

Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church

NOTICES



Sunday
27th November 2022

First Sunday in Advent **27th November 2022**



Preacher: **Monica Wilding**
Sunday Club with **Helen / Diane**
Steward: **Christine Malins**
Welcome Stewards: **Audrey Harris / Janet Roche**
Bible Reader: **Carol Brocklebank**
Intercessions: **Brian Trice**
Organist: **Rob Wilding**
Flowers: **Wendy O'Leary**
Advent Ring: **Gwen Bartley**

Second Sunday in Advent **4th December**



9am Breakfast Church
Rev. Naomi Oates
Steward: **Valerie Thornevell**
10am Holy Communion
Rev. Naomi Oates
Steward: **Christine Malins**
Welcome Stewards: **Peter / Margaret Cox**
Bible Reader: **Jonathan Hornsby**
Intercessions: **Alan Wood**
Organist: **Rob Wilding**
Flowers: **Marion Connor**

We welcome you to our Service this Sunday. If you are a visitor, we hope to see you again.
Tea, coffee and squash will be served in the hall after the service.

Advent 1—Your gifts for Maidstone Homeless Care will be received this Sunday.

The on-line circuit service on Sunday will be led by **Rev. Bonni-Belle Pickard** at 10.30am.

The link and service sheets can be found at: <https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/invitation-to-worship-from-home.html>

Those without the Internet can now dial in from a landline or mobile and listen to the service, using these simple steps:

Step 1: Between 10.15 and 10.30, dial 020 3481 5237 from a mobile or landline - this number is charged at the standard national rate.

Step 2: When requested, enter the meeting ID (742 958 8134) followed by #

You do not need a 'participant ID' - just press #. Between 10.15 and 10.30 there will be an opportunity for those dialling in to chat; the lines will be muted at 10.30 so everyone can listen to the service. If you have a laptop, iPad or phone, you can also get into the service on these devices with just one click using the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/99987643710?pwd=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbElydz09>

Lord, we worship you with hope and joy. We ask that by your Holy Spirit you prepare us for the coming of Jesus, May the words of Scripture we hear read and the word of hope that is proclaimed fill our lives with joy and give you all the glory. We pray for Monica who has been sent by you: May she proclaim your Word and do so with grace and truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Naomi's News and Updates

Dear friends,

This Sunday, we begin our journey through Advent (four whole days before those who are eagerly awaiting opening the first door on their chocolate Advent calendar on 1 December!). This year, several of our churches will be making use of the Methodist Church's 'There is room' Advent and Christmas resources. Why not watch the short introductory video, <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/there-is-room-advent-and-christmas-2022-resources/there-is-room-christmas-film-and-video-stories/>

Warm Space

A huge 'thank you' to everyone taking part in our 'Warm Space' project, offered in partnership with Larkfield Community Church and Holy Trinity, Larkfield, which launched on Monday. We've had a handful of guests join us already, and we hope the numbers will grow as word spreads and as the weather gets colder. The atmosphere at the sessions this week has been brilliant, thanks to our large team of volunteers from the three churches and the wider community. Do pop in for a cuppa and a chat - it's already becoming apparent that people are craving a warm welcome every bit as much as a warm space this winter.

Comedy night - Saturday 26 November 8pm

On Saturday, our friends at St Luke's in Maidstone will be hosting a comedy night with Christian comedian Andy Kind, showcasing his 'A Pilgrim's Tale' tour. The show is suitable for anyone aged fourteen or over; doors open at 7.30pm, and the show begins at 8pm. You can order tickets at stlukesmaidstone.church/comedynight

Every blessing,

Naomi

Advent Giving 2022



This Sunday, 27th November, we start the first of our Advent giving to the various charities listed below, :

Advent 1 ... Maidstone Homeless Care - any of the usual Christmas (cold weather) appeal gifts would be welcome. ie Thermal Vests, Pants/Boxer Shorts, gloves, socks, toiletries or selection boxes, Christmas sweets, See attached for further suggestions. If people would like to make a financial contribution, Peter Cox will be able to pay it in when he next goes to the Day Centre.

Advent 2 ... Community Supermarket at E. Mallong Centre - Any food item that would normally be on sale in a supermarket.

Advent 3 ... Gifts of money for Water Aid - envelopes to be found on chairs in the church

Advent 4 ... Gifts of money for Heart of Kent Hospice - envelopes on chairs in the church.

Charity Christmas Cards are on sale again this year at Union Street Methodist Church.



Celebrate Christmas

with Larkfield & East Malling Methodist Church

ECO-CHRISTMAS CRAFT MORNING - Saturday 3 December 10am - 12pm

ECO-CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL - Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 December

CAROL SERVICE - Sunday 18 December 6pm

MESSY CHRISTINGLE - Wednesday 21 December 1.30pm and 3pm

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION - Christmas Eve 11.15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY SERVICE - 10am

PLUS look out for knitted lambs in the shops of Larkfield!

Contact Rev Naomi for more details

naomi.oates@methodist.org.uk / 01732 875 072

www.larkfieldmethodist.org

New Hythe Lane, Larkfield, ME20 6PN



Advent and Christmas



Advent is fast approaching. The News has been full of gloom, so it feels like a good time to bring some light and life to our church and neighbourhood with some Christmas cheer. Aware of the ever-tightening purse strings, we would like to share some ideas for a "Buy Nothing New" celebration.

Central to this is an **Eco-Friendly Christmas Tree Festival**, on **Saturday 10th December** from 11am to 4pm and **Sunday 11th December** from 1pm to 3pm. Café Church for Advent will be at 3pm on that Sunday. Setting up trees and decorations will be on the Friday evening, 9th, from 7pm, and on the Saturday morning from 9 till 11. Please let me know if you can provide or set up a Christmas Tree on behalf of your organisation or family. It would be good if you could have a verse or words from a Christmas carol or the Bible with your tree.

To prepare for this there will be an **Eco-Friendly Christmas Craft** session on the morning of **3rd December, 10am to 12 noon**. We will be asking people to bring bits of ribbon, string, pretty paper, card, fir cones, beads and buttons, anything with which we may make decorations, both for the Festival and to take home. There will be no charge for the session, but donations towards our Larkfield Warm Space will be very much appreciated.

We also hope to have a stall of new and nearly new children's toys and books both at the craft morning, and at the Christmas Tree Festival. Again, donations will be welcome towards our Larkfield Warm Space.

The Junk Nativity Scene which we had planned for outside the church will not now take place (unless someone offers to take this on), because we are busy with our Larkfield Warm Space which will open on Monday 21st November in the Sycamore Tree. Instead of a Junk Nativity, there will be a **Teddy Bears' Nativity Scene**, in a play Post Office, which we will prepare at Breakfast Church on 4th December and Little Larks on 7th December, ready for the Christmas Tree Festival (indoors). If you have any (pre-loved) teddy bears who would like to take part, please make sure they arrive in good time.

As in previous years, the Craft Group are preparing knitted Nativity characters to go in the windows of local shops and businesses, and the Travelling Nativity set will visit 4 families before Christmas.

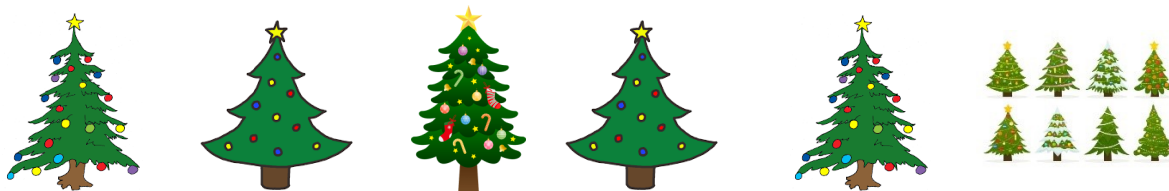
Our **Church Carol Service** is on Sunday 18th December at 6pm

Messy Church and Christingle will be on Wednesday 21st December, split into two groups again with the younger ones at 1.30pm and older ones at 3pm.

Please contact Monica with any ideas (monicawilding@outlook.com or 07702 105447).

Come, creative people come!

Monica



Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church

Eco-Christmas Tree Festival

"Buy-Nothing-New" Christmas Celebration

Come and see our unique collection of pre-loved Christmas trees with decorations out of our lofts and cupboards or made with eco-friendly materials.

Saturday 10th December from 11am to 4pm

Sunday 11th December 1pm to 3pm

Nearly-New Children's Books and Toys Stall
Refreshments

All donations will be welcomed towards our

Larkfield Warm Space

If you would like to bring a tree from yourself, your family or your group, please contact Monica .



To prepare for this, join us for our

Eco-Christmas Craft Making Morning



Saturday 3rd December 10am to 12pm
in the Church Hall
Refreshments available.
Donations to our Larkfield Warm Space.



Sycamore Tree Craft Group

Sycamore Tree Centre,

Larkfield Methodist Church

2.00 – 3.30 pm every Tuesday (term time only)

The group is open to all who love or want to knit, crochet or do other craft—as we chat and share over a cup of tea or coffee.



Contact Sylvia:

MUFFINS and MORE

Meet each Tuesday from 10am to 2pm
in the Sycamore Tree



All are welcome for a Quiet Time in the
Upper Room, followed by
Activities and Lunch

Contact: Gwen Bartley for more
information

REFRESH, REJOICE, STRETCH

through creative movement with a Christian Theme

1st and 3rd Monday after- noons

Term Time only at 1.30pm

expressions

All Abilities Welcome including those
with mobility difficulties

Contact: Sylvia Ratcliff

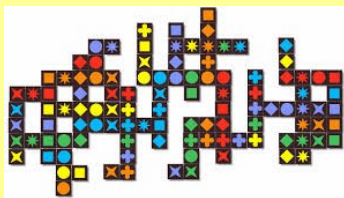
Larkfield and East Malling
Methodist Church
New Hythe Lane, Larkfield,
ME20 6NB



Chuckles Fellowship Group

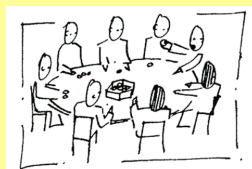
Every Thursday 2—3.30pm

in the Church Hall



Come along and enjoy a cup of tea, piece of
cake, play a board game or just chat and
relax

Contact: Christine Malins



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WARM SPACE

Don't sit and shiver at home this winter! Join us for
a warm welcome, light refreshments, free WiFi,
and space to chat, work or just 'be.'

Offered free of charge by the churches in Larkfield
@ the Sycamore Tree Centre, Larkfield & East
Malling Methodist Church (opposite Morrisons)

Mondays - Warm Space 9.30am - 9pm
Tuesdays - Knitting & Craft Group 2pm - 3.30pm
Wednesdays - Warm Space 9.30am - 9pm
Thursdays - Warm Space 9.30am - 2pm then
Chuckles (board games fellowship group) in the
church hall from 2pm - 3.30pm



See larkfieldmethodist.org



Alpha Banquets



Larkfield and East Malling
Methodist Church
New Hythe Lane, Larkfield ME20 6PN
www.larkfieldmethodist.org



**You are invited to share with us to
Explore the Meaning of Life
The Alpha course is condensed into a further 2 sessions
over a delicious meal
in a relaxed and friendly environment.**

**Thursday at 7pm
8 December**

**If you missed the previous Alpha Banquets, you are still very
welcome!**

LIFE IS WORTH EXPLORING!

For more information or to book your place, contact Monica
on 07704 105447 or monicawilding@outlook.com



Switching on of Christmas Lights - Martin Square—The Christmas lights will be switched on at 5pm on Saturday 26th November. The event will start at 3pm with a variety of stalls and a visit from Santa.

All are welcome to join in the following events:

Tuesdays between 8.30 - 10pm: Zoom Bible study <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86393041488>

Wednesdays between 7.30 - 9pm: Zoom Prayer meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/121873130>

Thursdays between 6.30 - 8.00pm: **NEW** Men's prayer group and Women's prayer group. In person at MADM Bookshop, 49 Church Street, Maidstone ME14 1DS or join on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/260631405>

Sundays between 2 - 3.30pm **NEW** Crossover Project Service.

What was on Zoom on a Thursday, can now be done in person, at MADM Bookshop, (See above,) or you can still join us by Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/260631405>

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at LARKFIELD

Sunday

Morning Worship at 10am then...

First Sunday in month **Breakfast Church at 9am**

Second Sunday **Sunday Club at 10am**

Third Sunday **All Age Worship at 10am**

Fourth Sunday **Sunday Club at 10am** plus **Messy Church**

Café Church second Sunday of the month at 3pm.

Monday

Expressions Dance 1st and 3rd Monday Afternoons at 1.30 – 3.30 in the hall until further notice.

Dance on Zoom Will continue on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday Afternoons at 2.15pm – 3.30 (except half term) Contact Sylvia for the link.

Girls' Brigade 5.00—6.30pm then 7.00—8.30pm Term time only, contact Val Burnage for details

Tuesday

Muffins & More 10.00am—2.00pm contact Gwen Bartley or see Notices for details

Sycamore Tree Craft Group

2.00 – 3.30 every Tuesday Afternoon in the Sycamore Tree Centre (Term Time Only)

Online Bible study meeting—8.30pm - 10pm Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86393041488> Meeting ID: 863 9304 1488 (no Passcode required).

Wednesday

Little Larks 1.00—3.00pm, term time only, contact Monica Wilding for details

Boys' Brigade term time only, contact Tracy Lambert for details.

Thursday

Dial-in services on the phone or internet. at 10.00am. The next one will be on **Thursday, 8th December** The Zoom numbers as follows:

Step 1: At **9.30am** dial **020 3481 5237** from a mobile or landline

Step 2: When requested, enter the Meeting ID **999 8764 3710** followed by #

Step 3: When requested, enter the Passcode 345080 followed by #

You do not need a 'Participant ID' - just press #

For those of you who have email, please note: If you have a laptop, iPad or phone, you can also get into the service on these devices with just one click using the following link: [https://zoom.us/j/99987643710?](https://zoom.us/j/99987643710?pwd=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbElYdz09)

[pwd=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbElYdz09](https://zoom.us/j/99987643710?pwd=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbElYdz09)

Meeting ID is: 999 8764 3710 and Passcode: 345080

Chuckles Fellowship Group: meet each Thursday from 2 to 3.30pm contact Christine Malins for details.

Happy Birthday to Rick Lambert on 27th November and Simeon Newell on 28th November

We ask God's blessings on:

- ♦ **Revd. Naomi Oates**, our Minister, and her family **Luke** and **Rachel**;
- ♦ **Monica Wilding** who will be leading our Worship this Sunday;
- ♦ **Revd. Bonni-Belle Pickard**, who will be leading the on-line circuit service on Sunday at 10.30pm;
- ♦ **The people of Ukraine** who have lost loved ones in the war, those caught up in the conflict and those trying to find refuge in another country; We pray for peace and reconciliation;
- ♦ The families who have lost loved ones and homes in the devastating earthquake in Java.
- ♦ Folk whose lives are filled with pain and anxiety;
- ♦ Folk in care homes, we think especially of **Delphine** at this time;
- ♦ Our friends who are housebound and unable to leave their homes, we name **Don** and **Jill**, as well as **Ian Bruce**;
- ♦ The doctors, nurses, and all those working for the NHS, carers in homes and those who visit patients at home ... and remember those who have died, and we think of their loved ones, who miss them;
- ♦ The folk living in: Bellingham Way, Betjeman Close, Blacklands, Blacklands Drive, Blake Drive, Blatchford Close and Bondfield Road;
- ♦ Our church for growth, in faith and numbers and we ask God's blessing on each and everyone of us, that we might fulfil our calling to be the people of God working for Him.

We look with hope to the fulfilment of all you have done, and offer you our thanks and praise for all your love. Amen.

Valerie will be preparing the on-line prayers next week. If you have a prayer or thank you, please contact Valerie

If you wish for a prayer in an emergency, you can email me (**Christine**)

Website

The website address is larkfieldmethodist.org

Contact Martin White

Muffins and More's reflection from Quaker Advices and Queries

Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life.

From Martin White