



## Notices for Sunday 25th January 2026

**W**e welcome you to our worship this Sunday. If you are a visitor, we hope to see you again. Refreshments will be served in the hall after the morning service.

### This Sunday at 10am

Preacher: **Monica Wilding**

Steward: **Valerie Thornewell**

Welcome Stewards: **Peter & Margaret Cox**

Bible Reader: **Christine Malins**

Intercessions: **Tony Buddin**

Organist: **Rob Wilding**

### Next Sunday 1st February

**No Breakfast Church**

**10am**

Preacher: **Rev. David Kichenside**

Steward: **Gwen Bartley**

Welcome Stewards: **Mike Winsor & Linda Jeffery**

Bible Reader: **Ian Bartley**

Intercessions: **Brian Trice**

Flowers: **Linda Jeffery**

### Prayer for our Worship on Sunday ...

Lord, as we gather here for worship, we come with all our differences: our differences of colour, ability, gender and age, our different needs of healing and hope, our different longings for forgiveness and peace, our different desires to express our thankfulness and praise. Lord, we ask that the words we use, the songs we sing and the prayers we offer may unite us all in Christ. We pray for Monica, that the power of your Holy Spirit may empower her to lead us closer to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**The on-line circuit service** will be at 10.30am and will be streaming from **Third Avenue Church**. 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

Later this week, we'll be taking the girls (as Abigail's birthday treat) to see the pantomime 'Cinderella' - as a bonus, this particular production features half the members of Hextable Methodist Church!

We are currently in the middle of the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026/). <https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2026/>

I was reminded of a powerful sermon I heard last year during an ecumenical service in Swanley in which the preacher was horrified that ecumenical work is usually the 'Cinderella item' on Church Council agendas - overlooked, left until last, and certainly not a priority. He spoke profoundly about how [Jesus' prayer](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A20-26&version=NRSVUE) <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2017%3A20-26&version=NRSVUE> was that his followers 'may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you.' In other words, we are called to have the same kind of closeness with Christians of all denominations as God the Son has with the God the Father. A nod at the end of a Church Council meeting simply will not do!

If you'd like to find out more about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, just click on the link above.

Some news and updates for the coming weeks...

### **United service - This Sunday 4pm**

This Sunday (25 January), Churches Together in Malling are holding a united service to close the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 4pm at Christ Church in Snodland. These are always very enjoyable services - we'd love to see you there.

### **FireFall - This Sunday 6pm**

I know that several of you thoroughly enjoy the FireFall services held by our friends at St Luke's in Maidstone. The first FireFall of 2026 is happening this Sunday (25 January) at 6pm with Mark Nelson, leader of Margate Church. See <https://stlukesmaidstone.churchsuite.com/events/h8jlmcdj> for more details.

### **'A love that will grow': Church weekend away coming soon**

Our long-awaited church weekend away is now just around the corner! From 30 January - 1 February, around 40 of us (including 10 children) from all areas of the church's life will come together at Ashburnham Place, near Battle. Our theme will be 'A love that will grow' (based on Philippians 1) and we're planning a wide range of activities, including nature walks, delicious meals, crafts, worship, and plenty of time to relax and recharge. We'll be exploring our theme with sessions on growing in the Holy Spirit; growing into our purpose; growing in confidence as we talk about our faith; and growing as a church. Please hold the planning team and everyone attending in your prayers, that this will be a special time of fellowship and deepening faith.

The weekend away means that there will be no Breakfast Church on Sunday 1 February. There will be a 10am service at church, led by Rev David Kichenside.

### **Job opportunity with Kent Workplace Mission**

Kent Workplace Mission is seeking to recruit a part-time Lead Chaplain in the East of Kent. The advert and job specification are attached - please do share them with anyone who might be interested.

## **Cooks needed!**

As many of you know, as a church, we love being able to offer Meal Trains (ie a week of meals delivered to your door) to those who might find this helpful - those who have just come out of hospital, for instance, or have just had a baby. We would love to have a few more volunteers to join the Meal Train team - you don't have to sign up to every Meal Train, and if cooking isn't your speciality, then you can always deliver a ready meal or order a takeaway! We have a couple of Meal Trains on the horizon (as families in the church are expecting babies in the near future, and we would love to bless them in this way). If you might be willing to join the team, please contact Claire ([claireboxall@sky.com](mailto:claireboxall@sky.com)).

## **Celebrating Cafe Church in Burham**

Our monthly Cafe Church in Burham has been running for 10 months, as a joint project between the Methodists in Burham and the Parish of Burham & Woulsdon. It has become a really special service, shaped by the reflections of those who gather over lashings of tea, coffee and homemade cake. It's growing, too - at last weekend's service, there were 27 people and 3 dogs! It's so exciting to see mission in Burham flourishing after the sad closure of the church building. We'd love to see you at the next services, at 3pm on Sunday 15 February and Sunday 15 March at the Old School Community Centre.

## **Volunteer role - District Treasurer**

The South East Methodist District is seeking a new Treasurer from April 2026 - might you be able to help? You can find all the details <https://methodistsoutheast.org.uk/latest-news>

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

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## **Next Church Council meeting - Thursday 12 February 7.30pm**

We hope to see you at the next meeting of the Church Council on Thursday 12 February at 7.30pm at the church. Anyone connected with the life of the church is welcome to attend (although only Church Council members will have a vote). As always, there will be important conversations around our worship, outreach, finance, property and Safeguarding.

Margaret would appreciate it if you would let her have any reports and items for the Agenda to reach [margaretcox100@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretcox100@hotmail.com) by 30<sup>th</sup> January at the latest, please.

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## **Mobility Bill's Trikathlon**

Bill Roberts is planning to do a sponsored ride on his 3-wheeled cycle from our church to Aylesford Priory and back. This will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, or if wet, the first fine Sunday afterwards. He will leave our church at the start of Breakfast Church and hopes to be back soon after the end of the 10.30 service. His ride will be in aid of **Maidstone Homeless Care**. If you are able to sponsor him to raise funds for this worthwhile charity, please look out for the sponsor form in the Welcome Area or around at coffee time.

## Diary Dates

### **GRAVESEND METHODIST CHURCH – QUIZ EVENING SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2026 – FAMILY QUIZ EVENING**

There will be a family quiz evening in the Wesley Hall at Gravesend Methodist Church, on Saturday 14th February starting at 6.45 p.m.

This is a church social event with proceeds going towards the work at our church, helping homeless and vulnerable people.

You are invited to enter a team, or teams, from your organisation, your place of work, your group of friends, your family, or any other group that you can think of !

It is hoped that other Churches and organisations will also be entering teams and the more teams that we have the more fun it will be.

Teams will consist of a maximum of 6 people and the charge will be £8.00 per person. The price includes a Ploughmans Platter.

Please bring your own nibbles & soft drinks – (sorry, no alcohol)

To register a team: Please register by emailing : [roberthardy33@gmail.com](mailto:roberthardy33@gmail.com)

**Will you please e-mail me as soon as possible** – we need this information to ensure there is enough food and tables and chairs for you all !

Don't worry about money – I will collect it on the night.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate to ask.

Robert Hardy [roberthardy33@gmail.com](mailto:roberthardy33@gmail.com) – 01474 357681

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***Volunteer to join the District Team as District Treasurer from April 2026.***

**Vacancy: District Treasurer – The Methodist Church – South East District**

*We are very grateful to Pauline Newton for her years of service in this role, and for her continuing in the role longer than desired due to our struggle to appoint her successor.*

*We need a successor in post when Pauline finishes her role at Synod in April 2026.*

*Dan*

**Rev Dan Balsdon | Methodist Minister (he/him)**

**Deputy District Chair | South East Methodist District: [www.methodistsoutheast.org](http://www.methodistsoutheast.org)**

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Please put **Saturday 25 April** in your new 2026 diaries now!

Stefan will perform much of Mark's gospel, which he has learnt by heart. In his one man show, called "I AM Mark", Stefan uses props and quick costume changes to bring the events in Jesus' life vibrantly alive. This will take place in Brookfield Primary School, Larkfield, in the evening (exact time tbc). Tickets will be £10. It will be an ideal opportunity to bring along a friend or family member. More details and fliers nearer the time.

Since beginning in 2016 in Speakers' Corners and on high streets, it has been presented in churches, cathedrals, theatres, schools, festivals and prisons. It has consistently proved a powerful way of opening up Scripture for both those exploring faith and Christians encountering it afresh. Do pop the date in your diaries!

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**Taize Service**

Richard Young has arranged the following dates for Taize service. All to take place in Yalding church on a Sunday at 6.30pm.

22nd February

22nd March.

Sunday

## REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at LARKFIELD

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

**Welcome Hub**, Come and spend a short time with us, with free refreshments, things to do and a warm welcome.

**Expressions Dance** - no Expressions Dance in January 2026 as Sylvia will be letting her knee heal.

**Girls' Brigade** 5.00—8.30pm Term time only, contact Val Burnage for details.  
[larkfieldgb@gmail.com](mailto: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. Resumes with a party on 6th January.

**Sycamore Tree Craft Group** – Sycamore Craft Group will recommence on 13th January 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.

**Little Larks Toddlers' Club Wednesdays** except school holidays 1.30pm—3pm. Contact Monica Wilding for details.

**Boys' Brigade** 6pm - 7.15pm and 7pm - 8.15pm for aged 11+ Term time only  
Contact: Liz Morgan: [1larkfieldbb@gmail.com](mailto: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=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbE1Ydz09>

(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 in the church hall from 8th January 2026. Speak to Christine Malins for more information.

## Drawn by God's love and constant faithfulness to us, let us pray:

We pray for:

- ◊ **Rev. Naomi**, and her family, **Luke, Rachel and Abigail**;
- ◊ **Monica Wilding** leading our worship this Sunday;
- ◊ **Third Avenue Church** leading our on-line worship;
- ◊ 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 pray for those who have completed their life on earth, that they may be brought to peace and everlasting joy;
- ◊ Those people throughout the world who have endured and lost family members as a result of war, natural disasters, earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, floods and violence, and have been scattered far from their homes and loved ones;
- ◊ Peace in the Middle East;
- ◊ 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.

**We thank you for all the joys of loving relationships, all the friendships we share, and the love we are enabled to give. 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](mailto:cvmalins@gmail.com)

Next week the on-line prayers will be brought to you by John Thornewell. If you have a request for prayer and permission for it to be included, please contact him at [J\\_thornewell@hotmail.com](mailto:J_thornewell@hotmail.com)

**Church Website** - the website address is: [larkfieldmethodist.org](http://larkfieldmethodist.org) Contact Martin White at [quantum.martin@btinternet.com](mailto:quantum.martin@btinternet.com) to include an item on the website.

**Church Notices** Please contact Christine at [cvmalins@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:lettingslmc@gmail.com) or telephone him on 07971 738 685.