

Dear Friends

We are fast approaching the time of year when it seems love is in the air. Valentines day celebrating on 14th of February has become a focus for Love. Although it has been hijacked by our consumer society. Hearts, Chocolate and Flowers are bought in their thousands. Odd really when you consider it is a Christian festival celebrating a Saint – How many people actually know this?

Our language is impoverished when it comes to Love, in ancient Greek, there are a number of names for the various aspects of Love. Eros refers to romantic passionate and sexual love, whilst Philia is the affectionate love found in friendships. Storge unconditional love and family love, whilst Agape the name we are familiar with, is universal love and a love for everyone or fellowship. Ludus gives us the flirtatious playful side whilst Pragma is committed long lasting love. Philautia is the love of self and Mania is that which gives us the phrase madly in Love.

The word used approximately 5,000 years ago for love was once Leubn to describe care and desire. I think this all embracing definition speaks of what the Lord has asked of us - to Love one another, to Care for each other.

In these difficult times, we are experiencing, love and care is what so many people are craving. Life is so hard and relationships bare the brunt of the anxiety, fear and desperation felt by so many. This is a time when Care and Compassion is so needed. We at Hope street are doing our best to help with some of the rising cost of living difficulties and working together with others to meet the needs within our community. But we are not immune from the difficulties ourselves. We need to Care for and love ourselves too so we have the strength and determination to help others which is our calling.

Happy St Valentines Day
and may the rest of February bring many blessings too.

Love

Lynne

The Church in Hope Street LEP



CHURCH NOTICES

FEBRUARY 2023



Mission Statement

Our mission is to help all people understand and respond to the depth of God's love for them

Sunday 5th February

Morning Service 10:30am

Lynne le Masonry

Tuesday 7th February

Prayer & Care 9:30am-10:00am **All welcome Stephen**

Coffee Morning 10:00am-11:30am

Church
Alec Stride Hall

Sunday 12th February

Morning Service 10:30am

Lynne le Masonry

Tuesday 14th February

Prayer & Care 9:15am – 9:45am **All welcome Alice**

Coffee Morning 10:00am – 11:30am

Church
Alec Stride Hall

Sunday 19th February

Holy Communion

Morning Service 10:30am

Rev David Hinchliff

Tuesday 21st February

Prayer & Care 9:15am – 9:45am **All welcome Lynne**

Coffee Morning 10:00am – 11:30am

Church
Alec Stride Hall

Sunday 26th February

Morning Service 10:30am

Rev Robert Zachar

Tuesday 28th February

Prayer & Care 9:15am – 9:45am **All welcome Heather**

Coffee Morning 10:00am – 11:30am

Church
Alec Stride Hall

BIRTHDAYS

1st February

Sheila

25th March

Sharon

6th February

Janet

7th February

Linda E

27th February

Kathy

MESSAGES

Stephen would like to thank everyone for the lovely cards and messages sent to him on his birthday.

Brian also says thank you to everyone who sent cards and messages for his birthday

Notices for March should be available from Sunday 21st February

Please let me know if you would like something included

Dates for your Diary

Taketime is a series of relaxing guided meditations based on the stories of Jesus and the tradition of St Ignatius

Taketime Together taketime is now meeting on Fridays, 11:15am in Church
Please speak to Margaret for more information

Living with Dementia

Meetings are on 1st 3rd and any 5th Thursdays every month.

Please contact Janet for more information.

Contributions welcome for FOOD BANK & COMMUNITY BUS

Thank you for donating food items - packets, tins etc. and toiletries for the food bank and the Community Bus.

EASTER Coffee Morning

In the Alec Stride Hall

Friday 31st March 9:30am – 11:00am

RAFFLE BRIC-A-BRAC REFRESHMENTS TOYS

TOMBOLA CAKES AND MORE

ADMISSION FREE

CHURCH MEETING

The next Church Meeting will be in the Church on

Monday 17th April at 2:00pm

Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.

Joined Circuit Services

Rev Robert Zachar has introduced Joined Circuit Services with Sittingbourne, Newington and Bearsted Methodist Churches and Hope Street Sheerness LEP. These services take place once each quarter with each Church hosting in turn and providing a light lunch after the service while the other Churches join this service. As Hope Street is not solely a Methodist Church, Lynne will still be holding worship at Hope Street for those who do not wish to attend the Joined Services. Also, Hope Street and Newington will only host on alternate years.

There may be one or two people able to offer a lift