truly awesome. I also have a love for animals and especially my dog, Rusty. He just loves me and reminds me that love should be given freely. I love nature too; my awareness of the interaction within reminds me that we are all connected and that we as human beings yearn for connection.

There is so much unseen potential, love is free to share abundantly, and we are all connected!

**Stephanie Roux**

### **From the Nominations Committee**

The Circuit Nominations Committee has been working hard over recent weeks to find the right persons to fill circuit roles from September 2024. We are happy to report that several persons have agreed to take on new positions, but there are still two roles that need to be filled:

The Circuit Archivist will work closely with the Superintendent and the new Operations Manager - and individual churches - to make sure important documents are stored appropriately and unneeded documents are disposed of properly. If you have an interest in history and/or sorting through documents, this might be how God is calling on your talents!

The Grapevine copy editor works closely with the Superintendent and the layout editor each quarter to put together the circuit magazine. (What you have in your hands doesn't appear by magic!). A good eye for grammar and punctuation is essential. Interest in the overall circuit and its mission is helpful.

To get more information or volunteer for either of these positions, contact [bonni-belle.pickard@methodist.org.uk](mailto:bonni-belle.pickard@methodist.org.uk)."

# North Kent Circuit

## Preaching Plan June – August 2024

		JUNE					JULY				AUGUST				
		2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	
<b>BEARSTED</b>	10.30	READ	LA	PICKARD	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	US @New'ton	LA	READ	WEST	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	OATES	LA	G HARRIS	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	
<b>BURHAM</b>	10.30	Oates 4pm	LA	OATES <i>hc</i>	LA	NEWELL	LA	WATTON	OATES <i>hc</i>	M HARRIS	LA	WILDING	TROTT	ROBB	
<b>CHINESE</b>	13.30	PICKARD <i>hc</i>	SIU	LA	PICKARD/ SIU	LA	SIU	HINCHLIFFE	SIU	SIU	P LAU	K YU <i>hc</i>	D LAI	SANG	
<b>DENE HOLM</b>	11.00	LA	BURCH	LA	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	LA	PATERSON	LA	LA	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	AT GRAVESEND	AT BRENT	AT SWANSCOMBE	TERRETT	
<b>ECCLES</b>	10.30	OATES <i>hc</i>	LA	NEWELL	WILDING	LA	OATES <i>hc</i>	LA	LA	LA	WEST <i>hc</i>	LA	LA	LA	
<b>THIRD AVENUE</b>	10.30	WATTON	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	SELMES <i>aa</i>	KICHENSIDE <i>ca</i>	SELMES	HINCHLIFFE	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	WATTON	M HARRIS	WILLING	SELMES <i>hc</i>	
<b>GRAVESEND</b>	11.00	TERRETT <i>acm</i>	WILDING <i>ca</i>	S SMITH	GRAY	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	DOWNES <i>Baptism</i>	LA	ROWE	BURCH	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	AT BRENT	AT SWANSCOMBE	AT DENE HOLM	
<b>HARTLIP</b>	18.30	PATERSON	PICKARD <i>ca</i>	GERMAN	LA	SELMES <i>hc/us</i>	GERMAN	M HARRIS	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	LA	GERMAN	LA	SELMES <i>hc</i>	
<b>HEXTABLE</b>	10.30	IMBO	LE B-SCOTT	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	LA	HARFLEET	LA	LE B-SCOTT	LA	S SMITH	GRAY	BURCH	DOWNES	LA	
<b>HOPE STREET</b>	10.30	LA	LA	LA <i>hc</i>	LA	B FIDDER	LA	LA	PICKARD	J THOMPSON	LA	LA	LA <i>hc</i>	LA	
<b>KINGSWOOD</b>	11.00	LA	G HARRIS	LA	ANG	ANG	LA	MYLES	BAPTIST	ANG	–	–	BAPTIST	ANG	
<b>LARKFIELD</b>	10.00	<i>bf</i> SHEPHERD	LA	LA <i>aa</i>	TOLHURST	OATES <i>us hc</i>	<i>bf</i> WEST	OATES	LA <i>aa</i>	PICKARD <i>aa hc</i>	WILDING <i>aa</i>	LA <i>aa</i>	OATES <i>aa</i>	NEWELL <i>aa</i>	
	Café	–	WILDING	–	–	–	–	WILDING	–	–	–	–	–	–	
<b>NEWINGTON</b>	9.30	LA	M SMITH	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	CAN- TAMAKLOE	ZACHAR <i>us</i>	ADOFO	LA	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	M SMITH	LA	CAN- TAMAKLOE	ADOFO	M SMITH	
<b>ST. LUKE'S</b>	10.30	SELMES <i>hc</i>	FUNNELL <i>ca</i>	LA	M HARRIS	WATTON	SIU	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	TROTT	SELMES <i>hc</i>	TOLHURST	WEST	LA	
<b>HOLY TRINITY</b>	10.00	@SW SIU	@SA Angl <i>hc</i>	@SD Meth	@SW Angl <i>hc</i>	@SA SELMES	@SD Angl <i>hc</i>	@SW PICKARD	@SA Angl <i>hc</i>	@SD Meth	@SW Angl <i>hc</i>	@SA Meth	@SD Angl <i>hc</i>	@SW Meth	
<b>SITTINGBOURNE</b>	10.30	KASONGO	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	KASONGO	US @New'ton	ZACHAR	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	KASONGO	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	LA	KASONGO	
<b>SPITAL STREET</b>	10.30	HARFLEET	GRAY	LA	ROWE	S SMITH	HARFLEET	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	LE B-SCOTT	LA PICKARD	DOWNES	LA	GRAY	LA	
<b>STOKE</b>	18.30	–	ROBB	–	–	–	–	ROBB	–	–	–	ROBB	–	–	
<b>PENINSULA STROOD</b>	10.30	TROTT	M HARRIS <i>aa</i>	SELMES <i>hc</i>	ROBB	LA	TROTT	SUI <i>aa</i>	LA	SELMES <i>hc</i>	ADOFO	–	LA	LA	
<b>SWANSCOMBE</b>	10.45	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	LA	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	LA	DOWNES	BURCH	LA	HARFLEET	LA	AT GRAVESEND	AT BRENT	TERRETT	AT DENE HOLM	
<b>TONBRIDGE RD</b>	10.30	LA	OATES <i>hc</i>	SHEPHERD	LA	G HARRIS	SHEPHERD	WILDING	NEWELL	OATES <i>hc</i>	G HARRIS	SMITH <i>aa</i>	LA	WEST <i>hc</i>	
<b>THE BRENT</b>	10.30	LA	TERRETT <i>acm</i>	HARFLEET	LA	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	GRAY	LA	DOWNES	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	AT GRAVESEND	TERRETT	AT SWANSCOME	AT DENE HOLM	
<b>UNION STREET</b>	10.30	AT ONLINE	AT URC	AT BEARSTED	AT ONLINE	AT T. ROAD	AT ONLINE	AT LARKFIELD	AT ONLINE	AT T. ROAD	AT ONLINE	AT BURHAM	AT ONLINE	AT BEARSTED	
<b>ONLINE SERVICES</b>	10.30	PICKARD	LE B-SCOTT	SIU	THIRD AVE/ SELMES	TBA	PICKARD	LE B-SCOTT	PICKARD	THIRD AVE/ SELMES	(PICKARD)	TBA	PICKARD	THIRD AVE/ SELMES	

*aa* All-age / *acm* Annual Church Meeting / *bf* Breakfast / *Ca* Church Anniversary  
*hc* Holy Communion / *us* United Service

**For the Autumn 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 June 2024. If you can, please attach a suitable high quality image, but do not embed it in a document.