

the NEW Messenger

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020



Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow
of your wings.
PSALM 63: 7



Third Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

Sunday Preaching plan for Gillingham & Hartlip

THIRD AVENUE | MORNING | 10.30AM

HARTLIP | EVENING | 6.30PM

JANUARY 2020

05 Jan Rev Robin Selmes
Covenant Service
with Holy Communion

Rev Robin Selmes
Covenant Service
with Holy Communion

12 Jan Rev Robert Zachar

Rev Robert Zachar

19 Jan Rev Robin Selmes

Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard

26 Jan Rev Robin Selmes

Rev Robin Selmes

FEBRUARY 2020

02 Feb Rev Kan Yu

Rev Robert Zachar

09 Feb Mandy Harris

Rev Robin Selmes
with Holy Communion

16 Feb Rev Robin Selmes
GirlGuiding Thinking Day

Derek Gallagher

23 Feb Rev Robin Selmes
with Holy Communion

Rev Tony Graff

MARCH 2020

01 Mar Rev Robin Selmes

Margaret Bowerman

Welcome to the first edition of the New Messenger for 2020



Thank You!

Thank you all for reading and submitting articles in 2019; without you there would be no magazine...so keep writing!

Looking back at our magazines this last year it is so heartwarming to read of all that this church and community has achieved and a common theme throughout the year has been 'thanks'. There have been articles where thanks have been given to people for volunteering, thanks for supporting events, thanks for donating to charities, loving thanks for the lives of loved members who have died, and heartfelt thank you's for friendship, prayer and support received.

This edition is no exception as we look back at the wonderful Christmas season celebrations we have shared and we give our thanks for the fun and fellowship shared at these events. Robin's article gives thanks to folk for their time and

talents given for the life and witness of our churches and in the Girlguiding article you can read of a special thank you given to Margaret Baynes for her services to Girlguiding. This week our Brownies are writing thank you letters to give to all the people who have supported them over the last year and I'm sure countless children have written to families in thanks for presents received. A simple thank you is a wonderful way of showing love and that ultimately is what makes the world go round. So thank you again to our wonderful readers. Together this year through this magazine we can share and show God's love with our community and let everyone know the 'Good News' and learn how they can join in the amazing fellowship we are privileged to share in our little corner of the world.

Helen Garland

You can contact us anytime by email: messenger@gillinghammethodists.uk
by post: New Messenger | Third Avenue Church & Community
Gillingham | ME7 2LU or come and chat to any of the team.
Deadline to receive articles for the **MAR | APR edition will be 20 FEB 2020.**

A message from our Minister Rev Robin Selmes...

New year... A New day

First, may I say a very big 'Thank you' to everyone for the cards, letters and gifts we received as a family at Christmas, we really do appreciate your kind thoughts. Once again, it was a great joy to celebrate the Christmas season with so many of you, both in church and in the community.

I would also like to thank everyone who helped to make Christmas at Third Avenue and Hartlip so special again this year; the many people who found time to arrange flowers, rehearse music and singing, decorate, and provide refreshments.

As I look back over the last year I am also aware of how much, so many people give of their time and talents to the life and witness of both Churches. I would like to thank all of you so much for the countless ways in which you have enriched our church family and enabled both of them to reach out to the wider community in Gillingham and Hartlip. Many of the things you do are obvious, noticed and appreciated by everyone but some of you I know work quietly behind the scenes ensuring the life of our Church runs more smoothly. Thank you.

Another year over, and a new one just begun! The first of January is in so many ways "just another day" and yet it is a good time to look back over the past twelve months and reflect on how we managed to get through all the things we worried about so much, how our best laid plans did not provide immunity to the odd surprise or two and how moments of pure joy have burst in to our lives.

There will no doubt have been some sadness too as we look back and one or two regrets. But what of the future?

Well I am sure the fortune tellers on a Seaside

pier will be trying to convince people that they know exactly what will be happening in the future.

Personally, I am glad not to have a crystal ball into which I can gaze into the future because I have enough to

cope with today without looking ahead. Instead I think all we can do is take one day at a time.

So, it is important to make the most of each day, consider it as something precious - a gift. And so, the present really is a present!

One of Jesus' titles is 'Immanuel,' which means 'God with us'. When Jesus came into this world, He was truly, literally ... 'God with us'. It means you can never be alone.

God is with you all the time.

Which means in every moment we have ...

A God who cares for you.

A God who understands you.

A God who loves you.

A God who is with you.

A God who forgives you.

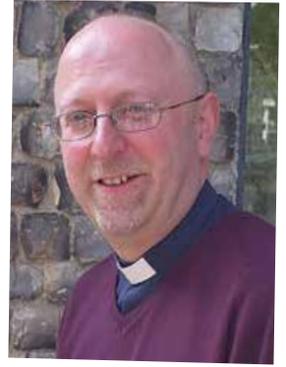
It is in this moment that the God of the present can always be found, and it is this moment that he wants to share life with you.

So listen:

*No matter what your future holds,
no matter where you are,
no matter how lonely you are,
no matter how you feel,
no matter where you are in your life,
listen: God is with you!*

*This is God's promise to us today
and for ever.*

Every Blessing



Robin

Advent & Christmas in Numbers

14 presents delivered
by the Pastoral team

24 Advent calendar windows
opened in the Junior Church
Nativity service

23 real Christmas Trees
at the Christmas Tree Festival

628 £ profit raised
at the Festival

650 children visited Third Avenue
for Nativity plays, Christingle Services and Sing-alongs

258 £ raised at the Hartlip Carols by Candlelight
Service in aid of "One Big family" ~ a charity
which helps the homeless in Medway

320 Christingles made for the Christmas
Eve and Barnsole School services

48

11 church Christmas Parties
held at Third Avenue & Hartlip

Christmas stockings
filled by Third Avenue
and Hartlip for the
Medway Hospital
Christmas appeal

318 £ raised at Third Avenue Candlelight
Carol Service in aid of "Medway Street Angels"
~ Helping those in need on the streets of Medway

30
people involved
in the prayer relay for
the General Election

15 Advent and Christmas Services
that have taken place across
Third Avenue and Hartlip

0 lobsters or octopuses in the
Junior Church Nativity service!

220 parents, grandparents, friends
and family members who supported
and watched Barnsole School
and Kiddiwinks Nativities

5
Postcards sent home
from Bethlehem at the
Hartlip Carol Service

A message from Helen, our Youth Pastor

January, the start of a new year makes me very reflective. On our first Sunday back with 2 of our Sunday groups we did an activity where we looked back to thank God for the things that had happened in 2019 and looked ahead to the things coming up in 2020 that we wanted prayer for. Thought it would be a good idea to do the same for this article.....

Looking back in thanks – 2019...

- **Youth café** and all the young people who joined over the year, it is such a joy and fun group to be involved in.
- **Youth Bible study** – the young people never fail to keep us on our toes with their thoughts and questions.
- **Sunday mornings** – the groups that we are able to run, and how that has increased over the last few years.
- **Youth Services** – always amazing, challenging and a blessing to be part of.
- **Youth group** – although our numbers have dropped with the addition of the below group, it is still a blessing.
- **18-30's group** – the start of this exciting new ministry area.
- **All the young people we work with** – such a blessing and the reason I do my job!
- **My wonderful volunteers** who give 100's of hours a year to the youth work here and who I could not do without.



- **To you...** to the whole church who loves and supports me and the youth ministry.

Looking ahead in prayer – 2020...

- To all our **regular groups**.
- Continue building our relationship with **Robert Napier School**.
- Big Church Day Out **Youth Weekend** away.
- **Youth services**.
- **Young people**.
- **My volunteers**.
- **Strength and wisdom** for myself in my role

Thank you for all your love and support with our young people and please continue to pray for them and our youth ministry.

God Bless,

God Bless ~ Helen x

Youth Bible Study
for Year 11+ 7-9pm
Every other Wednesday
Contact Helen for more information and details on venue.
Youth Pastor | Helen Young
youth@gillinghammethodists.uk | 01794 975129

3RD AVE YOUTH

3RD AVE YOUTH CAFE

Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5pm

A place to hang out, have refreshments and play games

The Green Room | Third Avenue Church & Community | Opposite TRHS
Youth Pastor | Helen Young
youth@gillinghammethodists.uk

3RD AVE YOUTH

wednesday night Youth Club

- 08 Jan Club Night
- 22 Jan Games Night
- 05 Feb Club Night
- 19 Feb Pancake Night
- 04 Mar Club Night
- 18 Mar Lego Night
- 01 Apr Club Night
- 15 Apr Club Night
- 29 Apr Fish'n'chip
Supper

The Green Room | 7-9pm
Every other wednesday

Youth Pastor | Helen Young | youth@gillinghammethodists.uk



Are you **18 to 30?**

*Then why not
join our new
group*

REVELATIONS

EVERY OTHER
WEDNESDAY
IN THE FOYER { 7-9PM

- 22 JAN FILM NIGHT
- 05 FEB QUIZ NIGHT
- 19 FEB BAKE OFF



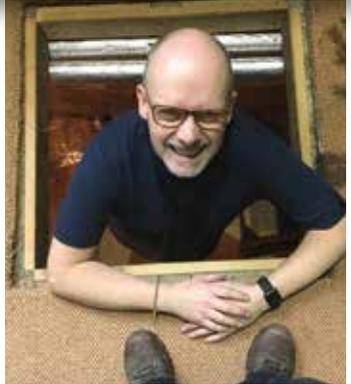
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
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youth@gillinghammethodists.uk for more info




**Third
Avenue**
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
100 THIRD AVENUE | GILLINGHAM | ME7 2LU

Christmas tree Festival





Many thanks to all those who helped set up, bake, make and support our Christmas Tree Festival at the beginning of December. With **23 real Christmas trees** decorated by all the different groups associated with the life of Third Avenue, it was no small feat to organise and set up, but through the generosity of those who donated and the proceeds from the festival itself, we not only covered the cost of the trees but made a profit of **£628** ~ thank you! And what a fantastic backdrop the trees became for all our Christmas festivities ~ from the joyous Nativities for Junior Church, Barnsole School and Kiddiwinks to our gloriously atmospheric Candlelight Carol Service, all of which, together with the Tree Festival itself, **welcomed in friends old and new, from our Community.**



Hartlip

Methodist Church & Retreat Centre

As I write this we have not quite arrived at Christmas. By the time you read this we will have seen in the new year!

Carol Services have happened. Our 'Carols by Candlelight' was, as usual, well attended, numbers swollen by friends from Third Avenue and some other local churches as well as others, from the village in particular. We were again treated to a wonderful script from Heather Gallagher on a postal theme. The theme used postcards from main characters from the Christmas story to a friend,

relation or colleague about their very special experiences. Thank you to Heather and to all those who took part and brought the letters to life. Thought provoking and humorous, a beautiful experience.

Moving to the next year, 2020 is the year when Hartlip Chapel celebrates 200 years as a place of worship. Plans are well under way for the Anniversary period. The Anniversary itself is being celebrated on 14th June. There are plans to share with the village around this time and to involve the school. Special preachers have been invited throughout May, June and July. We are planning to collect together stories, photograph and other reminders of times past in Hartlip. Please speak to any of the Hartlip folk you come into contact with or Robin, who is also heavily involved in the planning, if you have things to share.

Margaret Bowerman



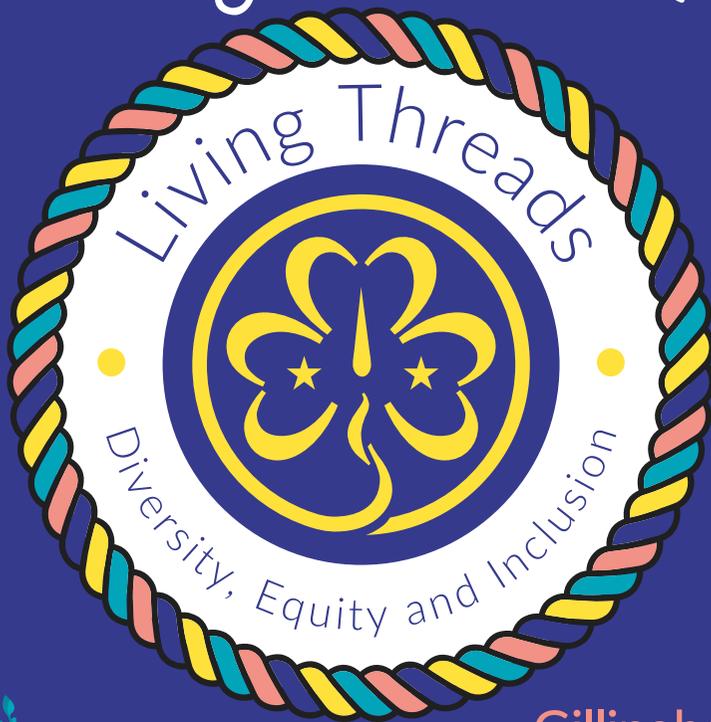
A Poem for a New Year

Years turn their page
Patiently the author
Writes fresh dreams long-hand
On the crumpled sheets of lives
Quill or fountain pen or comic sans
The story comes to light
Word writes words
Erasing life's blots and scribbles

The future pulls her skirts
Round the corner
To dance or teeter
With reckless hope
Who knows,
only a Holy Spirit sketches
Such lines, such movements, such faith!



Celebrate
World Thinking
Day 2020



with the
Gillingham East
Girlguiding District

SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY
at 10.30am



CHURCH & COMMUNITY
GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of the North Kent Circuit

Parking available in the Robert Napier
School Car Park Opposite

14th Gillingham Girlguiding



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

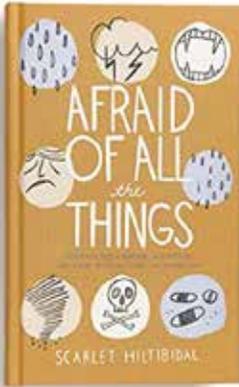
Our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units held a Christmas Fair with games, craft, stalls and refreshments. We had a good turnout of parents, families and friends, raising over £300 towards our Girlguiding census costs for this year. Our County Commissioner, Heather Clark attended our fair especially to present **Margaret Baynes** with a special Girlguiding award for her services to Girlguiding that has spanned seven decades. During that time Margaret has held many roles, proving to be an amazing ambassador for Girlguiding and an inspiration to us all.

We ended our term with a visit to the Odeon cinema to see a special Girlguiding showing of the film **Frozen 2**. The girls (and leaders) really enjoyed the film and we all now have a special Frozen badge to add to our camp blankets.

If you would like to learn more about Girlguiding please come along to our annual **World Thinking Day Service on 16th February 2020 at 10.30am.**



Book reviews... *from Premier & Parish Pump*



Afraid of All the Things: Tornadoes, Cancer, Adoption and Other Stuff You Need the Gospel For | Scarlet Hiltibidal | B&H Publishing Amazon £14.50 - Hardback

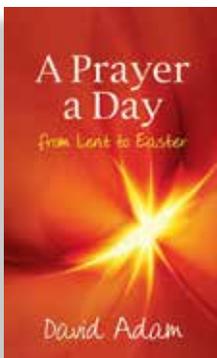
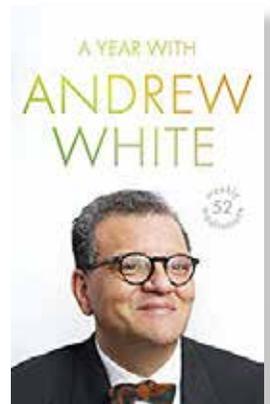
What does the gospel say about your fears? What does it say about the irrational ones, like sinkholes in the supermarket car park? How does it speak to the rational ones, like PET scan predictions? And does the gospel have a word for the fears you feel you'll have for life, like the possibility of losing the one you love most? Growing up in the green room of Saturday Night Live USA, being born to a fire-eater and adopted by a SWAT cop, having internal organs explode, and adopting a deaf girl from China, Scarlet Hiltibidal has been given some strange life experiences -- and lived in fear through most of them. But life changed for Scarlet when she learned to hold the gospel up to her fears. She realised that though she can't fix herself or protect herself, Jesus walked into this broken, sad, scary place to rescue, love, and cast out her -- and your -- fear. Seeing life in light of the cross will help you avoid fear, overcome fear when you can't avoid it, and live beyond fear when you don't overcome it. You don't have to be afraid of all the things.

A Year with Andrew White: 52 Weekly Meditations Canon Dr Andrew White | SPCK | £14.99

Having spent most of his life ministering and being a peace negotiator in the Middle East (especially Bagdad and Jerusalem) Canon White introduces his readers to some of the horrific truths of a suffering world, including kidnapping and terrorism.

With each meditation throughout the year Andrew White shares the sadness and pain that is part of the daily life in the Middle East. However, Andrew White insists that "the true solution to pain, destruction and death is love."

From 1998 to 2014 Canon White served as vicar of St George's Church in Baghdad – which, under his leadership, became one of the largest and most dynamic Anglican congregations in the Middle East.



A Prayer A Day: From Lent To Easter | David Adam & Kevin Mayhew £9.99

The six weeks of Lent are a time of preparing: a time when we seek to understand the fullness of Christ's offering on the cross and rejoice in the resurrection. Lent is a time to improve our prayer life and to make sure we spend some time each day with our God.

David Adam, author of many inspiring books on prayer and spirituality, presents here daily prayers that are a spur to help us enter into stillness with our God of love. The weekly themes are: dedication, love, guidance, the help of God, the power of God.

He gave us eyes to see them: 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by Edward Hicks

God *in* the Arts

The Rev Michael Burgess begins a series on animals and birds as seen in art and scripture...

St Francis' Cantic of the Sun invites all creatures to praise God the Creator. But we live in a world of climate change and global warming. A thousand species are at risk of extinction in the United Kingdom alone. The richness of creation St Francis knew in his day is no longer. We need to heed the urgent call to care for the biodiversity of our planet and its richness in plant and animal life. This year we shall be looking at animals and birds – their grace and strength, their beauty and wonder – as reflected in art and scripture, and so learn to value the glory of Creation all around us.

Isaiah in chapter 11 had a vision of a special child who would bring paradise to the earth once more. He spoke of a world where the wolf would lie down with the lamb, and the leopard with the kid. It is the theme of 'The Peaceable Kingdom' by the American Quaker artist, Edward Hicks. This subject occupied all his artistic talent for he painted almost a hundred versions. Sixty still exist and this one is from 1834.



The foreground is occupied by not just one child, but several. They are innocent and free, playing with the animals around – lion, tiger, leopard, bear, wolf, cow and lamb. There is no sign of 'nature red in tooth and claw' here. All is peace and tranquillity. The bear and cow nudge each other in the bottom corner with no fear. That peaceful co-existence is echoed in the distance with William Penn and other Quakers working on a treaty with the Indians. The animals in the foreground symbolise the human traits we see at work in the background: leadership and power, sensitivity and gentleness.

Edward Hicks as he worked on later versions knew that this peace was not a straightforward achievement. Selfishness, pride and greed got in the way. But the vision remained. Follow the inner light of God's grace, he is saying in his art, and that harmony can be achieved. Cherish the world around and give thanks for its rich variety and colour. Then we can follow Edward Hicks and St Francis in caring for 'all creatures great and small.'

I am no longer my own but yours

A study on the Methodist Covenant Prayer

*I am no longer my own
but yours.*

*Your will, not mine,
be done in all things,*

*Where ever you may place me,
In all that I do and in all that
I may insure;*

*When there is work for me
and when there is none;*

*When I am troubled
and when I am at peace.*

*Your will be done when
I am valued and when
I am disregarded;*

*When I find fulfilment
and when it is lacking;*

*When I have all things,
and when I have nothing.*

*I willingly offer all I have
and am to serve you,
as and where you choose.*

*Glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,*

*You are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.*

*Let this covenant now made
on earth be fulfilled in heaven.*

Amen

Background notes | Methodists hold an annual Covenant Service – a celebration of all that God has done and an affirmation that we give our lives and choices to God. It is an invitation for people to renew their covenant relationship with God. Most churches hold the service at the beginning of the New Year, but some hold them in September at the start of the Methodist Year.

The Covenant Service goes back to John Wesley's time. He wanted a form of worship which would help people open themselves to God more fully. In 1755 Wesley created such a service, using material from the writings of the seventeenth-century puritans divines, Joseph and Richard Alleine. Over succeeding generations the Methodist Church has made changes to the service so that it continues to be relevant to congregations using it.

The aim of the service is to help people hear God's offer and God's challenge; to provide space for God to prompt and for people to respond. Yet, more than this, for the Covenant Service is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, it is an act of the whole faith community. Both the Covenant Prayer and Service are regarded as jewels of Methodism and one of the most distinctive contributions of Methodism to the liturgy of the Church in general. Other churches are now discovering it and making use of it in their worshipping life.

Make connections | What God offers through the Covenant is a loving relationship. It is not a business contract set up between God and humanity for the provision of certain goods and services. Rather, it is the means of grace by which we accept the relationship God offers and then seek to sustain it:

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant ... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Jeremiah 31.31, 33 (NRSV)

These words are read out as part of the Covenant Service.

The focal point of the service is the Covenant Prayer. It embraces the whole of life, in all its parts. Most people

find it quite tough to say this and really mean it. It is uncomfortable and challenging. It asks questions of our faith and demands that we examine our relationship with God. The Covenant Prayer has been compared by some to a set of New Year resolutions, but ones that emphasise the importance of doing and being as much as believing. But more than that, the prayer represents a commitment to being a disciple and putting God first in our lives and in everything about our lives: what we do, what we say and who we are. It is both a surrender to, and a trust in, God.

The final few words are a gracious reminder: 'You are mine and I am yours'. We don't pray and live just in our own strength – but in God's.

Explore | Read through the prayer slowly, a line at a time.

- What jumps out at you?
- What would you find easy to say?
- What would you find difficult to say?

Think how it might apply to your life – the whole of your life.

- What things might God be asking you to stop?
- What might God be asking you to continue?
- And what new things may God place in your life?

Live in faith | Write down your thoughts in a letter to yourself. You may want to end the letter with a reminder of these words of Jeremiah:

'I will be their God,' says the Lord, 'and they shall be my people.'

Now put the letter in an envelope, seal it and address it to yourself (with a stamp).

Give it to a trusted friend and ask them to post it to you in six months time. It will be an encouragement and a reminder of your commitment, the prayer you pray and your journey of discipleship with God.

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the **BIG** Questions

Our monthly **DISCUSSION GROUP**

A place of open discussion and exploration on the questions of **Life and Faith**

No Meeting JAN 2020

Christian perspective on Euthanasia TUES 4 FEB

What do Jews believe about Jesus? TUES 3 MAR



7.30pm in the FOYER
All are welcome

Methodist President calls for all to take responsibility for homelessness

We live in one world where the homeless are our collective responsibility, the Rev Dr Barbara Glasson said in a recent visit to Whitechapel Mission in London. The mission serves about 300 breakfasts each day to the homeless.

Whitechapel Mission, in the heart of the East End of London, recently celebrated its 143rd anniversary. Open every day, the Mission served 108,398 breakfasts in the last year, with the help of 5,200 volunteers.

Dr Barbara Glasson said: *“We are really proud of the mission which is very much part of our Methodist heritage and our family.”*

Tony Miller, Centre Manager for the past 40 years said, “The Mission opens its doors each day at 6am prompt for guests who can take a shower, choose some fresh clothes to wear, feel the warmth of the welcome and eat a hearty breakfast. Once the guests are warm,

clean and fed they can access other facilities including mobile phone charging, and get help with combating addiction, receive dentistry and other health care provision, and debt counselling.”

This year 5,698 people have used the Mission’s services which also include support in getting housed and back to work.

Speaking about causes of homelessness, Dr Glasson said, “The vulnerabilities that lead to homelessness are well known to us. Relationship breakdown, debt, addictions, mental ill-health. These are the things that disrupt human well-being and lead to chaotic lives and cyclical and destructive patterns of behaviour.”

Dr Glasson said: *“There are not two Britains, North and South are part of the same country; there are not two Londons, rich and poor, there are not two societies, there is only one world.”*



Third Avenue are hosting the Night Shelter on four Saturdays this year:

9th February, 7th, 14th and 21st March.

Sadly there is no van available this year for Keiran to drive the equipment onto the next venue so we are appealing for help to drive a carload of sleeping bags etc. over to St Peter’s church in Rochester. Unfortunately they cannot receive until 6pm as they sleep our guests in the church so it will mean meeting at 3rd Ave at 5.30pm on the Sunday afternoons. If you could only make one Sunday I would be very grateful as we will need at least two cars and Keiran is unavailable at that time. He will be doing the Saturday morning shift! My phone number is 07875391456 if you can help or have any questions. Thank you.

Sally



In Search of Thin Places

About 25 years ago I had a calendar at work with monochrome photographs of Yosemite park in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California. The photographer was Ansel Adams, and there was one photograph in particular, taken from Inspiration Point, “Yosemite Valley Winter”, which was simply too beautiful for words. Not only is the image perfectly exposed and superbly detailed by Adams’ large format camera, but the scene itself of the Yosemite valley with Half-Dome mountain in the distance is sublime. The image stayed with me for a long time and it wasn’t until several years later that my wife and I were privileged to stand on the spot where Adams had stood and to soak in the scene, though on a considerably warmer spring day and in the glorious technicolour of the Californian sun. It was a great surprise to find the exact spot just by the side of a small car park. That was a wonderful day.

About 12 years ago, we took another holiday but this time in the West Highlands of Scotland. Having explored the hills on foot and the sea lochs in a canoe we decided to take it easy and just paddle out to one of the little islands in the loch, pitch our hike tent and just chill out for the day, alone and away from the midges. Helen was content, watching the birds and reading her book. I just sat and watched what was going on around us. I watched the tide go out, clouds pass overhead, terns diving in the shallows,

the odd splash of a large fish in the still loch, and then I watched the tide come back in inch by inch. It was one of the best days of my life, so far. During the same trip we visited the island of Iona, just off the western tip of Mull. I think our day of splendid isolation had prepared us for the visit to Iona as we greatly enjoyed its sense of peace and tranquil community. It’s sometimes called a thin place, meaning it’s a place where heaven and earth may seem to be closer to one another. Historically, it’s important to Christians in Britain as the place where St Columba made his home and from where the Gospel message was eventually spread throughout Britain by the early Celtic church. I felt something special there but not yet the awareness of the presence of God that I was unknowingly but surely moving towards.

Since then, much nearer to home in the peace garden of Aylesford Priory, is where the Spirit of God has spoken to me most clearly. We visit there a few times each year, sometimes with visitors, just to experience the calmness. On one occasion I sat in the peace garden on a quiet late summer’s day, quite alone, and shut my eyes to pray. After a while, I was aware of a stranger sitting down next to me and gently asking “a penny for your thoughts?” I thought maybe another visitor had taken it upon themselves to be friendly, but when I opened my eyes there was no-one there. Nevertheless, in the orange

glow with my eyes closed once again against the sun, the friendly Presence listened to my inner thoughts and set me at ease with the situations that I was concerned about.

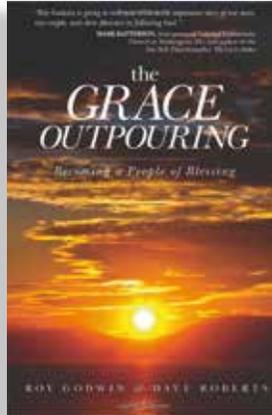
I suppose this story should have really started when my wife, Helen, and my father-in-law, Mervyn, both read a book called “The Grace Outpouring” by Roy Godwin and Dave Roberts. This is the story of one man and his wife who, against their own judgement, set up a house of prayer in the hills of Pembrokeshire which has since been blessed by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and has grown into an important spiritual centre for learning, retreat and now outreach into the wider world.

Like my Yosemite inspiration Helen and Mervyn were both inspired to visit the place described in the book, Ffald Y Brenin, which translates as “the sheepfold of the King”. Coincidentally, we had already planned a trip to Pembrokeshire to celebrate Mervyn’s 90th year, to visit some places from his youth and a few relatives along the way. We went to Ffald Y Brenin on a grey Tuesday morning and, considering its remoteness, we were surprised to find only one or two spaces left in the car park at the top of the hill. Ffald Y Brenin is based around an old farmhouse where we were invited to begin our visit in the kitchen with one of the volunteer staff. He showed us around the site which has purpose built accommodation, a day room for visitors, a prayer room and a little round chapel which is where he left us with a blessing.

We spent a few hours at the centre, joining other visitors and those staying there for a prayer meeting around mid-day. The three of us also spent some time at a cross which has been erected overlooking the valley below. It’s there where, for me, the world felt at its thinnest. Miracles have happened here in my lifetime. Though Mervyn struggled on the uneven ground, he was intent on leaving a concern there for his ailing brother, nailed to the cross in prayer as it were.

I went to Ffald Y Brenin without any preconception. To be honest I thought it was just a retreat centre which sounded like a pleasant day out, perhaps like one of our visits to Aylesford. It’s only now that I have read Roy Godwin’s book that I realise all that has gone on there in recent years. Some of the stories in the book of miraculous healing, of people meeting angels and

worshipping in the radiant glow of heaven’s glory seem so far outside my experience that I was initially sceptical. But the evidence seems overwhelming and the book leaves the reader feeling challenged. It asks you to consider how you might welcome the



Kingdom of Heaven into your corner of the world.

I think some visitors probably have great expectations for Ffald Y Brenin, especially if they've read the book. And I imagine some go away disappointed. On the day, we felt there were just too many people there to be able to relax. We were just too busy being polite and deferential to each other and really not able to let go of ourselves.

My experience is that God may make his presence felt in thin places, but thin places are not necessarily where you expect to find them: they're in a mountain view, on a rock in the sea, in a summer garden. So, my search continues, but the signposts seem to be pointing to ever nearer places - perhaps for me the thinnest place of all will eventually be found in my own heart.

Paul Garland



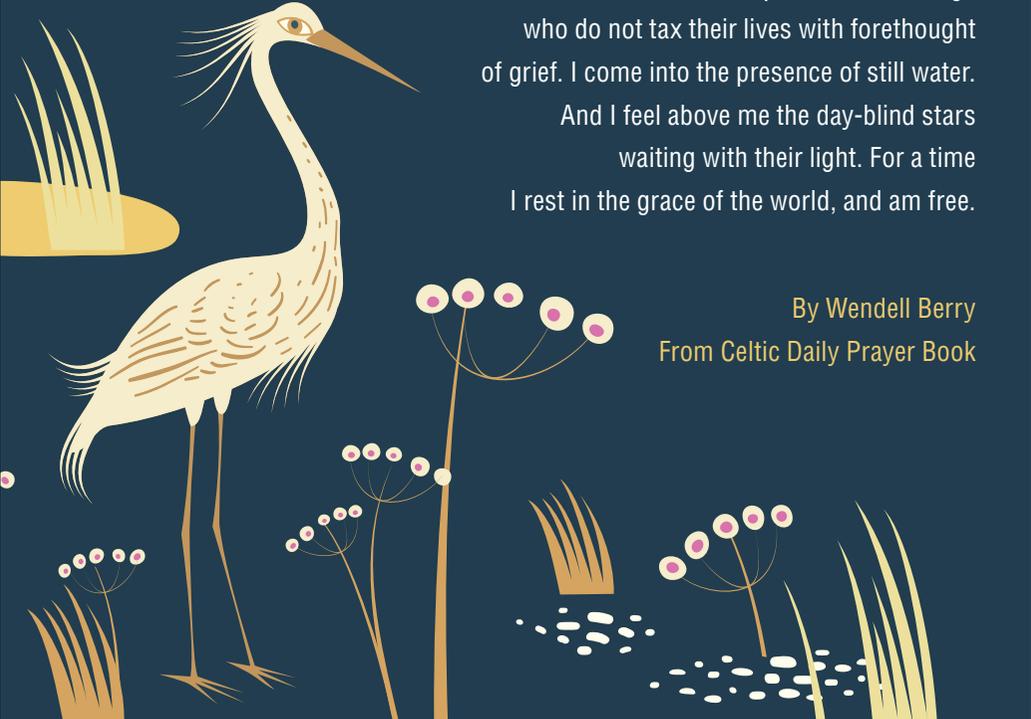
The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

By Wendell Berry
From *Celtic Daily Prayer Book*



A Prayer for Australia

Creator God, who has made the earth in intricate beauty and balance

We pray for the people of Australia, of all heritage and traditions, who are fighting the widespread fires that are threatening people, property and wildlife in that beautiful land

We are mindful of those who are directly

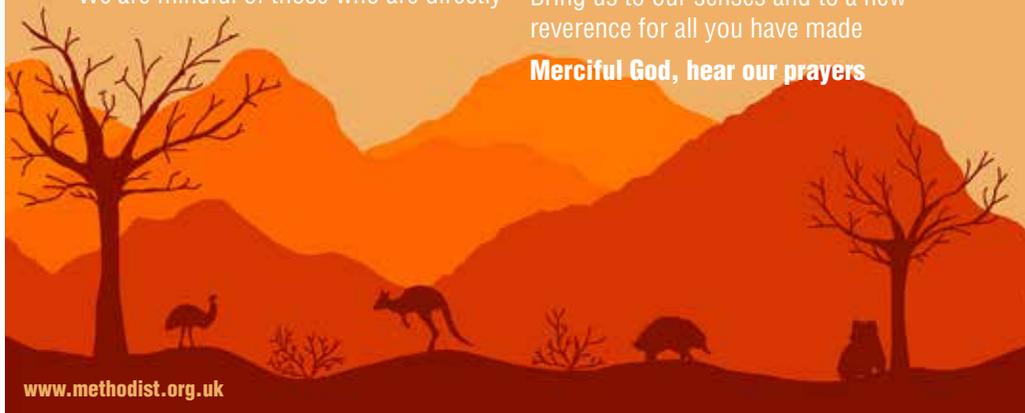
threatened as the flames run out of control
And of those who cannot breathe or move because of the smoke and fumes
And those who are worried for relatives and friends

We thank you for the tireless efforts of those who are helping and for the kindness of neighbours, chaplains and friends

Stir us, to action so that we can change the way we live in relation to the planet

Bring us to our senses and to a new reverence for all you have made

Merciful God, hear our prayers



Drama Group News...

Since my last article for the Messenger, I have to report the sad loss of one of our long standing members **Graham Lord**. I'm sure many of you will remember seeing him on stage, playing our panto 'Dame' for many years & he also undertook many leading roles in various plays & musicals - he will be greatly missed. He died peacefully at home with his family around him - RIP.



Moving to happier things, it will shortly be panto time - oh yes it will !! As already announced this year's offering is **Aladdin** by Alan P. Frayn & will take place on **Friday 14th, Saturday 15th, Saturday 22nd February all at 7.30pm** and a **Matinee on Saturday 22nd at 3pm**. Tickets priced £7 Adults & £5 Children (16 & under) are available from Keith Jackson (01634 852712) or Sally Murphy (01634 855343) or from our website. Booking forms are available in the Church foyer. Please see the poster on the back of this magazine for more details.

We hope to see many of our Church friends, so do come along & join us, for plenty of family fun & laughter. We know we can rely on your support.

Keith Jackson | www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk

The title 'I love in action' is presented in a playful, 3D style. The word 'I' is a red vertical bar inside a white circle. 'love' is formed by red letters inside white circles of varying sizes. 'in action' is written in a white, cursive script. To the right is a white circle containing a red heart. The entire graphic is set against a teal background.

I love in action

The writer Gary Chapman describes the **5 love languages** as words of encouragement, quality time, gifts, acts of service and touch. Do you have a preferred **language of love**?

With the approach of St Valentines' Day, let's ask: what is God's love language?

'Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.'

1 John 3:18

God's love is expressed in the word **Agape**, which is exclusively found in the New Testament. Greek has a number of words for love eg. empathetic, friendship or sexual, but agape is defined uniquely by Jesus.

'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.'

1 John 3:16

It provides the model for how we should love others.

Agape love is self-giving: it is ready to put the other person first, just as Jesus gave His life for us on the cross by dying in our place. Are we generous with our time, words, money and service to others?

Agape love takes the initiative: are we ready to show love to those who don't deserve it? Do we have eyes of compassion to see the needs around us and a heart to reach out to them?

Agape love is intentional: are we ready to get close to those in need around us, irrespective of what time we have or how we feel?

The story is told of Jesus asking a little child, 'how much do you love me?' The child replied 'lots and lots and lots!' They then asked Jesus how much He loved them. Jesus stretched out His arms wide and said 'I love you this much', as they nailed Him to a cross.



Memories of Win Baldwin | 1920-2019

Win was born on 19th January 1920, in Gibraltar to Frank and Ellen Harvey. She was quite poorly when she was born and wasn't expected to live according to one doctor. However, a second doctor said that she would be fine once she could eat a lamb chop. It seems that he knew what he was talking about, as here we are almost 100 years later - and Win had become a committed carnivore!

Win's father worked in the drawing office in His Majesty's Dockyard. And, having been posted to Gibraltar, was transferred back to Chatham in July 1922 when Win was 2. Gibraltar was always a talking point with Win, and she often said that she would like to go back but she never did.

When the family arrived back they began living in Rock Avenue in Gillingham for a few months while the building of their new home around the corner in St John's Road was being completed.

Win attended Byron Road School and Chatham Grammar School for Girls. She met her best friend Muriel when she was 10 and they remained in close touch and met regularly up until 1998 when Muriel died. Such was the friendship that Win was godmother to Muriel's son Michael and Muriel was godmother to Derek.

In her school holidays She also loved going down to Portsmouth to stay with her grandparents.... She had many happy memories of those times.

When she left school, Win joined the Civil Service and worked in Customs and Excise in the City of London, including throughout the Blitz. On one occasion she remembers waving from her office window overlooking the Thames to the men returning from Dunkirk in some of the Little Ships.

Win joined a tennis club in Twydall in her teens and this is where she met her husband to be, Clarence (known as Clar). Win wasn't too keen on Clar to begin with and was furious when, unbeknown to her, he put her name down to partner him in a doubles competition! Obviously something clicked as they went on to get married in 1942 and were inseparable until Clar passed away in 1994.

Win gave up work 6 weeks before her wedding, as was not uncommon at the time, and became a housewife before becoming a mother when Derek arrived and then Carol. The family lived in Broadview Avenue in Rainham before buying their forever home in Lewis Avenue in Gillingham in 1948.

Rainham was very much a village in those days and the house in Broadview Avenue faced onto open fields which most of us would think of as idyllic. However, it was far too quiet for Win's liking so she was delighted to move back to "civilisation" in Gillingham!

Win was described by her family as modern mum. She loved to listen to the radio, but we are not talking radio 4 or classical, no Win liked modern music from East 17 to Take That,

from Eric Clapton to Cliff Richard. She knew her pop and would often surprise her family with her extensive knowledge of songs and which Pop star was married to whom. But it was not just pop facts that she enjoyed and retained but she was a sponge for all knowledge and loved her quizzes and crosswords.

Win attended Byron Road Methodist Church from the age of 2 where she met a boy named Jack who later became her brother in law when Win married Clar and Jack married Clar's sister, Joan. Clar's family attended Jubilee Methodist Church in Trafalgar Street and Win joined them there when she married. Jubilee became St Peter's of course, before merging with St Paul's to give us the Gillingham Methodist Church that we have today. Win loved children and spent many happy years as a Sunday School Teacher before retiring from the role at the age of 80. At children's parties Win would be the one on the floor crawling around, playing and talking to the children. She was also the cradle roll secretary but she had to give that up when she fell off the stage and broke her wrist. She also worked with the ladies of the church by sewing up the squares they had knitted to be made into refugee blankets for Oxfam, making well over 1,000, over the years.

Win also attended a regular coffee mornings with her group of friends, they would take it in turns to host these mornings, so they all got to visit each other's homes. This coffee morning carried on for many years and only stopped two years ago.

She also loved her garden and was never happier than when she was getting her hands dirty

tending her many plants and shrubs. She was saddened when advancing years eventually forced her to stop, but help arrived in the shape of Colin, her paid gardener, who took over the horticultural duties from her. She always looked forward to the days when Colin worked, enjoying their chats over a cup of tea as much as the fruits of his labours!

That was because Win was a very sociable person, she loved to be around people.. in fact, it was one her pleasures. And people loved this of Win, this is probably why she got a wide invitation to many things.

She also took it on herself to visit church folk, this was very much welcomed by those who were unable to get out. I think it also helped that Win had a wonderful sense of humour and would laugh even at the weakest joke.

Win lived in Lewis Avenue until the summer of 2017 when, after breaking her arm and wrist in a fall, she felt unsafe living alone and decided to move into Rogers' House residential care home in Wigmore where she soon settled and was well looked after and cared for. At this moment Her family would like to thank the staff of Rogers' House for all the care and love afforded to Win during her stay there.

They would also like to thank her church family and friends who visited her at Rogers House and supported her over her life time.

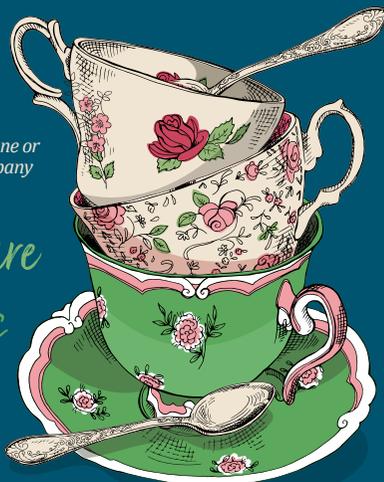


tea at 2

Especially for
those living alone or
in need of company

You are warmly invited to share
tea & cakes with friends

Wednesday 11th Sept & 9th Oct
between 2pm & 3.30pm



Everyone
welcome

Every
Friday
Open to all

Oasis

A safe place to
explore & share,
to exercise & relax,
to talk & be heard



Talking Point
12pm to 1pm

Chrysalis
1pm to 1.30pm

Listening Ear
from 1.30pm

Nelson Mandela freed 30 years ago

Nelson Mandela, who led the movement to end South African apartheid, was released from prison 30 years on 11th February 1990. He became President of South Africa in 1994.

Mandela had been involved with the African National Congress since 1944, advocating non-violent resistance. But after the Sharpeville massacre of peaceful demonstrators in 1960, he helped organise a paramilitary branch of the ANC.

He was arrested for treason in 1961 but was acquitted. He was arrested again in 1962 for illegally leaving the country, then again in 1964 on charges of sabotage. The same year he was sentenced to life in prison.



When F W de Klerk became President in 1989, as part of the shift away from apartheid he lifted the ban on the ANC, and then ordered Mandela's release. In 1993, Mandela and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mandela was raised as a Methodist and had strong Christian convictions, which he rarely aired in public for fear of alienating those who did not believe. In 1999 he said: "Without the church, without religious institutions, I would never have been here today ... Religion was one of the motivating factors in everything we did."

Parish Pump

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020

'Unusual kindness' is the unusual name for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity **18th to 25th January**. The materials for the week have been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (Christians Together in Malta).



Unusual kindness is found in the book of Acts. The phrase refers to the warm welcome that the people of Malta gave to Paul and his companions when they were shipwrecked on the island. In return, Paul shared the gospel

with them, and thus founded the church in Malta. Something that the Christians in Malta thank God for!

More details at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

One Final Thought on Christmas!

This was printed on the inside of a Christmas card Jonathan Selmes received, sold in aid of Cancer Research UK—story donated by Jeffrey Archer.

He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter, and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance, and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education. And yet, as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers. He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, un-shaven, and living off bread and water and the occasional fish, while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen.

He became manager of a football team known as The Disciples, not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition.

The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God. They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they would hear of him.

The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain denied on more than one occasion that he'd ever been a member of His team.

When He died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy

supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy, and no box sets recording any of his miracles.

But then, He'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his brand, or spin doctors to sharpen his image, and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.

So how can one explain that over two thousand years later, Jesus Christ is still the best-known celebrity on earth? Could it just be that He was the Son of God?

Results of Methodist Youth President election announced

Following the elections at 3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, it has been announced that the next **Youth President will be Phoebe Parkin**, aged 17, from the Telford circuit in the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District. Phoebe will become the new Youth President at a service to be held in September 2020.

Phoebe campaigned on the theme of 'God's World - Our Home' and promises to highlight environmental issues during her year in office. Phoebe impressed the voters at 3Generate, who were aged 8 to 23, with her views on careful stewardship of the earth and by undertaking part of her presentation at the hustings through music and song.

On receiving the news of her success, Phoebe commented; "I would like to thank all the young people who voted for me and all those people in my home church and district who encouraged me to stand." "I have always been passionate about the environment and I believe that as Christians, we are called to take care of God's creation. The environment is a very real concern for young people as it will shape the world we inherit in so many ways."

The Methodist Youth President is a salaried position working full-time for one year to serve the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain. The role involves travelling across the UK and overseas meeting and representing the young Methodist people to ensure that their voices are heard and to help them be involved in every aspect of Church life.

The Rev Rachel Parkinson, Chair of District at the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District, was one of those who suggested that Phoebe stand for the election as Youth President.



She commented: "I got to know Phoebe when she was part of the steering group for the "Courageous Day Out" which young people planned and led for the district last spring. Phoebe was great fun to work with, she was enthusiastic, creative, committed to her local church and to Methodism in general."

The current youth President, Thelma Commey, commented; "I send my prayers and my congratulations to Phoebe on her election success. Being Youth President is a wonderful opportunity. Participating in the life of the Church you really feel you are making a difference by ensuring that young voices are heard and listened to."



Memories of Ivene Thorp | 1933-2019

I would like to share some memories of my mum Ivene with you.

On Saturday 18th March 1933 Percy and Elsie Luck were blessed with a beautiful daughter that they were to give the lovely name Ivene Ellen. Ivene was a unique name of which she was immensely proud.

Ivene spent the first eleven years of her life as an only child, but then in May 1944 she was joined by her baby sister Christine. Ivene loved Christine dearly. Having undertaken her whole primary and junior education during the second world war, Ivene still passed her Kent test and attended Rochester Grammar School for girls. During this time her Dad Percy introduced his daughter to what became one of her biggest passions in life "The Gills!". She attended matches regularly with her dad and used to talk fondly about Percy arguing the toss with his mate Arthur all the way home on the bus. The Gills brought out a side of Ivene not seen by many. She was so passionate about her football that she would say "good" when I told her that there were people hanging around after the game to give the referee stick.

For away games, Ivene refused to listen to the game on the radio, as she thought it would jinx the result. Unfortunately, my mum passed on this passion (or terrible affliction) to both of her sons!

Ivene left grammar school and went to work for the Tax office in Maidstone. Ivene would go to the Dance Hall in her youth. In the 50's, the place to go was the Old Pavillion Dance Hall in Canterbury Street, which is still a club today although I have no idea what its latest name is. During one of these nights out, Ivene met an Army boy who was to become the love of her

life. Bob/Robert or Bobby as his northern family knew him, was doing his national service and was stationed at the Royal Engineers, before his deployment to Malaya.

Their romance blossomed and they kept in touch via letters while Bob finished his national service. On his return, Bob moved away from his family in Barrow-in-Furness to be with his sweetheart in the South and they were married in September 1956.

They moved into their first home in Milton Road and at first things were tough. I remember my mother telling me that during one of the first winters, Bob's work as a painter and decorator dried up and they had to break up one of the dining room chairs to use as firewood to keep warm.

Ivene's father passed away suddenly early into her marriage and she found herself having to deal with all the arrangements on her own as her mother was not able to handle them. In those days it was quite common for a person to pass away on a Saturday and be buried on a Wednesday. This gave people little time to arrange and no time to grieve. It was a time that she was to show her unforgiving trait, as Percy's brother refused to close his shop for the funeral. Ivene couldn't forgive her uncle for this and never spoke to him again.

In 1959 Bob and Ivene's family started to grow

when daughter Judith was born, soon to be followed by Geoff in 1961 and Gary in 1964. Along with the cat their little family was complete.

Ivene loved family life, but one aspect that she did not enjoy was cooking. She was pretty good at putting her own spin on recipes. Her cauliflower cheese was legendary for all the wrong reason (a distinct lack of cauliflower florets and the use of the stalks). If she found something everyone liked, it would become a staple until they could bear it no more. When tea bags were invented, the family couldn't work out why there were still tea leaves in the cup. Ivene thought the tea bags were measures, so would snip the corners and pour out the leaves.

But Ivene was never afraid of hard work and to earn extra money for the family, Ivene took on a variety of part time jobs, such as Littlewoods Pools collector and being a lollipop lady. Ivene and Bob moved to 123 Featherby Road in December 1975 and remained there for 40+ years. During this time Ivene was again a lollipop lady before returning full time to work for the civil service,



but this time at the DHSS at Crown House, Chatham.

Ivene loved her holidays but refused to fly. She didn't like the thought of the hanging around at the airport, so instead they went on coach holidays around the UK and to Europe collecting tea towels and a spoon, wherever she went.

The other big love of Ivene's life were her cats. She loved her cats, even Sophie who was not the friendliest Tortie, but maybe not the feral cat that Judith brought home from Beckenham that launched itself at Bob from the top of a kitchen cupboard. Ivene was especially upset by any form of animal cruelty. She hated to see any form of suffering and was a keen supporter of animal charities.

Judith and Sean gave Ivene her first grandchild James in 1991 and moved back to Medway shortly after. When Ivene retired in 1993 she was able to help out and spend more time with James and also Alice who joined the Bodkin clan in 1994.

Ivene had regular coffee mornings with her group of friends, they would take it in turns to host these mornings, so they all got to visit each other's homes. She was very sad in later years when these stopped. She kept in contact with friends via letters and the landline. She arranged regular visits to see friends who were not in the Medway area.

Ivene was glad to retire for another reason, computers were starting to take over the workplace and Ivene did not do technology. Many fruitless hours were spent trying to get her to master a mobile phone, needless to say we all gave up on that one. In later years, Theresa would often hear me saying "I don't want to see your ear mother" or "all I can see is the ceiling" when Geoff had arranged a facetime call.

Unfortunately, in 2002 Ivene encountered her first bout of breast cancer. Although she lost her hair because of the treatment Ivene was determined that she wouldn't let it affect her

attending my wedding in July that year. Ivene didn't just beat it once, she did it again five years later. This really knocked the stuffing out of her, and we noticed a real drop in her confidence. That said, she still visited Taverners Road to see the Bodkins regularly and had lots of weekends with her sister and Colin in Benenden. Ivene also continued her knitting and made countless colourful jumpers that were sent to orphanages in Romania.

I know Ivene was devastated by the loss of her

dear sister Christine in 2011 and I take some comfort that they have been reunited now.

Finally, if I were to describe my mother as I remember her best. She had an unforgiving trait, if she felt wronged by someone, but was also the most loyal, honest, fair and reliable person in my life. She would back you all the way if she thought you were right, but also be the first to let you know if she thought you wrong. I know we are all going to miss her.

Written by her Son, Gary



Santa came with new toys to play with. He also came to me with a new harness and tasty treats, which I am pleased to say I had all to myself as no-one seemed to want any of mine. Well, just got back from the park, time to get my head down for a sleep I think.

Woof ...woof.... love Lola x



Lola News...

Trudy and me would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy new year.

It's been very busy over the festive month. I have had some lovely long walks, meeting new people to spend time with. I also spent a lot of time with Mason who has been very excited that



Our local preachers value your prayers as they preach in different Churches around the Circuit...

Derek Gallagher | Judith German | Brian Davies | Trish Robb
Margaret Bowerman | Karen Willing | Mandy Harris | Colin Waldock
and those on Note to Preach: Ian Watton | William Appriah



A big thank you to all who have donated to our homeless project **Sox in a Box**. We pass on these items to 3 different groups working with and feeding our homeless people, everything is received with thanks.

Our craft group has been very busy making hats, scarves and gloves too. Please continue to give when you can, socks and underwear are the most needed.

Thank you again and God Bless

Love Sally



It's all in the spelling...

God
Ran
Alongside
Carrying
Everything



Noah

When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you. For 40 days he drove the Ark before he found a place to park...

Are you taking a mid-winter break?

If you are preparing to take off for foreign climes, do keep an eye out for signs that have English words... but perhaps not an English meaning! In hotels and train stations and airports all over the world there are polite little signs that will bring a smile to the lips of even the most exhausted traveller. For instance, how about these*:

Switzerland | We have nice bath and are very good in bed.

Romania | The lift is being fixed for the next

day. During that time, we regret you will be unbearable.

Russia | If this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

Italy | If service is required, give two strokes to the maid and three to the waiter.

Spain | Our wine list leaves you with nothing to hope for.

Denmark | In the event of fire, open a window and announce your presence in a seemly manner.

Canary Islands | If you telephone for room service you will get the answer you deserve.

Church notices that didn't quite get it right...!

Mrs Thomas, of this church, wishes to thank all those members who so kindly assisted in the death of her husband.

The regular Monday night choir practise of this church will be held on Tuesday night instead of Friday night.

Children are normally collected during the Offertory Hymn.

Fun and Games...

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. Jesus is described in the Bible as the Light of the World, and so early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West.

Forty	Mary	Present	Simeon
Days	Jewish	Lord	Nunc Dimittis
Baby	Mothers	Festival	Office
Boy	Temple	Presentation	Evening
Public	Jesus	Light	Prayer
Appearance	Purified	World	West
		Candlemas	



Sudoku

Easy...

Intermediate...

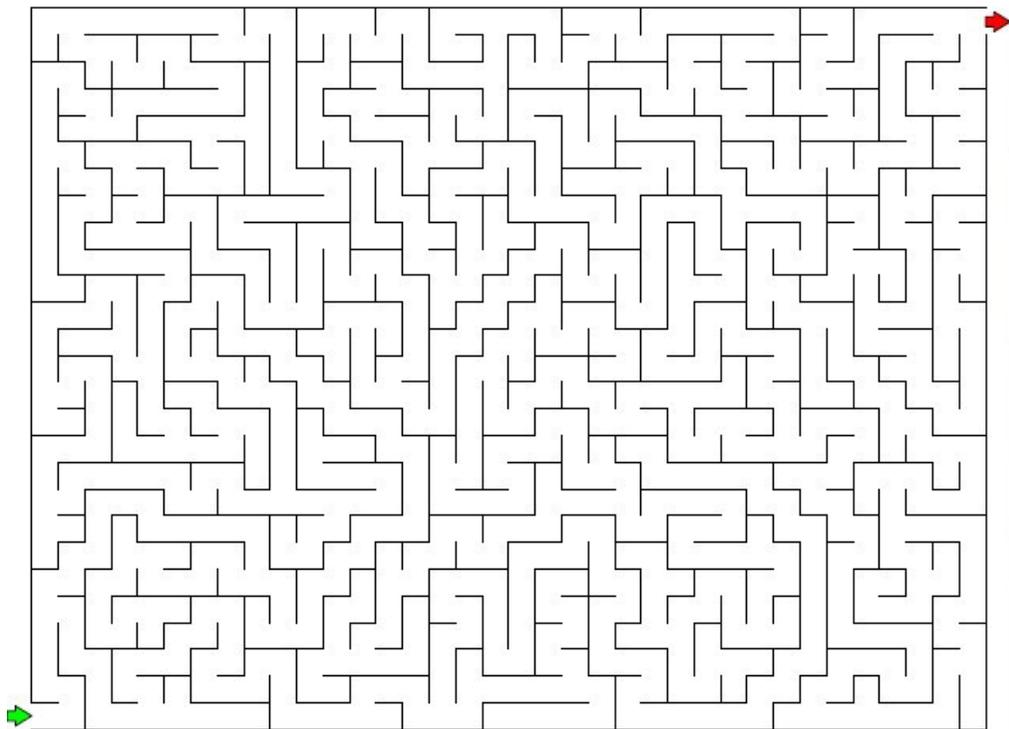
1	9					5	8
	2	6		3	8	1	9
8				7		4	
				9			6
3	4		8		6		1
2				1			
		4	8				1
7		3	9	2		6	5
6		2					8

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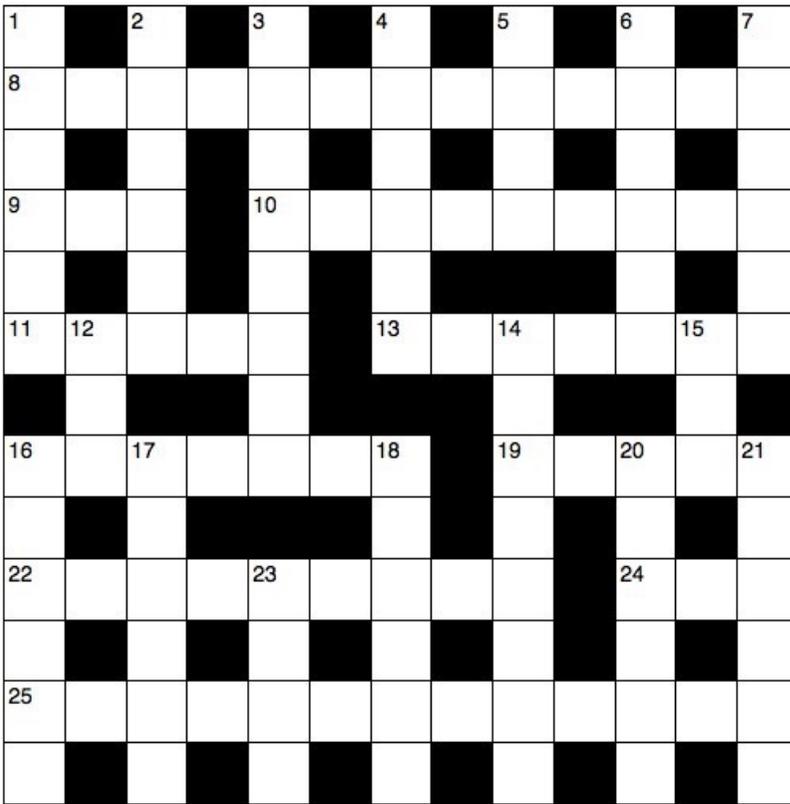
							7	2
					9	5		3
6	7			3	2	9		
9				1				
4	1	6					7	9
					6			1
		3	1	8			4	6
2		7	4					
8	4							

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Maze...



Crossword



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers

to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

In the beginning...

1
Light and dark

2
Water

3
Land, sea and plants

4
Sun moon and stars

5
Birds and fish

6
Humans and animals

7
God rested

Puzzle solutions...

Sudoku Easy...

1	9	7	2	6	4	5	3	8
4	2	6	5	3	8	1	7	9
8	3	5	1	7	9	4	6	2
5	7	1	3	9	2	8	4	6
3	4	9	8	5	6	2	1	7
2	6	8	4	1	7	3	9	5
9	5	4	6	8	3	7	2	1
7	8	3	9	2	1	6	5	4
6	1	2	7	4	5	9	8	3

Intermediate...

3	5	9	6	4	1	8	7	2
1	2	4	8	7	9	5	6	3
6	7	8	5	3	2	9	1	4
9	3	5	7	1	4	6	2	8
4	1	6	3	2	8	7	9	5
7	8	2	9	6	5	4	3	1
5	9	3	1	8	7	2	4	6
2	6	7	4	5	3	1	8	9
8	4	1	2	9	6	3	5	7

Crossword...

O	H	I	E	O	O	A						
C	R	O	S	S	E	X	A	M	I	N	E	D
E	P	L	H	A	S	D						
A	S	A	P	O	C	R	Y	P	H	A		
N	N	M	R	E	L							
S	C	I	F	I	T	Y	P	I	C	A	L	
B	S	L	W									
V	I	S	I	T	E	D	O	F	F	E	R	
A	T	A	T	U	E							
N	O	A	C	C	O	U	N	T	R	A	C	
I	R	U	B	I	R	E						
S	O	V	E	R	E	I	G	N	L	O	R	D
H	E	E	T	G	W	E						

Word Search...

O	I	D	O	E	R	B	I	C	I	R	P			
T	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	O	S	H	U	R	D
L	H	E	I	T	C	I	L	B	U	P	A	A	R	B
I	L	G	F	N	N	A	Y	I	S	Y	S	R	E	
R	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	L	H
L	M	F	R	L	R	W	F	D	R	B	A	P	I	N
Y	E	F	U	D	A	M	E	F	L	R	M	S	O	G
D	N	I	P	E	E	V	O	S	E	E	D	E	N	S
N	J	C	S	F	P	S	I	T	T	I	M	I	D	R
W	Y	E	R	S	P	T	L	T	H	I	N	A	P	O
O	E	U	S	F	A	C	E	I	S	E	P	O	S	T
R	G	Y	N	U	N	C	N	I	V	E	R	V	P	Y
L	A	O	S	H	S	I	W	E	I	T	P	S	D	A
D	N	B	V	Y	H	P	J	D	Y	U	S	O	U	E
D	T	I	B	A	T	W	N	D	M	I	R	S	P	E

There is no charge for this magazine, but if you are able, a contribution of at least **60p** would help towards the cost of production and enable us to distribute to the wider community

Many thanks

Rev Robin Selmes

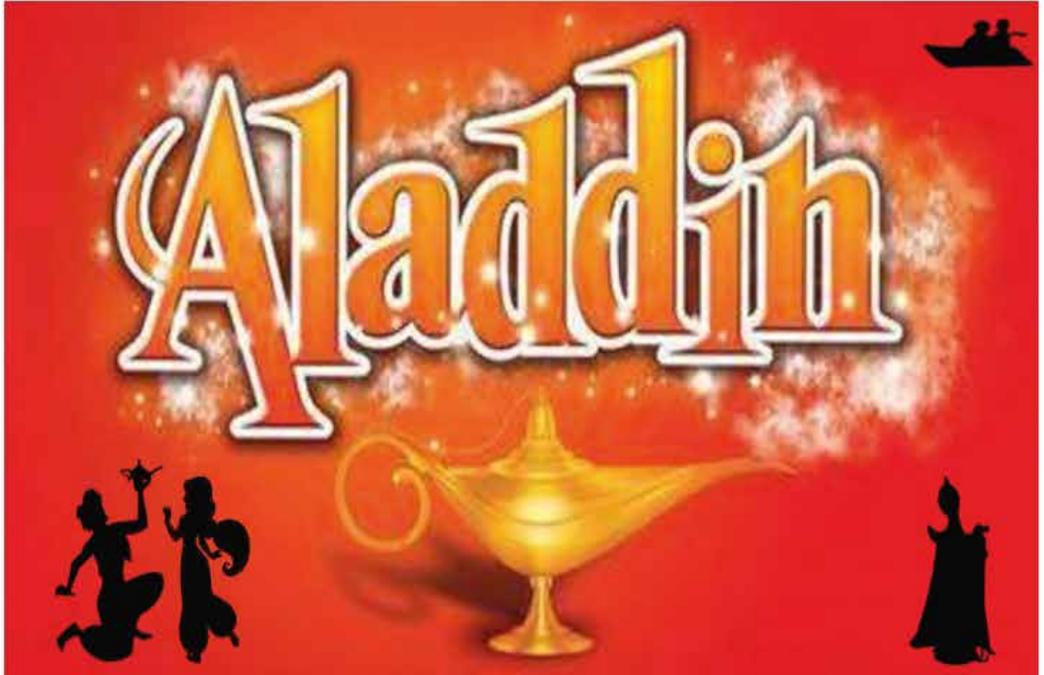
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