



Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church

Notices for Sunday 12th April 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 Sunday's service.

This Sunday 12th April at 10am

Preacher: **Irene Shepherd**

Steward: **Laurel Townend**

Welcome Stewards:

Valerie Thornevell / Alan Wood

Bible Reader: **Marion Connor**

Intercessions: **Brian Trice**

Organist: **Rob Wilding**

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CAFÉ CHURCH at 3pm

With **Monica Wilding**

Steward: **Alan Wood**

Next Sunday 19th April at 10am

Preaching Series 1

Local Arrangement with Brian and Jacky Trice

Steward: **Alan Wood**

Welcome Stewards: **Christine Burchett
and John Thornevell**

Organist: **Rob Wilding**

Flowers: **Sue Lidstone**

Prayer for our Worship on Sunday...

Lord, the disciples hid behind locked doors because they were afraid. So come to us as we gather, hidden away from the world, perhaps feeling trapped in our doubts and fears, and set us free, give us new life, as we experience your living presence in our midst. We pray for Irene Shepherd: Touch her with your resurrection power that our worship might declare that you are our Lord and our God. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The on-line circuit service will be an archive service led by **Rev. Robin Selmes** 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>

Breakfast Church— Easter Sunday



Diary Dates

Crossword Event

The friends of St. James are holding a Crossword event in the church at 7.30pm on **Saturday 11th April**.

To clarify the format for the event. The first half of the evening will be a local quiz of 40-50 questions devised and presented by Richard Dove. The second half of the evening will be a brief introduction by Alan Townend of his originally devised crossword and then we will work in teams to complete it as much as possible. There will be a prize for the first team to finish.

They are aiming for ten teams comprising of six people. Teams will bring their own nibbles and drinks. Tickets £6 person.

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Come to a local talk:- Chris Stewart at the Halling Historical Society will present a talk about "Hop bine & hop pickers in Kent" on **Monday 13th April at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Hall, Browndens Road, Upper Halling, ME2 1JH**. £3.50. Just turn up. Free refreshments. The talk will cover the history, growing, harvesting and uses of hops. It presents the working and living conditions of the hop pickers, and includes hop picking disasters, anecdotes and stories.

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Cafe Church - Sunday 19 April 3pm

We'd love to see you for the next Cafe Church in Burham on Sunday 19 April at 3pm, also in the Old School Community Centre. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Jonathan, who will be joining us for informal worship, and lashings of tea and cake!

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Preaching series

We're looking forward to a new four-part preaching series at Larkfield that begins on **Sunday 19 April**, based on Stephen Matthew's book *Building Church*. We'll be taking four biblical 'pictures' of church, and using them to reflect on what God is calling us to do and to be today. The services will be led by Jacky and Brian, Monica, David Newell and myself, and we look forward to sharing this series with you.

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The Bible Course - Starting 25 April

Following on from Alpha and the church weekend away, we are thrilled to be offering The Bible Course - an eight-week course designed to help participants get to grips with the key stories, characters and themes in the Bible. The sessions will run on Saturday mornings, starting on 25 April, with the final session on 13 June. Coffee and pastries will be served from 9.30am, with the session beginning at 10am and finishing at 11am. It would help us to have an idea of numbers, so if you're hoping to join us (even if you can't manage every week), please let me know.

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I AM MARK - Saturday 25 April

Tickets are now available for I AM MARK, a dramatised performance of the Gospel of Mark by actor Stefan Smart. The performance will take place at 7pm on Saturday 25 April in Brookfield Junior School, Larkfield, and tickets are free - but please do book in advance, so we know how many people will be attending. You are warmly encouraged to invite a friend - someone who may not have heard the Gospel before. Refreshments will be available on the night, and although the tickets are free, donations to help cover the cost of the event would be appreciated. You can secure your ticket by speaking to Valerie Thornewell or emailing iemarkctim@gmail.com Please let Valerie know if you will be coming and how many there will be in your "group". Valerie has FREE tickets to give you, so that she can tell the organisers how many will be going, linked to our church.

Bring family, friends and neighbours. It will be a fascinating, uplifting evening.

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General Church Meeting and Gift Day - Sunday 26 April

A reminder that the annual General Church Meeting will take place after the service on Sunday 26 April, and will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch. We do hope that as many of you as possible can join us. Following our Alpha Course and church weekend away, part of our conversation will focus on reviewing and updating our Mission Plan.

Sunday 26 April will also be our annual Gift Day. See attachments with these Notices

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Next Leadership Team meeting - Tuesday 5 May

To all members of the Leadership Team - our next meeting will be at 7.45pm on Tuesday 5 May in the Sycamore Tree Centre. Please pop the date in your diaries.

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First Aid course - Spaces available

Hextable have organised a First Aid course on Saturday 9 May from 9am - 4pm, at a cost of £35pp. Participants are asked to bring their own lunches, but drinks will be provided. There are a few spaces still available, so if you'd like to book a place, please contact Mary on marymatthews2@virginmedia.com

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Overwhelm Tour - Wednesday 13 May

Patrick Reagan, a well-known author and Spring Harvest speaker, is bringing the 'Overwhelm Tour' to St Luke's in Maidstone on Wednesday 13 May at 7.30pm. The evening, looking at burnout, will feature live music, honest conversations about mental health, and teaching rooted in vulnerability, faith and hope. The message at the centre of the tour is 'It's OK not to be OK - and none of us should face challenges alone.' You can find more details and book a space <https://stlukesmaidstone.churchsuite.com/events/phlmkiu8>

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Larkfield Girls' Brigade Awards Evening – Monday 18th May 6pm

You are warmly invited to a very special evening celebrating the achievements of our girls and young women. This is one of our favourite events and we'd love to see our supporters in the church cheering members and volunteers on. There will be refreshments served in the hall afterwards.

Circuit picnic

On Saturday 30 May, there'll be the opportunity to gather with friends from across the North Kent Methodist Circuit for a picnic at The Friars in Aylesford. Join us between 12pm and 2pm, and BYO food and games. The Friars has some beautiful gardens, chapels, a lovely tea room, and toilets! More information will be circulated soon, and we do hope that folks from every church in the circuit will be able to come along.

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Bonni-Belle's farewell service - Sunday 19 July 4pm

The Revd Dr Bonni-Belle, our Superintendent, will be 'sitting down' (Methodist-speak for retiring) this summer. Her farewell service will take place on Sunday 19 July at 4pm at Tonbridge Road Methodist Church, and the preacher will be Rev Tony Graff. Please do put the date in your diaries, and let me know if you could help (eg by providing a cake for after the service). Please continue to hold Bonni-Belle in your prayers as she undergoes chemotherapy.

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Our next **Church Council meeting** will be on Thursday 15 October at 7.30pm at church. All are welcome.

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Fundraising Quiz

On Saturday 17 October at 7.30pm, we'll be hosting a fundraising quiz - and you don't even have to leave your home! It'll be a Zoom quiz (just like in Covid times) 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

We are pleased to announce that another fundraising Auction of Promises is currently being organised and is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 14th November. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to get involved and support our cause.

We encourage you to begin 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.



The poster features a teal background with a white cross on the left. At the top, a white banner with a red cross icon contains the text 'North Kent Methodist Circuit'. Below this, the words 'Farewell Service' are written in large, white, serif font. To the right of the cross, the text 'FOR Dr Bonni-Belle Pickard' is displayed in white, with 'PREACHER - REV TONY GRAFF' underneath. Further down, the date and location are listed: 'SUNDAY 19th JULY AT 4PM', 'TONBRIDGE ROAD METHODIST CHURCH', and 'TONBRIDGE ROAD, MAIDSTONE. ME16 8SL'. At the bottom, it says 'Donations of cake welcome on the day'.

Muffins and More Summer Programme



April

- 14th Trosley Country Park to see the bluebells. Meet in church car park at 10am
- 21st St. George's Day—Talk about George
- 28th Favourite Spring poems

May

- 5th Make Muffins
- 12th Christian Aid coffee morning
- 19th Thy Kingdom Come—prayer stations and reflection in the church
- 26th Bring along your favourite music

June

- 2nd Barbeque outside
- 9th Visit Yalding Church to be confirmed
- 16th Quiz
- 23rd Painting or photograph and talk about it
- 30th Visit to Cobtree Manor Park

July

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

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

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

Welcome Hub, Come and spend a short time with us, with free refreshments, things to do and a warm welcome. Monday April 27th 2.15 pm to 3.45 pm.

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.
No craft during Easter break. Resumes 21st April.

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

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=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbElYdz09> (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. Last Chuckles 2nd April. Resumes 16th April.
Speak to Christine Malins for more information.

Happy Birthday to Tricia Arnold on 14th and Tony Buddin on 17th April

In the knowledge that God is here present with us, let us pray:

We pray for:

- ◇ **Rev. Naomi**, and her family, **Luke, Rachel and Abigail**;
- ◇ **Irene Shepherd** leading our service on Sunday;;
- ◇ The on-line service on Sunday– an archive service led by **Rev. Robin Selmes**;
- ◇ 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 thank you for loving us right through death into new life and we rejoice in your victory over evil. 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 - Valerie Thornewell will be preparing and sending out the on-line prayers next week. If you have a request for prayer, please contact her at ValerieT_17@hotmail.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 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.