



North Kent Methodist Circuit

grapevine

CIRCUIT NEWS AND PREACHING PLAN



inside...

GOODBYES;
TO KAREN, OSCAR & STEPHANIE
HELLO TO ROCKY

Issue Thirty Five
Autumn 2025

Hello & Good

North Kent's status as a large Methodist circuit means we frequently find ourselves saying good-bye to ministers and lay employees and welcoming in new ones! 2025 is no exception.

During the summer months, we said farewell to Karen Willing, Oscar Siu, and Stephanie Roux. Karen has served the children, youth, and families within the circuit in various capacities since before the North Kent Circuit was formed, most recently with Third Avenue Methodist

Church in Gillingham. Oscar Siu has been the Lay Pastor for our Chinese congregation for the past three years, and Stephanie Roux has been the Circuit Property Officer for one year. We are grateful for the time and talents, energy and expertise each of these has shared with us. Tributes to each are included in this issue of Grapevine.

This edition also welcomes in Rocky Chan and his family, the newest addition to our ministerial staff. Rocky joins us as a Probationer

minister, fresh out of his ministerial training at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. Rocky will be the minister for our Chinese congregation and Spital Street. He was previously a Lay Pastor in a Methodist Circuit near Manchester and comes with very favourable recommendations from those with whom he's ministered in the past. Welcome, Rocky!

And finally, a bit of fun! This edition of Grapevine contains two Word Search puzzles. One includes the names of Presbyters who've served

NKMC PRESBYTERS

F X B I C F E C W X I G C S I N I R V O O Z J J P D S Z J E V D Z K K W V E K N Z C C M C
D G E Z B O S E A L E Z S G I Z O O H M D B U O I C E U H J R V O P G I G U O J Y A R Z V
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V F B X H I X W P Y Y F Z P M R F A O C C M K P O K L O U S S S A L E X I E H E I I N K
F B P A C Z O A O H E F W H I G W F O V K E A E M B V L P H S X W Y A S I V I B O K U G O
X C X H O D X Z B W I E S Y P L F O S P O R H Y C H O R L O K D F H S Y C S P C J M U H V
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G W O I O P Y L I V O F L J J L O B Z V G R W G R E H E C O M B I U E Y P M A H A A M H I
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A A U O S E O B B A E D F S I H E W S C V I F X K I N N B A I M I H U S X A H X W E S E I
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R F R G J S E R S H O O J H I L A V E U B C P S T B L L N Z A S A B V A L E M N C F W W Y
G B R J I O K Y O H E B U F O O I E R O B I N S E L M E S I W B Y C Z A I S I H M X A E J
M K K K N O U V A R A M E L V Y N C O O K E M C L E H M O S F B U B X X O O M Z M C C R
Y C S J N D V B X C Y L R R O S E M A R Y P R I I C H A H D E V K Y S Z A E I N Y A C B U
E M W E S M M Z K Y F H Z I I O C I U G B N C P I F P S E K E N I S O C V A D O E M E S I
J W N N A A J W E A A S E U V Z H W H B M N S K V G W O Z K C G M O Y X A C C W I L S I K
O E K Y X D F V E X D E F L G W A V C Y W N D H V M B N A E G W I X H B M M C U W E A E Z
F G O I L U A Z V M C E Y B M S N C S K E I O O X D I R H S A K L B N L K K V S S M N C X D
Y J O I I I V O K O I J O F I Y M C H Z V A E A Y H D Y L I L L X O O A E K I I F E W M E
Y M M F Y I Z R O F A E B I C M E C Z A Y M B J L L P M Y V J E R O L A A V G V W Y O L C
Y W M C X U B J V Z P V O L Y E R J O U K F E J F C O C U R H M E I N J X U W Y N N U X N
P M E F I Y Y S C C A I M C I H E M E Y C I O V O M J I C S Z M J X F J A A E I Y H I R
B Y Z Z K J L I I U I I K L Y E M J S C A D E Y O A S M C G M O C Y A K E I B J O I W O
S B C H O C X A B Z K Z J S B R M A C I S W R E E B L J C R Y I I E J P N M P H N E N X O
H I I Y T I F U V V P K K B N D I K I M I E K K C I N H A I F A V I K K K M I I P Y Y

ALANTHORPE / ALEXTER-
RETT / BONNIBELLEPICKARD
/ CLIFFORDNEWMAN /
DAVIDKITCHENSIDE /
ELAINECRANMER /
GARYWATT /
GILLIANBOUTILLIERS
SCOTT / KANYU /
LYNNELEMASONRY
/ MELVYNCOOKE /
NAOMIOATES /
NOREENDALEYLEE /
PAULLAU / ROBERTZACHAR /
ROBINS ELMES /
ROSEMARYPRITCHARD /
TONYGRAFF /
VELMACAMPBELL /
WILLGRADY

byes

in our circuit since 2011 and the other the names of Deacons and Lay Employees who've been with us. Enjoy! (Extra points if you identify the few names that couldn't fit in the grids!)

Bonni-Belle

As North Kent Methodist Circuit begins its fourteenth year, I've gone through some back files and tried to compile a list of those who have been with us. How many have you known?

Presbyteral Ministers since 2011
(those in italics have moved on)

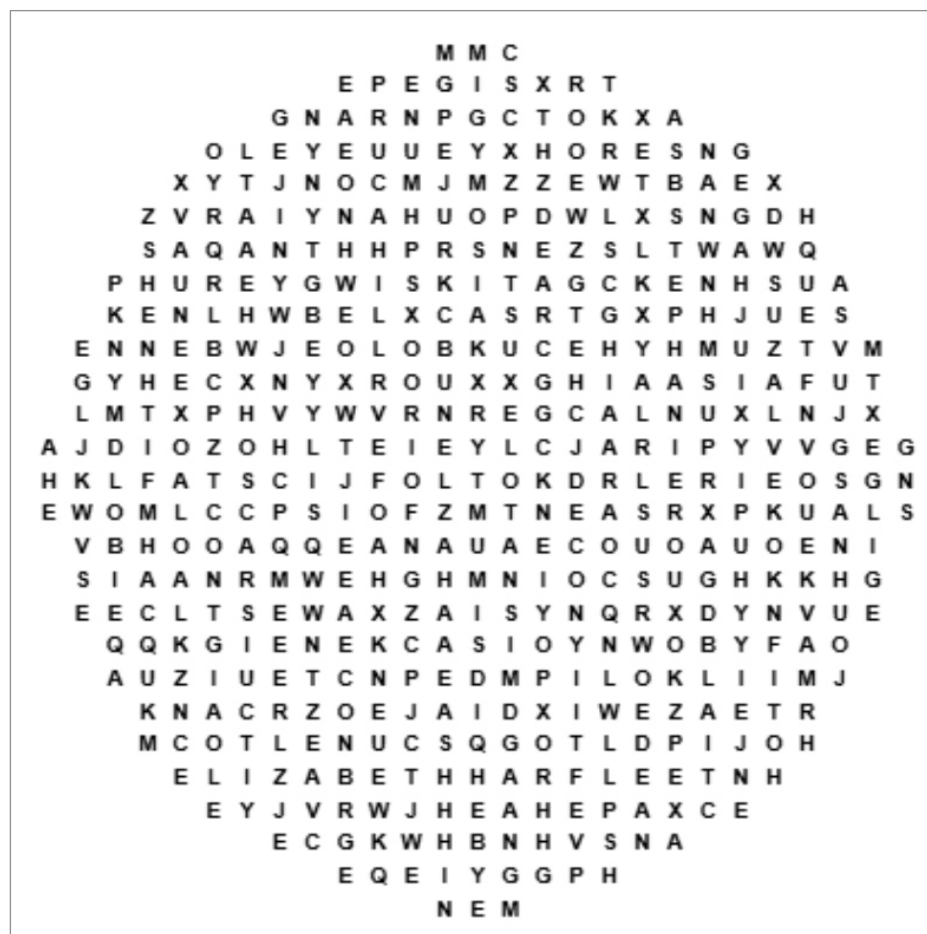
Clifford Newman (Co-superintendent)
Gary Watt (Co-superintendent)
Tony Graff (Co-superintendent)
Alan Thorpe
Melvyn Cooke
Tim Croomes
Will Grady
John Yap (Chinese)
Elaine Cranmer (Anglican)
Lynne le Masonry (URC)
David Kichenside (Anglican)
Velma Campbell

Ken George (Prison Chaplain)
Noreen Daley-Lee
Bonni-Belle Pickard (Superintendent)
Kan Yu
Robin Selmes
Lynda Cooke (Hospital Chaplain)
Paul Lau (Anglican)
Robert Zachar
Naomi Oates
Gill le Boutillier-Scott
Rosemary Pritchard

Deacons

Pru Cahill
Jane Paine
Elizabeth Harfleet

NKMC DEACONS AND LAY EMPLOYEES



Lay Workers

Angel O'Nyon
Lynn Rainer
Jonathan Pike
Ruth Pike
Karen Willing
Bart Woodhouse
Ray Borrett
Simon Curry
Aaron Xie
Jessica Liu
Vicki Clarke
Helen Young
Florence Cheng
Yi-Ling Shen
Chris Chare
Peggy Au Yeung
Inti Yip
Linda Zhang
Michelle Huang
Amanda Lam
Ting Wang
Yan Liang
Stephanie Roux
Nyx Roux
Oscar Siu

AMANDALAM / ANGELONYON / BARTWOODHOUSE / CHRISCHARE /
ELIZABETHHARFLEET / FLORENCECHENG / HELENYOUNG / JANEPAINE / JESSICALIU /
JONATHANPIKE / LYNNRAINER / MICHELLEHUANG / NYXROUX / OSCARSIU /
PEGGYAUYEUNG / PRUCAHILL / RAYBORRETT / SIMONCURRY / STEPHANIEROUX /
VICKICLARKE

Farewell and Blessings to Oscar Siu

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" **Matthew 25:23 (NIV)**

As we bid farewell to Oscar, we do so with deep gratitude, admiration, and blessings. It's hard to believe that nearly three years have passed since Oscar joined us as the Lay Pastor at Medway Chinese Methodist Church, Gillingham. From the very beginning, Oscar has not just served, he has lived ministry with his whole heart, weaving himself into the very fabric of our church family during some of its most challenging times.

Serving a congregation rich in cultural and spiritual diversity, Oscar embraced every opportunity to lead, encourage, and walk alongside God's people. Whether it was Sunday worship, funerals, Baptisms, Holy Communions, Bible studies, Alpha Courses, youth groups, fundraising events, or community outings, Oscar approached each task with humility and passion. He led not only the Chinese congregation but also engaged with English-speaking congregations throughout the Circuit.



Medway Chinese Methodist Church presented Oscar with his own 'Oscar' for 'Best Preacher' at a recent church farewell service!

a true reflection of his calling to build bridges across cultures and generations.

With a heart set on God's mission, Oscar's second and third years in the North Kent Circuit saw him take on wider roles, including work with

the British Methodist Church Mission Committee, where he advocated for cross-cultural ministry, inclusion, and justice, especially through initiatives such as NPNP (New Places for New People). His voice and vision have also enriched Connexional projects like *Soul Food*, *Bible Month*, and *Sticky Theology*, inspiring many across the Methodist Church in Britain.

Through it all, Oscar's deep joy was evident whenever someone turned to Christ: "Praise the Lord!" was his constant refrain. He served with joy, integrity, and an unshakable belief in the transforming power of the Gospel.

And while Oscar poured himself into ministry, his beloved wife Tara was also completing her doctorate in Theology; a testimony to their shared commitment to God's calling.

We are delighted to celebrate Oscar's next step in ministry as he has been accepted to begin ordination training at Queen's College in September 2025. Although it saddens us to see



Testimonies:
見證分享

Oscar Siu



him leave our Circuit and the Chinese congregation, we rejoice in knowing that God is leading him into even greater service.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." **Luke 10:2 (NIV)**

Oscar, your time with us has been a blessing beyond words. Your faith, energy, and compassionate leadership have left an indelible mark. As you continue your journey, may the Lord bless you and Tara abundantly. May He go before you, equip you, and surround you with His grace every step of the way.

You will be deeply missed, but forever part of this church family.

With love, prayers, and thanksgiving – go in the strength of the Lord.

God bless you always.

Henry Chung
Senior Circuit Steward



Stephanie Roux, Circuit Property Officer



Just over a year ago, the North Kent Methodist Circuit recruited a new property office role with the intention of managing the technical aspects of the properties that we have, including our manses (which with circuit manages) and assisting with the Chapels which the churches manage. We recruited Stephanie and Nyx Roux to job-share the role and develop new ways of working with the extensive Circuit Property. That included keeping up with on-going maintenance, repairs, annual and quinquennial inspections, leases, and sales, to name a few!

Due to external workloads Nyx left us last year but Stephanie has remained and provided

her extensive knowledge and support of the church and circuit property matters and procedures. She especially helped us in understanding the Methodist Connexional policies and by setting up the Basecamp cloud-based repository of all the documentation for each property.

Now Stephanie has also decided to leave as her work demands outside of the circuit are too high (she is also a District Property Officer and Property Officer of another circuit). We are grateful Stephanie for giving us her time, effort and expertise in everything that the management of Methodist property entails and wish her the best for her future.

In Stephanie's absence, the Circuit Operations Manager, James Walker, will be taking on additional hours to incorporate the property work into his current role. This transition has been assisted with advice and guidance by Stephanie. Going forward all matters of property should contact James on operations.nkmc@gmail.com but the old nkmc.property@gmail.com email will remain operational for now, so your enquiries will be answered and we hope you can bear with us during this transitional period.

Circuit Property

Thank You, Karen Willing – A Tribute to Third Avenue's Youth Pastor

Although Karen has been part of the children and youth setup for as long as many of us can remember, she officially stepped into the role of Youth Pastor in 2022. Since then, Karen has made the role her own, bringing her unique blend of energy, creativity, and faith to everything she does.

From day one, Karen has thrown herself wholeheartedly into the work. Whether it's organising and running the bi-weekly youth club, launching a youth Bible study, leading craft afternoons, or heading up the holiday club, she does it all with a sense of purpose and joy that's infectious. Her passion for helping young people grow in faith and community is obvious, and it shines through in everything she plans and leads.

In the early years, Karen worked closely with the Chinese youth pastor, exploring ways to unite the two groups through youth activities and combined services. In their first year, they led a joint Christingle service.

Karen has also worked hard behind the scenes, especially with the Sunday squads. She's brought greater consistency in teaching across the different groups, ensuring that the young people are not only engaged but also spiritually nourished. She's encouraged and equipped our volunteer leaders to take active roles, making sure that youth ministry is a team effort, grounded in shared responsibility and vision.

One of Karen's standout qualities is her boundless enthusiasm. Whether she's chatting with a toddler, organising games for teens, or helping set up chairs before a service, she brings the same level of energy and positivity.

Her warmth makes her easy to approach, and her enthusiasm and energy often fill the church with life, reminding us that faith isn't just serious, but also full of joy.



Another area where Karen has made a big impact is in leading our All-Age Worship services. These can be challenging moments to get right, balancing the needs of young children with adults and older members of the congregation but Karen seems to do it effortlessly. Her ability to connect with all ages, from toddlers to grandparents, is truly a gift.

She communicates the gospel clearly and creatively, often using visual storytelling or creative interactive moments that draw everyone in. These services have become a highlight for many in Third Avenue and reflect her deep understanding of how to make worship both meaningful and accessible.

Beyond her official duties, Karen's presence is a blessing in countless unseen ways. She takes time to listen. She prays for the young people. She celebrates their victories and stands with them in their struggles. She is not just a youth pastor, she is a mentor, a friend, a guide, and a role model of what it looks like to follow Jesus in everyday life.

We are incredibly grateful for all that Karen has done and continues to do in our church community. Her heart for young people, her creativity, her leadership, and her faith make her an invaluable part of our church family. Thank you, Karen, we have been so blessed to have you.



Rocky's story



Hello! My name is Rocky, and I'm married to my beautiful wife Gisela. We have two incredible boys, Asher and Levi, ages four and two. We've just recently moved from Birmingham Queen's Foundation to here in North Kent, and we're excited to meet new people, share stories, and discover God's blessings in our lives. So, to begin, let me introduce myself and how I have become a probationer minister!

I grew up in a Pentecostal church in the bustling metropolis of Hong Kong, where my dad helped the church's mission among the older and my mum involved in the church's children and family mission. I was inspired by the many backgrounds, stories, and life experiences of people. The more I hear, the more questions I have... "If God is all-powerful, why are there disease and suffering, and wars?" But so often, in the midst of these stirrings of curiosity and questions, I can never underestimate the company of my loved ones, as I recall my mum's soft voice, "My dearest, God has the best plan for you, so just trust in God in all circumstances".

With family encouragement, I was excited to start high school and live independently in the UK, a foreign land. There had been challenges, so I turned to prayer and the Bible

for peace and guidance. After a few years, I helped start a Christian fellowship at school with other students. It was important to be part of a Christian community that was supportive, honest, and prayerful. This was especially important to me when my loved one died from illness in early age, and I will never forget the unexpected support from others. It was a really painful moment, but it also taught me to cherish each day that God has given me.

High school results day can be a pivotal moment for many students. Although I didn't meet

the requirements for my first-choice university, they didn't immediately reject me and placed me on their waiting list. After hours of waiting, I was devastated and cried out to God, "Lord, if I get into that university, I'll work my lungs out for you!!" Within the next two minutes, the university confirmed my enrolment. Of course, God doesn't always respond to our pleas right now, but I have grown to believe that, despite our human limitations, God's grace is enough. And I remember my prayer from that day.

After graduation, I dedicated my first full year of work to God, so I joined the Chinese Methodist Churches in Durham, Newcastle, and Middlesbrough as a lay worker. The initial one-year commitment was extended to six years, followed by ministerial training recently. Life in the Methodist Church has been an exciting journey, as I've discovered more about the Church over the years from local churches, Circuits, Districts, Connexion, and beyond. I'm motivated to do what I do with the desire to carry on the spiritual torch, alongside many devout Christians, ministers and leaders, and to take part in different aspects of God's calling for us.



North Kent Circuit

Preaching Plan September – November 2025

		SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				NOVEMBER				
		7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
BEARSTED	10.30	SHEPHERD	LA	WATTON	ZACHAR <i>hc / comm</i>	LA	ZACHAR <i>hc / hf</i>	R GREY	LA	D. READ <i>hc</i>	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	PICKARD	ZACHAR <i>us</i>
CHINESE	13.30	PICKARD & HICKS <i>Welcome</i>	D CHU	CHAN/ PICKARD	S LAI	CHAN/ PICKARD <i>hc</i>	PICKARD <i>ca</i>	CHAN	CHENG PO SANG	CHAN <i>hc</i>	TSE TU	CHAN	D LAI	CHENG PO SANG
DENE HOLM	11.00	ROWE	LA	DOWNS	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	TERRETT <i>hf / ca / gd</i>	LA	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	G GRAY	LA	HUDSON- BEDDOWS <i>10.50 - rem</i>	LA	S SMITH	TERRETT <i>hc</i>
ECCLES	10.30	OATES <i>hc</i>	LA	LA	OATES <i>hf</i>	LA	WILDING	LA	PICKARD <i>hc</i>	LA	OATES <i>rem</i>	R GREY	LA	NEWELL
THIRD AVENUE	10.30	SELMES	LA	SELMES <i>hc</i>	TROTT	SELMES <i>aa / hf</i>	WATTON	SELMES <i>hc</i>	ADOFO	SELMES	LA <i>rem</i>	SELMES <i>hc</i>	ADOFO	SELMES <i>Advent</i>
GRAVESEND	11.00	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	S SMITH	TERRETT <i>hc-Explorers</i>	ROWE	DOWNS	LA <i>Homelessness</i>	LA <i>Explorers</i>	BURCH	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	ALLENDE	TERRETT	DOWNS	LA <i>Advent</i>
HARTLIP	18.30	TROTT	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA <i>hf</i>	KASONGO	GERMAN	GALLAGHER <i>Retreat Sun.</i>	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	GERMAN	SELMES <i>hc / rem</i>	GERMAN	GALLAGHER	SELMES <i>us</i>
HEXTABLE	10.30	BURCH	<i>9am bc</i> OATES <i>hc</i>	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	<i>No am</i> pm OATES <i>be</i>	LA	<i>9am bc</i> OATES <i>hc / hf</i>	LA	LA	WATTON	<i>9am bc</i> PICKARD	OATES <i>hc</i>	LA	WATTON
HOPE STREET	10.30	JOHN ELLIS	ZACHAR	LE MASONRY <i>hc</i>	LE MASONRY <i>hf</i>	J. GREGORY	LE MASONRY	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LE MASONRY	ROSE CASSELL	LE MASONRY <i>rem</i>	LE MASONRY <i>hc</i>	A. ROYAL	LE MASONRY <i>Advent</i>
KINGSWOOD	11.00	LA <i>Café</i>	MYLES	BAPTIST	ANGLICAN <i>hc</i>	LA <i>Café / hf</i>	MYLES	BAPTIST	ANGLICAN <i>hc</i>	LA <i>Café</i>	LA <i>rem</i>	LA <i>agm</i>	ANGLICAN <i>hc</i>	LA <i>us Area</i>
LARKFIELD	10.00	<i>9am bc</i> 10.30am WILDING	LA <i>aa</i>	LA <i>aa</i>	WILDING <i>aa</i>	<i>9am bc</i> 10.30am OATES <i>hf / hc</i>	LA <i>aa</i>	SKIPP <i>aa</i>	LA <i>aa</i>	<i>9am bc</i> 10.30am OATES <i>hc</i>	NEWELL <i>aa</i>	WILDING <i>aa</i>	SHEPHERD <i>aa</i>	<i>us</i> ANGLICAN <i>hc</i>
	Café 15.00		WILDING	<i>Burham Cafe</i> <i>Rawlins/Oates</i>			WILDING	<i>Burham Cafe</i> <i>Rawlins/Oates</i>			WILDING	<i>Burham Cafe</i> <i>Rawlins/Oates</i>		
NEWINGTON	9.30	M SMITH	GALLAGHER	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA	CAN- TAMAKLOE	M SMITH	LA	ZACHAR <i>us St. Mary's</i>	LA	ADOFO	M SMITH	ZACHAR <i>us St. Mary's</i>	<i>us</i> <i>@ Bearsted</i>
ST. LUKE'S	10.30	LA	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA	STUNELL	LA <i>Black History</i>	SELMES <i>hc / hf</i>	ADOFO	LA	CAN- TAMAKLOE	SELMES <i>hc / rem</i>	LA	CAN- TAMAKLOE	STUNELL
HOLY TRINITY	10.00	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Albans</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. David's</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Williams</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Albans</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. David's</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Williams</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Albans</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. David's</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Williams</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Albans</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. David's</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Williams</i> <i>hc</i>	ANGLICAN <i>@ St. Albans</i> <i>hc</i>
SITTINGBOURNE	10.30	ZACHAR <i>hc / comm</i>	CAN- TAMAKLOE	ADOFO	LA	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	LA <i>hf / ca / aa</i>	CAN- TAMAKLOE	M SMITH	ZACHAR <i>hc</i>	STUNELL	LA <i>ss</i>	TROTT	<i>us</i> <i>@ Bearsted</i>
SPITAL STREET	10.30	LA	CHAN/ PICKARD	G GRAY	CHAN/ PICKARD <i>hc</i>	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	CHAN <i>hf</i>	LA	CHAN	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	CHAN <i>hc</i>	BURCH	CHAN	LA
STOKE	18.30	-	-	-	-	-	ROBB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PENINSULA STROOD	10.30	STUNELL	ROBB	LA <i>aa / hf</i>	SELMES <i>hc</i>	ADOFO	STUNELL <i>aa</i>	ROBB	SELMES <i>hc</i>	TROTT	LA <i>rem</i>	ROBB	SELMES <i>hc</i>	LA
TONBRIDGE RD	10.30	R GREY	READ	OATES <i>Baptism / hf</i>	SHEPHERD	NEWELL	LA	OATES <i>hc</i>	LA	LA <i>4pm PICKARD</i>	SHEPHERD	SKIPP	OATES <i>hc</i>	PICKARD
THE BRENT	10.30	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	LA	LA	BURCH	TERRETT <i>hf</i>	DOWNS	TERRETT	ROWE	TERRETT <i>hc</i>	LA	HUDSON- BEDDOWS	G GRAY
UNION STREET	10.30	AT TON. ROAD	AT WEEK ST. URC	AT WEEK ST. URC	AT WEEK ST. URC	AT WEEK ST. URC	AT WEEK ST. URC	PICKARD WEEK ST. URC	AT WEEK ST. URC	4pm AT TON. ROAD	AT WEEK ST. URC	AT WEEK ST. URC	AT BEARSTED	AT WEEK ST. URC
ONLINE SERVICES	10.30	PICKARD	OATES	HEXTABLE	THIRD AVENUE	PICKARD	ZACHAR	PICKARD WEEK ST. URC	THIRD AVENUE	PICKARD	OATES	HEXTABLE	THIRD AVENUE	BURCH

aa All-age / *am* Annual Meeting / *bc* Breakfast Church / *be* Brigade Enrolment / *ca* Church Anniversay / *cc* Café Church / *comm* Commissioning / *gd* Gift Day / *hc* Holy Communion / *hf* Harvest Festival / *rem* Remembrance Sunday / *ss* Safeguarding Sunday / *us* United Service

For the Winter issue: Please send contributions as a Word document, no longer than 500 words, to bonni-belle.pickard@methodist.org.uk to arrive by 20th August 2025. If you can, please attach a suitable high quality image, but do not embed it in a document.