

Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church

NOTICES



**Sunday
19th March 2023**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prayer for Sunday Worship—Mothering Sunday

Lord, from before we are born you surround us with your love; from before we could understand you have been our God; and even before we were ready to respond your grace has been sufficient for our need. We come on this Mothering Sunday to celebrate not only the love of parents but the privilege of belonging to your church. May our worship today reflect your fatherly goodness, your motherly compassion and the joy of knowing your Son as our brother. In the name and for the sake of Christ the Lord. Amen.

This Sunday 19th March at 10am

All Age Worship

Mothering Sunday

Preacher: **Revd. Bryan Tolhurst**

Steward: **Wendy O'Leary**

Welcome Stewards: **Peter Cox / Brian Trice**

Bible Reader: **Audrey Harris**

Intercessions: **Alan Wood**

Organist: **Rob Wilding**

Flowers: **Marion Connor**

Next Sunday 26th March at 10am

Local Preacher: **Monica Wilding**

Steward: **Gwen Bartley**

Welcome Steward: **Ian Bartley**

Bible Reader: **Ben Hornsby**

Intercessions: **Tony Buddin**

Organist: **Rob Wilding**

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.

The on-line circuit service on Sunday will be led by **Mr. Oscar Sui** 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>

Message from Revd. Rosemary

Dear friends at Larkfield

Yesterday was my first ever Synod in this District. For those of you who may be newer in the life of the Methodist church, we belong to the Southeast District which includes Surrey, Sussex and part of Hampshire as well as Kent. Ministers and representatives meet twice a year and Ministers a third time, to renew the promises we made in ordination and have fellowship together. I had great joy spotting some old friends. two I trained with (Marie Anne who came to you in 1997 is another.) I also met a couple, both ministers, who'd served in the Circuit I candidate from, and have just moved to Canterbury in retirement. Belonging to one another in Christ is precious, and often Methodism enables this very well.

In the Synod we shared experiences of how much had changed post Covid. Many people feel that when history assesses this time, it will be labelled as a key turning point. Our Chair of District preached on John 3, as many of us did 2 weeks ago. His final sentence rang very true. 'Is this the time, he asked, 'when the church needs to be born again from above?'

I was particularly struck that this resonates with similar insights coming from other Christian writers and speakers. We are in fast changing times when so much is shifting. In order to model and present the good news of Jesus, church may need to take a very different shape. Challenges to us as individual disciples and as the body of Christ may be new and perplexing. A key message from the conference I went to three weeks ago was that we need to rely, not on human wisdom and effort but on God's Holy Spirit.

Synod ended, as it always does (!) with a treasured hymn by Charles Wesley 'Captain of Israel's host' I think I saw the second verse in a new light:

'By thine unerring Spirit led
We shall not in the desert stray,
We shall not full direction need,
Nor miss our providential way.
As far from danger as from fear,
While love, almighty love is near.'

Blessings

Rosemary

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Church Council Meeting 8th February 2023

A copy of the Draft Minutes of the Church Council meeting on 8th February may be found on the Notice Board in the Welcome Area.

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Hall and Sycamore Tree Hiring

Mike Winsor is now the person you need to contact if you wish to book the Church Hall or Sycamore Tree. Also, 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 winsor.michael@gmail.com or telephone him on 07971 738 685.

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Michelle's Half Marathon!

Michelle, who keeps our Church and premises clean & tidy, will be entering the London Landmarks Half Marathon on 2nd April and will be running in support of Guide Dogs for The Blind. She would also like to use the opportunity to raise funds to help with the work for those who are homeless.

If you would like to support Michelle and donate to Homeless Care please give your donation to Margaret or Peter before the 2nd April. Thank you

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Lent Reading

Lent has begun - some may have resolved to give up something until Easter, but for some of us, taking on a new practice, perhaps in prayer, service, or reading, whether the Bible or a Christian devotional or study book, is also very meaningful. I'm going to challenge us all to read thoughtfully through Matthew's gospel between now and Easter. Reading a chapter each day 6 days a week will do it. If you want an accessible guide, Tom Wright's 'Lent for Everyone - Matthew' is a good read. The print version is available at Eden.co.uk for £8.26. As I said at Praise Before Lunch, there's a high-tech option where an electronic version is available for \$9 (£7.49). If you are interested in this, send me an email and I'll send you instructions. Rosemary

Thursday evenings at 7pm in the church, using the film series The Chosen, based on the life of Jesus

Daytime Lent Course

As well as our 7pm Lent Course, a similar daytime one takes place on Thursday afternoons at 3.45pm. in the church. It will follow the same format as the evening course: films on the Life of Christ, refreshments and discussion. All are welcome.

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National Evangelism Course—Starting Sunday 16th April

Beginning on Sunday 16th April, Bart Woodhouse will be leading a six-session course at 5.30pm for anyone interested in building their skills and confidence in evangelism. The sessions will take place at Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church. This is the perfect opportunity to build on the wonderful experience of evangelism that we had during our Known and Loved Mission last May/June, but this time with friends from across the circuit. Contact Bart with any questions, or to register your interest:

Bart.woodhouse@gmail.com / 07361 253 747

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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: 01634 245 767

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

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



All Abilities Welcome including those
with mobility difficulties

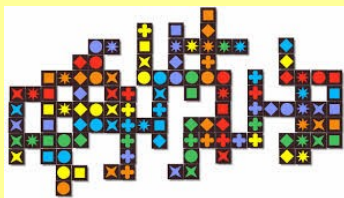
Contact: Sylvia Ratcliff 01634 245 767



Chuckles Fellowship Group

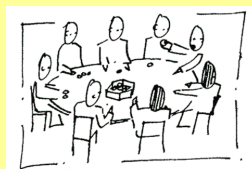
Every Thursday 2—3.30pm

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



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

Larkfield Warm Space 9.30am to 9pm in the Sycamore Tree.

Expressions Dance 1st and 3rd Monday Afternoons at 1.30 – 3.15pm (except school holidays) in the hall until further notice.

Dance on Zoom Will continue on the 2nd, 3rd and 5th Monday Afternoons at 2.15pm – 3.30 (except school holidays) Jan 9th, Feb. 27th, March 6th and 20th 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)

Warm Space guests are welcome to join this group.

Wednesday

Larkfield Warm Space 9.30am to 9pm in the Sycamore Tree

Little Larks Toddlers' Club 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, 6th April**. 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

Meeting ID is: 999 8764 3710 and Passcode: 345080

Larkfield Warm Space 9.30am to 2pm in the Sycamore Tree. Guests can join Chuckles at 2pm.

Chuckles Fellowship Group: meet each Thursday from 2 to 3.30pm contact Diane in the interim, for details.

Crossover

This was started three years ago and has continued to grow in that time. We consist of Christians of different denominations and from different countries. If you would like to join us at one of the meetings below, you would be most welcome:

Sundays - A time of worship at "Living Word" bookshop in Church Street, Maidstone at 2pm or join us by Zoom on: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/260631405>

Tuesday - Zoom Bible study. 8.30 - 10pm, looking this week at Jeremiah Chapters 21 and 22 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86393041488>

Wednesday - Zoom Prayer meeting. 7.30 - 9pm, praying for those we know. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/121873130>

If you want a prayer said for yourself, or someone you know, but can't make the meeting, please contact Alan Connor by email on alanconnor359@btinternet.com or leave a text on 01793 082190

Thursday - Men and Ladies meetings. 6.30 - 8pm at "Living Word" bookshop (see above)

Easter Sunrise Service



Easter Day—Sunday 9 April—6.00 am at the View Point, Blue Bell Hill Picnic Site (ME5 9RG) to be led by **Rev. David Kichenside**, followed by breakfast at St. Alban's Church, Upper Robin Hood Lane (ME5 9QR). See attached poster.

We ask God's blessings on:

- ♦ **Revd. Naomi Oates, Luke, Rachel** and baby **Abigail**;
- ♦ **Revd. Rosemary Pritchard** and her family;
- ♦ **Revd. Bryan Tolhurst** leading our worship on Sunday;
- ♦ **Mr. Oscar Sui** leading the on-line circuit service on Sunday at 10.30pm;
- ♦ The family of **Dave Raven** as they make arrangements for **Dave's** funeral service after Easter;
- ♦ **The people of Turkey** and **Syria** following the earthquake;
- ♦ **Those folk 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;
- ♦ People who are struggling with poverty and hunger, or finding it difficult to warm their homes;
- ♦ Our Warm Space, for the guests and volunteers. May they find a warm welcome there;
- ♦ Those we know who are in hospital or care homes, we think especially at this time for **Delphine**;
- ♦ Folk whose lives are filled with pain and anxiety;
- ♦ 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: River Way, Rocks Close, Rosemary Road, Ruskin Close, Sassoon Close, Shaftesbury Close and Sheldon Way;
- ♦ 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.

Lord, may the way we live with one another proclaim the truth of your constant love for us.

If you wish for a prayer in an emergency, you can email me (**Christine**) at cvmalins@gmail.com or telephone 07934 384 974

Website

The website address is larkfieldmethodist.org

Contact Martin White at quantum.martin@btinternet.com