



Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church

The **Methodist Church**
in Britain

Notices for Sunday 28th May 2023 Pentecost

Prayer for our Worship today

Almighty and loving God,
we gather together today
as the disciples and friends of Jesus did on the day of Pentecost.
We come remembering your ancient promise
to send your Spirit upon all people,
young and old, male and female, people from all parts of the earth.
Come, change us, and fill us with new vision and purpose,
one body, one people, in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Our Sunday Services

Today – 28th May, Pentecost

10am: Morning Worship

Worship Leader and Steward: Valerie Thornewell

Preacher: Monica Wilding

Reader: Janet Roche

Intercessions: Brian Trice

Welcome Steward: Audrey Harris

(Roger Byard is unable to be with us today)

Sunday, 5th June, Trinity Sunday

9am: Breakfast church

celebrating Pentecost

Steward: Valerie Thornewell

10am: Preacher: Monica Wilding

Steward: Gwen Bartley

Reader: Margaret Cox

Intercessions: Tony Buddin

Welcome Stewards: Janet Roche

Peter Cox

We welcome you to our Services 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 Online Service for today, 28th May at 10.30am will be led by **Rev'd Dr. Bonni-Belle Pickard**

Find the link on the North Kent Methodist Circuit website, or follow this link:

<https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/invitation-to-worshipfrom-home.html>

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

Step 1: Between 10.15 and 10.30, dial **020 3481 5237** from a mobile or landline - charged at 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=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbEYdz09>

Today at 4pm at Dene Holm Methodist church - We celebrate the accreditation of Simon Africanus Rowe as a Local Preacher.

"The Last Taboo" – this course which was to take place next Saturday will not now take place.

Gift Day – Just over **£3000** has been donated for this year's Gift Day's appeal. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed for all your generous donations.

A message from Rev. Naomi:

Time has flown by, and Abigail is now nearly four months old. She's smiling and chuckling (particularly at her sister's attempts to teach her the actions to 'wind the bobbin up'). Rachel is continuing to enjoy life as a big sister (and, the dyed-in-the-wool Methodists among you will be pleased to hear, was recently found trying to smuggle a small statue of John Wesley into soft play). Luke will begin his three months of shared parental leave at the end of June, and we're all looking forward to spending more time as a foursome. I continue to be so grateful to all of you (and particularly Rosemary) for enabling me to have this time to focus wholeheartedly on the girls, and for your cards, gifts, meals and prayers. Abi has enjoyed her visits to Burham's Country Lunch, Eccles' Good Friday craft morning, Larkfield's Warm Space celebration lunch, and TRMC's Friendship Lunch, and has certainly got the idea that Methodists like to 'do lunch'!

On Saturday 9 September, we're planning to hold a dedication service for Abigail, at either Larkfield or Tonbridge Road (depending on numbers). The service will be followed by a light lunch. We'd be delighted if any of you wanted to join us - if so, kindly let me know by email by 30 June. (Don't worry about my out-of-office reply - I'll be dipping into my inbox specifically to find emails about the dedication!)

With love and prayers,
Naomi, Luke, Rachel & Abigail

Rev. Rosemary's letter

Dear friends,

Have you noticed that this year, the great festival of Pentecost actually coincides with the Bank Holiday weekend? The Church has been using the name of the Jewish Feast of Pentecost for many years now – Pentecost, which means '50th day' because it was 50 days after Passover, was a Jewish harvest festival when the first-fruits of the corn harvest were presented (Deut. 16:9) and, later the giving of the Law by Moses was commemorated. As the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles on this day (Acts 2:1), the Church used its name to celebrate -the coming of the Spirit. When I was a child, it was called 'Whitsun' and the Bank Holiday was Whit Monday – because baptism candidates and others often wore white. Many years ago now the UK government decided to fix the Bank Holiday as the last Monday in May. At the same time they created a new and secular name, Spring Bank Holiday (because after all it wasn't necessarily at Whitsun/Pentecost.) Pentecost moves each year, because it's 50 days after Easter, and Easter moves, like Passover, with the phases of the moon.

Whenever it falls, it's a great day! Celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem to fulfil Jesus' promise to his disciples of ...

Another – Another Counsellor, Another Helper, Another Advocate, Another Comforter (where comfort has its archaic sense of 'strengthen'). The promise fulfilled in history means the promise remains open to us today – the Holy Spirit makes all the difference, makes us bold, gives us power to be witnesses to Jesus – and grows beautiful fruit in us. The ancient prayer 'Come, Holy Spirit' is one we can pray with confidence (and not just at Pentecost!)

This year I discovered a beautiful hymn – 383 in Singing the Faith:

Holy Spirit, gift bestower,
Breathe into our hearts today.

Flowing water, dove that hovers,
Holy Spirit, guide our way.
Love inspirer, joy releaser,
Spirit, take our fears away.
Reconciler, peace restorer,
Move among us while we pray.

Holy Spirit, Christ proclaimer,
Wisdom bringer, light our way.
Fire that dances, wind that whispers,
Holy Spirit, come today.
Ease disturber, comfort bearer,
Move among us while we pray.
Truth revealer, faith confirmer,
Rest within our hearts today.

So Amen! Come, Holy Spirit! Come and lead us on into all truth, that the world may know and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Rejoicing!

Rosemary

To contact our minister:- Email: Rosemary.pritchard@methodist.org.uk, Mobile: 07802 156671

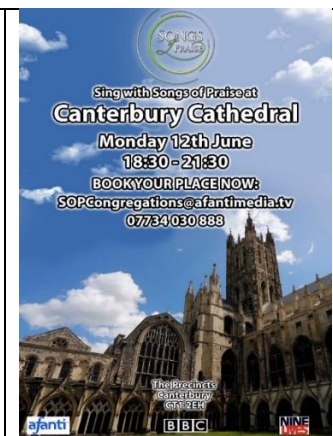
Holy Trinity Coronation Flower Festival will be held on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th June. Come along to see the beautiful flower displays with a Coronation theme, and enjoy delicious cakes with tea or coffee. The Church will be open from 10am to 6pm on Saturday 3rd June, followed at 7pm by a concert by Joe Shepherd's Community Choir and Ukelele band, and on Sunday 4th June from 11am to 4pm followed at 4 by Evensong. Please see the attached poster.

Songs of Praise is coming to Canterbury Cathedral

You are welcome to be part of the recording of hymns and songs at Canterbury Cathedral on Monday 12th June 2023 from 18:30 – 21:30. We will be singing traditional, favourite hymns conducted by the Cathedral's Director of Music David Newsholme. The congregation will be accompanied by the Cathedral's Assistant Director of Music, organist Jamie Rogers and a brass quintet.

All tickets to the recordings are free of charge. To book your place please contact SOPcongregations@afantimedia.tv with your name, contact phone number and the number of tickets you'd like. Please be sure to include 'Songs of Praise Canterbury' in your subject header.

You can also call us on 07734 030 888 to book your tickets.



Special events and services coming up

Please make a note of these dates in your diary.

Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th June: **Holy Trinity Coronation Flower Festival**

Sunday 4th June at 9am: **Breakfast Church Pentecost Celebration**

Sunday 11th June at 3pm: **Café Church**. We will enjoy a chocolatey story from Rev. Rosemary, and a visit from Betty's Buddies puppets! As well as cake! If you can bake a cake to share, please let Monica know.

Little Larks Toddler's Club – Can you help?

Monica would love to have help with this club. Please speak to her if you can help, even if only occasionally. The club runs Wednesdays 1 to 3pm in term-time.

Warm Space / Community Hub

Our **Community Hub** is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm. Do call in for a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate. There's always cakes or cookies, and soup and other snacks.

Please note: We will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 29th May.

If you would like to volunteer on a regular or occasional basis, please speak to Monica.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Trena Lee and Jacob Newell on 30th May, and Rebekah Newell on 4th June

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT LARKFIELD

Mondays

Larkfield Community Hub, 10am to 4pm in the Sycamore Tree. Come and spend a short time or all day with us, with free refreshments, things to do and a warm welcome.

Expressions Dance

Expressions Dance in person – Larkfield Methodist Hall

Please note: This will take place on 15th and the 22nd May at the church. 1.15 – 3.30 pm

Expressions Dance on Zoom will be back in June

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

Tuesdays

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 starting January 10th in the Sycamore Tree Centre (Term Time Only), Feb 21 – March 28. Warm Space guests are welcome to join this group.

Wednesdays

Larkfield Community Hub, 10am to 4pm in the Sycamore Tree. Come and spend a short time or all day with us, with free refreshments, things to do and a warm welcome.

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.

Thursdays

Thursday Dial-in services on the phone or internet, monthly at 10.00am. The next date will be 4th May.

Chuckles: Thursdays from 2 to 3.30pm. Thank you to Diane for organising this group at present.

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: 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/26063140>

Our Prayers for this week. We pray for:

- Revd Rosemary Pritchard as she works alongside us over the next few months.
- Rev. Naomi, Luke, Rachel and Baby Abigail, as they enjoy family time together.
- Those who are struggling with poverty or loneliness, or other difficult issues
- For volunteers and guests at our Community Hub, which continues the role of our Warm Space.
- 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;
- Folk whose lives are filled with pain and anxiety and despair;
- Folk in care homes, we think especially of Delphine at this time;
- Friends and all residents and staff in Lawson House, especially as they feel unsettled because of a change of ownership from Rapport Housing and Care to Town and Country Housing.
- Our friends who are housebound and unable to leave their homes;
- Doctors, nurses, all who work for the NHS, carers in homes and those who visit patients at home.
- We remember those who have died, and we think of their loved ones, who miss them;
- 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.

Thank you, loving Lord, for all your healing love, care and concern for each one of us. Amen

Hall and Sycamore Tree Hiring

Please 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 winsor.michael@gmail.com or telephone him on 07971 738 685.

Cashless donations

Many thanks to Martin, who has arranged a system for those who join us at church and wish to make a donation, but don't have cash with them. If you have a smartphone, you can now scan a QR code and donate quickly and easily online. You will find posters with the QR code around our church buildings.

Online Daily Prayers

James will be preparing the on-line prayers next week. If you have a prayer or thank you, please email him at jajlegend@googlemail.com

Prayer Wheel - If you wish for a prayer in an emergency, you can email Monica on 07704 105447 or email monicawilding@outlook.com

Church Website - the website address is larkfieldmethodist.org

Contact Martin White at quantum.martin@btinternet.com to include an item on the website.

Church Notices – I'm pleased to say that Christine will be taking over the notices once more from next week. Please contact her on email (cvmalins@gmail.com) if you wish to have a notice included.