



Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church

Notices for Sunday 7th June 2026

We welcome you to our worship today. If you are a visitor, we hope to see you again. Refreshments will be served in the hall after Breakfast Church and before morning worship.

This Sunday 7th June at 9am
Breakfast Church with The Team

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10.30am

Local Arrangement Service

with **Laurel Townend**

Steward: **Gwen Bartley**

Welcome Stewards: Peter and Margaret
Cox

Organist: **Rob Wilding**

Flowers: **Margaret Cox**

Next Sunday 14th June at 10am

Preacher: **Ian Watton**

Steward: **Laurel Townend**

Welcome Stewards: **Valerie Thornevell /**
Alan Wood

Bible Reader: **Christine Malins**

Intercessions: **Brian Trice**

Organist: **Rob Wilding**

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Café Church at 3pm

with **Monica Wilding**

Steward: **Tricia Arnold**

Prayer for Sunday Worship

Lord, we thank you for your presence with us and we praise you for your glory that reaches the heavens. May the worship we offer bring you glory. May the songs we sing come from hearts overflowing with your love. May our prayers reach to the throne of your grace and may the commitment we make bring you joy, and ourselves peace. Amen.

The on-line circuit service this Sunday will be led by Rev. Dr. Bonni-Belle Pickard. 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>

Rev. Naomi's Weekly Message

Dear friends,

Welcome to your last weekly update for a little while!

As you'll probably have gathered (because I keep banging on about it), I'll be on sabbatical from 8 June, returning to work on 16 September. Once every seven years, Methodist ministers are granted three months off work, to rest, to recharge, and to do something that will enrich our ministry when we return. This idea is firmly grounded in biblical notions of sabbath rest, and the sabbatical year described in Leviticus 25, where every seventh year the land was to rest, debts were released, and people were given space for restoration. Sabbaticals are a healthy reminder that our worth does not depend on our productivity - and that every human being needs and deserves rest. I feel hugely fortunate to be given this amazing gift.

So, what will I be getting up to this summer? I'm looking forward to spending time with Luke, Rachel and Abi during the summer holidays, and to catching up on sleep. In September, I'll be walking St Hilda's Way, ending up at the abbey in Whitby, as I did to prepare for ministry in 2019. I'll be brushing up on my British Sign Language, and visiting the Bread of Life Christian bakery and café in Strood to learn how to make ciabatta and Danish pastries. I'll be breaking my sabbatical for one week, to be Chaplain to Larkfield's Brigade Camp on the Isle of Wight in August.

You will all be in my prayers over the summer, and I know the time will go quickly. There's more information towards the bottom of this email about whom to contact in my absence. I look forward to seeing you all in September – hopefully with Danish pastries!

Some news and updates for the coming weeks...

Exciting opportunities on Saturday 20 June

Are you interested in helping to lead worship at your local church? On Saturday 20 June, a training day is being offered at Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church for anyone who wishes to become an accredited Worship Leader. Please find the poster attached, and please have a chat to me if this is something you would be interested in.

On the same day, there will be a jumble sale at Tonbridge Road Methodist Church between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Please do spread the word, and pop in to pick up a bargain.

Welcome Ron

Those of you who attended the General Church Meeting will remember that Ron Hazelwood was appointed as our new Church Treasurer. Alan is currently handing over to Ron, and Ron will become our Treasurer from the end of this month. For those who haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting Ron, we asked him to introduce himself:

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Hello, my name is Ron, and I live in East Malling with my partner Natalie, and our two children, Poppy and Theo.

Since moving to the area, our family has become an active part of the church community. You may have already met us at Messy Church or Breakfast Church, which we regularly attend. My daughter has also been a dedicated member of the Girls' Brigade for several years. On my own faith journey, I have found joy in deepening my own faith recently. I attended the Alpha Course last year, and I am currently enjoying The Bible Course.

Professionally, I have spent nearly 20 years working for an accountancy firm in Maidstone, where I specialise in personal tax. I genuinely enjoy helping my clients manage their financial affairs and making complex tax legislation easier for them to understand. I look forward to utilising my experience, and developing new skills in the church Treasurer role.

Outside of work, the majority of my free time is spent with my family. We all share a deep love for nature and the great outdoors, and we love heading out on adventures together.

If you see us at a service or event, please do come over and say hello.

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Ron is going to be baptised, confirmed, and received as a member at the 10.30am service on Sunday 4 October. Please do come along to support him and to welcome him officially into the church family.

Messy Church - Thank you

A huge 'thank you' to all our volunteers at last week's Pentecost Messy Church. We made multilingual candles, flaming disciple cakes (not a typo) and 'wind and fire' streamers. Although we had fewer families than we sometimes do, perhaps because of the glorious sunshine, this created space for some really meaningful conversations. Thank you again to the team who set up, helped with crafts, and served snacks - we couldn't have done it without you.

Save the date

Our next General Church Meeting will be on Sunday 25 April 2027 after the morning service. These meetings are open to all and are a great opportunity to have your say in the life, mission, worship and resources of our church. Please do pop the date in your diaries.

Items from Swanscombe Methodist Church

There are a few items remaining at Swanscombe Methodist Church, and James Walker (our Circuit Operations Manager) would like to know if they would be useful to other churches in the circuit before the church is sold, which is likely to take place on 17 June. The list of items is at the bottom of this email - if any of the items would be useful, or you would like to see photos of them, please contact James on operations.nkmc@gmail.com

Light shining in the darkness - News from Cuba

At the beginning of May, the Cuban government declared that the country had essentially run out of fuel – both diesel and fuel oil. This has resulted in power blackouts of up to 20 hours a day across Cuba, with some rural areas going without electricity for as long as five days. The consequences have been devastating, deeply affecting already vulnerable healthcare and education systems, food availability, and transport. Thanks to a solidarity grant of £15,000 from the Methodist Church in Britain's World Mission Fund, the Methodist Church in Cuba will quite literally be able to bring light into the darkness. You can read more about this story <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/global-relationships/all-global-relationships-news/the-lights-shine-in-the-darkness>

Cover during sabbatical

A reminder of the arrangements for ministerial cover during my sabbatical:

- ◇ Rev Robert Zachar will provide ministerial cover for Larkfield - including Burham - and Eccles.
- ◇ Rev Bonni-Belle will provide ministerial cover for Hextable and Tonbridge Road from 8 June.

She will hand over to Rev Alex when Alex returns from medical leave. The date for this will depend on Alex's rate of recovery.

If you have a query or a worry while I am away, please contact your Pastoral Visitor/a Steward/a member of the Leadership Team in the first instance. They will be able to redirect you to a minister, if one is required.

I'm immensely grateful to all those who are taking on extra responsibilities during my absence, or who have given creative thought to resourcing the missional and worshipping life of the churches. Please be assured of my love and prayers over the next three months - but after two periods of maternity leave, I'm confident that you will be absolutely fine without me!

Every blessing,
Naomi

The Revd Naomi Oates
Eccles, Hextable, Larkfield & East Malling, and Tonbridge Road Methodist Churches
01732 875 072 / 07485 072 407
Rest day: Friday

Items from Swanscombe Methodist Church:

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 52 x Songs of fellowship in paperback2. 25 x Songs of fellowship in hardback3. 30 x Songs of fellowship in blue hardback4. 9 x Songs of fellowship large print5. 28 Hymns and Psalms in paperback6. 120 x Hymns and Psalms in hardback blue7. 3 x Hymns and Psalms in large print8. 23 x Good news Bibles9. 8 x Different type of good news bibles10. Large stacks of booklets for <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry into the church• The Sunday service• The Marriage service• The Covenant service | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tea TrolleyCommunion SetCommunion ClothsMedium BookshelfTall Bookshelf2 x Step ladders small & MediumShelf and Drawer unitPianoSafe6 folding Tables1 split folding table3 x childrens chairs30 x Red chairs (do not stack) |
|---|--|

The Bible Course



CHURCH PRAYER TEAM UPDATE

Rather than as promised that we would periodically let you know the areas of church life that we as the Church Prayer Team have been praying over, it would seem more helpful if we were to let you know some of the areas we will be planning to pray over in the coming month, so that should you wish to, you can add your own prayers.

We will be continuing to pray over the urgent need for a new leader at our Girls' Brigade Company and the consequences should there be no-one forthcoming. (That the older sections may need to cease running.)

For Rev. Naomi's ministry, her time on sabbatical which begins on the 8th June, and that during this time of Naomi's absence the church and all the activities will continue to run smoothly.

For the leaders and members of our Boys' Brigade.

Little Larks, and the possible changes being considered to make this time more Scripture based.

Our Sunday Services including Breakfast and Cafe Church.

The activities of our friends in Burham that are held each month.

For the Bible course running until 13th June, as well as any follow up activities that may, or may not, be being considered.

Church finances.

We would welcome any suggestions that you may have on any other areas of prayer that you feel The Prayer Group should be considering to pray over.

(Alan Connor, on behalf of The Church Prayer Team)

Muffins and More Summer Programme

June

- 9 Visit to Yalding Church and Taize Service
- 16 Quiz
- 23 Painting or photograph and talk about it
- 30 Visit to Cobtree Manor Park

July

- 7 Unplanned
- 14 Talk about France, eat French food
- 21 Music for Summer
- 28 Planning for August

NB It's possible that some of these activities may have to change at the last minute.

Christian Aid

We have raised £310.00 for Christian Aid so far, £163.00 from Sunday collections and £146.00 from the Muffins coffee morning. If anyone still wishes to contribute please put it into an envelope they can be found in the Church Welcome Area or the Sycamore Tree and leave for me. Thank you to all who have made a contribution and/or assisted with the coffee morning. Gwen

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Security of our premises, a gentle reminder.

In recent weeks there has been a couple of reports of doors and windows being left open while there was no one on the premises. Fortunately it does not appear that any body came onto the premises and/or caused any damage, but the opportunity to do so was there.

If you are on the premises at any time and are the last to leave please double check that internal and external doors and windows are closed and locked. It might also be worth just checking that the heating is off/turned down.

Thank you, Property & Finance Group.

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Freewill Offering Envelopes

If you would like to start using **weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes** to put your church donation / offering in, please let Valerie know. The new batch of FWO envelopes begins on the first Sunday in June. The advantage of using these envelopes is that it helps you to give regularly, and if you are away or not able to come to church that Sunday, you can bring 2 or 3 envelopes the next time you come. It is an anonymous, confidential way to donate cash or by cheque: the Steward who counts the collection money does not know your envelope number. If you are eligible to Gift Aid, there is a form you can fill in about doing this, too. Please ask Valerie or Tricia for one.

Alternatively, you might like to consider continuing to support the life of our church via a direct debit or standing order. Our church's bank account details are as follows:-

Account No. 81795709 Sort code 09-01-55 Payee Larkfield Methodist Church

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Music for a Summer Evening

The Bexley Phoenix Choir will be singing at St. James the Great Church, East Malling on Saturday 6th June from 7.30pm. This will be a varied programme of sacred and secular music including:

A Day May Come

How Lovely are Thy Dwellings

I Wish I Knew How

Vincent

Rhythm of Life.

Tickets are £10—Students £5—Under 16 Free

Available from **Richard Dove: mobile—07768 590 007**

Farewell Service for Bonni-Belle—Sunday 19 July at 4pm

We are delighted that Rev. Tony Graff has agreed to join us and to preach at this special service. We hope you can join us as we express our thanks to Bonni-Belle and wish her well for her retirement.

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Leadership Team meeting - Tuesday 29th September in the Sycamore Tree.

Pastoral Team Meeting—Tuesday 13th October at 2pm in the church

Church Council meeting—Thursday 15 October at 7.30pm at church

Recommissioning of Pastoral Visitors—Sunday 1st November at the 10.30am service

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Fundraising Quiz

On Saturday 17 October at 7.30pm, we will be hosting a fundraising quiz. It will be on Zoom and we do hope that friends who have moved away will be able to join us for an evening of fun and frivolity. Details will be circulated closer to the time—but please pop it in your diaries.

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Auction of Promises

An Auction of Promises is currently being organised and is scheduled to take place on Saturday 14 November. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to get involved and support our cause. We encourage you to be considering what promises or offers you might be willing to contribute to the auction. Your generosity, whether large or small, will make a meaningful difference and help ensure the success of the event.

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REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at LARKFIELD

Sunday

First Sunday in month **Breakfast Church** at **9am** Morning worship **10.30am**
Second Sunday **Morning Worship** at **10am** – **Café Church** at **3pm**
Third Sunday **All Age Worship** at **10am**
Fourth Sunday **Morning Worship** at **10am**

Monday

Expressions Worship in Movement - contact **Sylvia Ratcliff** for details

Welcome Hub, Come and spend a short time with us, with free refreshments, things to do and a warm welcome. 10am—4pm

Girls' Brigade 5.00—8.30pm Term time only, contact Val Burnage for details.
larkfieldgb@gmail.com

Book Club - Contact Brian Trice for details.

Tuesday

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

Sycamore Tree Craft Group – Sycamore Craft Group from 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

Wednesday

Welcome Hub . Come and spend a short time with us, with free refreshments, things to do and a warm welcome. 10am—4pm

Little Larks Toddlers' Club—Little Larks is taking a break this term. Please watch this space for changes coming in September.

Boys' Brigade 6pm - 7.15pm and 7pm - 8.15pm for aged 11+ Term time only
Contact: Liz Morgan: 1larkfieldbb@gmail.com

Thursday

Dial-in services on the phone or internet on the first Thursday of the month at 10.00am. All are welcome to join in.

Step 1: At 10am 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 # 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=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbEiYdz09> (In case you need it, the Meeting ID is: 999 8764 3710 and Passcode: 345080)

Chuckles Fellowship Group: Join us for games, refreshments or just to chat between 2 to 3.30pm. Speak to Christine Malins for more information.

Happy Birthday to Mike Winsor on 9th and Liz Morgan on 11th June

Let us bring to the God who loves us our prayers and concerns for the Church and the world.

We pray for:

- ◇ Rev. Naomi, and her family, Luke, Rachel and Abigail;
- ◇ Breakfast Church with the Team and Sunday worship being led by Laurel Townend;
- ◇ Rev. Naomi as she begins her sabbatical;
- ◇ On-line worship being led by Rev. Dr. Bonni-Belle Pickard this Sunday at 10.30am;
- ◇ The Boys' and Girls' Brigade and young people of our church, may they grow in faith and love of you;
- ◇ Our church friends recovering from illness, operations or procedures and those waiting for treatment or struggling with pain. We think especially of Valerie Thornewell at this time ;
- ◇ We pray for those who have completed their life on earth, that they may be brought to peace and everlasting joy;
- ◇ Those people in the Middle East who have endured and lost family members as a result of war;
- ◇ We remember those in positions of authority and influence in this country and in all societies, that needs may be noticed and addressed, good values upheld and all people respected. **We pray for peace;**
- ◇ Those who are struggling with poverty or loneliness, or other difficult issues;
- ◇ Those we know in care and nursing homes;
- ◇ Our friends who are housebound and unable to leave their homes and no longer join us for worship, we pray for the knowledge of your love to wrap warmly around them;
- ◇ Doctors, nurses, all who work for the NHS, carers in homes and those who visit patients at home;
- ◇ 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.

Father, we offer you our hearts with all the love you find inside and thank you for putting it there.
Amen..

Prayer Wheel - If you wish for a prayer in an emergency, you can call Christine on 07934 384 974 or email cvmalins@gmail.com

On-line Prayers - [Monica](#) will be preparing and sending out the on-line prayers next week. If you have a request for prayer, please contact her at monicawilding@outlook.com

Church Website - the website address is: larkfieldmethodist.org Contact Claire and Georgia on gigi.lh@outlook.com to include an item on the website.

Church Notices Please contact Christine at cvmalins@gmail.com if you wish to have an item included in these Notices.

Hall and Sycamore Tree Hiring—Contact Mike Winsor to book the Church Hall or Sycamore Tree. All planned church meetings or activities should be notified and booked through him to avoid the possibility of double booking. You can email Mike at lettingslmc@gmail.com or telephone him on 07971 738 685.