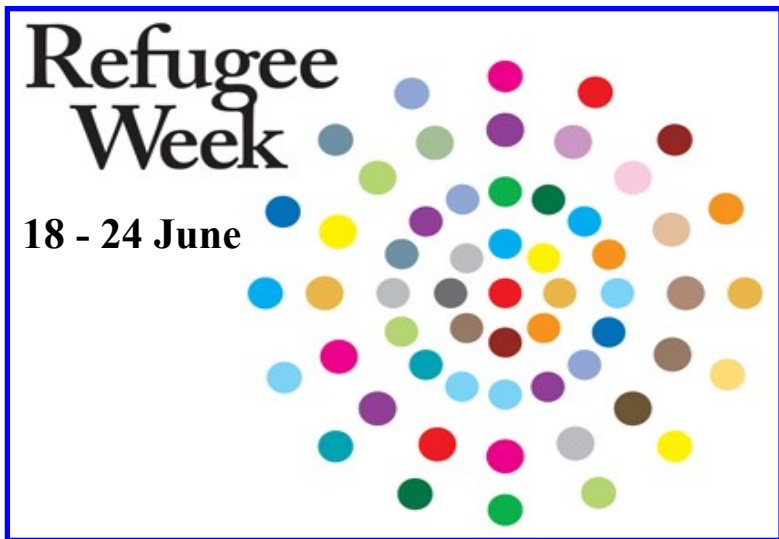


VISION

**The Magazine for Union Street
Methodist Church**



MINISTRY TEAM:

**Rev. Bonni-Belle Pickard (07590 564477)
and all members of Union Street Church**

**UNION STREET METHODIST CHURCH
MAIDSTONE**

June 2018





COME AND JOIN US IN WORSHIP

June 3 rd	10.30 am	<i>Holy Communion</i> Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard
June 10 th	10.30 am	Mr Geoff Harris
June 17 th	10.30 am	Mr Lafton Lee
June 24 th	10.30 am	Mrs Irene Shepherd



Transport to Church Services

If you need transport to get to services, please speak to one of the stewards who will try to put you in touch with someone who can help. Also, do join us at the back of the Church for tea or coffee and a chance to chat after our Sunday morning service ends.



Material Needed for the July / August Edition of Vision!

Please send copy for the July / August edition of *Vision* to the Editor by Friday 15th June, by email to vision@usmc.org.uk or by leaving any items on the Church noticeboard. (Please label emails and letters "for *Vision*")

Laurel Townend

Please note change of email address



From the Minister



Planting fruit trees

Last month I wrote about the repairs to the front boundary wall – which make our whole church property look so much more inviting! And then came the news about the broken water pipe under the church floor – which has resulted in a complete loss of heating for the church. It's also pushed us as a congregation into the conversations we'd rather not have about the future of our church and our church building. We've begun those conversations at our recent Annual Church Meeting (ACM) – and they will continue over the next several months, including an important Visioning and Mission exercise that we will undertake together on Sunday, 15th July. We hope everyone from (and related to) our congregation will be involved in this exercise!

In the meantime, there is much to think through. At the ACM, we recognised that 'we've been here before' with other building schemes that haven't come to fruition. We've recognised that there are only a handful of people in our congregation now who are likely to still be here 20 years from now – in 2038. We have agreed to put some sort of temporary heating in the church for the next 3-5 years. Beyond that, many options need to be explored.

This time of year, the small garden patch behind the manse kitchen delights me with a profusion of sweet, juicy strawberries – which are succeeded by a steady provision of delicious raspberries. Somebody planted these years before I arrived in this manse. I've done next to nothing to ensure that they survive. But they continue to blossom and come to fruition. And I am grateful!

Beside that garden patch is a plum tree that I planted two years ago – shortly after our beloved dog, Kelly, died. We buried her in the garden and planted the fruit tree nearby. It's likely we will never enjoy plums from that tree – but hopefully someone else will. Planting a fruit tree is a practice I learned from my father, also an itinerate Methodist minister, who knew well about the

cycles of planting and harvesting for the long term – and so becoming part of a cycle of care that sees beyond the present.

As our congregation embarks on this exercise in visioning – in seeing beyond the Here and Now to the possibilities of the future – I pray God will be opening our eyes to the fruits we have enjoyed by those who have come before and the needs of those who will come long after we have left this place.

Shalom,

Bonni-Belle

June Diary

1st - 2nd June Bearsted's Flower Festival
2nd June Messy Breakfast
(8th - 17th June Bonni-Belle and Alfred in China)
28th June - Methodist Annual Conference in Nottingham
5th July



Knitting & Stitching Show, 12th October



There will be a trip to Knitting and Stitching show at Alexander Palace on 12th October, departing from Ditton Community Centre at 9.15 am and from Waitrose, Allington at 9.30 am. The cost will be no more than £25 for coach and entry.

Anyone interested in booking a seat on the coach, please get in touch with me on 07773 288609 or

smith.linm69@gmail.com.

Lin Smith



From the Fundraising Committee

Our next event for fundraising is:

Table Top Sale

Saturday 23rd June 2018 from 1pm – 3pm

In the Community Centre.



Table bookings can be made through Lin Smith if you wish to sell your own items.

Alternatively we will have a 'church' table where items can be sold in aid of our funds.

So please search your cupboards and turn out items you do not need anymore.

There will also be a plant stall if you have any plants that we can sell for church funds.

Offers of cakes to accompany drinks would be appreciated.

And if you can spare an afternoon please talk to Lin or Maureen for further details.

Many thanks.



And while we are on the subject of the Table Top Sale....

There are items around the building that have not moved for years. Some have now been moved to the shed next to the boiler room. If you wish to look, please ask myself or Pete. If you identify something that may be yours and you don't want to lose it, then please take it home. Anything not removed by 19th June will be disposed of or put onto a table for sale on 23rd June.

Lin Smith



1918-2018

100 Years since the end of the First World War

We are planning to have a display of poppies in our Church on Remembrance Sunday to mark this important event BUT the poppies need to be made! Could you knit one please? Poppies come in different sizes and in various shades of red so it doesn't matter what size needles you choose or what ply or shade of red wool. The pattern is below with a picture. We don't need them until October so there is plenty of time. I hope you will be interested and join in this venture

POPPY PATTERN

Cast on 120 stitches

Knit 4 rows of garter stitch

Knit 3 together across whole row

Knit 4 rows of garter stitch

Knit 2 together across whole row

Knit 4 rows garter stitch

Knit 2 together across whole row

Cast off

Sew side seam together and sew black button in centre.



Pat Wallis

Tel: 01622 746025

Editor's Announcement

On the remote chance that there is a member of the church to whom we haven't already shown photographs, Alan and I are delighted to announce the arrival of our granddaughter Evelyn Iris Townend McCormack, born at the end of April. Our daughter and son-in-law, Jude and Jonny, are enjoying parenthood, despite the sleep deprivation that accompanies the arrival of a new baby, and we are loving being grandparents. We are getting in plenty of practice before our younger daughter, Alice, also has a baby, later this summer. Watch this space...



Laurel Townend

Thursday Market

The Thursday Market, selling home-made produce, is held at our community centre at Union Street Church on Thursdays. It opens from 10.00 am until 12.00 pm.

Lin Smith



Food Collection for Families in Need Collection Boxes

Thanks to everyone who continues to donate food and toiletries for families in need in the local community. This is much appreciated.

There are boxes in the Hall and in the church foyer, so please keep the donations coming.

I will continue to empty these regularly and deliver the donations to the Day Centre from where the items are distributed.

Jan Hinchliffe



A Reminder of our Fundraising Dates

The events we are planning this year are as follows:

23rd June	Table Top Sale (Indoor Boot Fair)
14th July	Garden Party
August	Ongoing Smarties tubes and crafts for sale due to holidays this month.
22nd September	Quiz Night
20th October	Table Top Sale
24th November	Christmas Fayre



Wherever you travel, I'll be there, I'll be there.

Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

And the creed and the colour

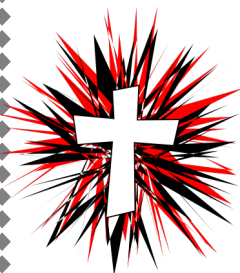
And the name won't matter -

I'll be there.

Sydney Carter



Regular Fellowship at Union Street



The Church Prayer Meeting is held every Tuesday morning from 10.30 until 11.00 in the Foyer Our prayers are based around short bible readings, published prayers and extempore prayer on Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. This meeting then leads directly into our 'Meet and Greet' and you would be very welcome to stay for coffee and chat if you would like to do so. We welcome people in from the street to have fellowship with us and end with a 15 minute Thought for the Day at 1.15 pm. Please do come and join us if you can.

House Groups

Various House Groups meet regularly for Bible study, discussion and fellowship. If you are interested in joining in, please see Richard Vincent, Eve Orry or Peter Herrin .



Open Circle

A sociable afternoon meeting, open to all, following the Wednesday lunch club usually on the third Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm at Union Street.

Wednesday 20th June 1.30 pm: 'Visit to Hawaii' with Chris Chare

Anne Wates



Children and Young People's Activities



Footsteps

At the beginning of May, we started with a love theme which taught us that The Bible has a whole lot to teach us about love. And it's not the yucky, mushy, gushy kind of love. It's the love that makes others just as important as you. It's the love that gives, serves, and spreads God's joy and hope.

Love never fails and we are reminded of the command that Jesus gave us, which is, of course, to love each other as Jesus loves us.

The importance of prayer was our next theme and we set about making prayer jars which could help remind us who and what we should pray for.

We now look forward to Messy Pentecost. As you are reading this Pentecost will have passed and we will report next time.

Messy Church



Well we have already mentioned Pentecost and guess what, our theme for the 29th May is. You've got it! PENTECOST.

Pentecost occurred 50 days after Easter Sunday or 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had already gone back to Heaven so the disciples and new believers of Jesus were waiting to receive the Holy Spirit, because that's what Jesus told them would happen.



We are looking forward to a fun afternoon while we spread God's word to all the children and indeed adults who come to visit us.

Youth Drop In

We continue to welcome good numbers but it would always be nice to see some more new faces.

We are now in St Augustine's two lunch times a week and this gives us a great opportunity to talk to the kids. It is nice that we have now got a very good relationship with the school and it was wonderful to see their representatives at May Madness.



It was a pleasure to see everyone at breakfast on 5th May. The next one is on the 2nd June so do come and join us .



Maxine and Dennis

Refugee Week 18 – 24 May



The theme for the cover of this month's *Vision* is Refugee Week. Throughout history, communities, both here and abroad, have been enriched and challenged by the arrival of refugees fleeing from persecution and danger in their homeland. No-one lightly leaves everything of their old life behind, with little prospect of returning. In many cases, those who end up as refugees in a strange land have spent months and years trying to stay safe or 'keeping under the radar' in their own countries, only leaving when they really can see no other option.

The Methodist Church includes Refugee Week as one of its "special Sundays" themes and many Methodist churches are participating in initiatives in their areas, providing sanctuary and welcome to displaced individuals and families, often seeing their work as rooted in Biblical teaching. There is much of interest on this subject on the website at www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/methodist-special-sundays/refugee-week/

I am continuing this theme in the odd spaces that always need filling, once I have pasted all the articles into *Vision*, and pray that we may find their presence in our midst an opportunity for cultural enrichment and service.

Ed.

Circuit Walk Group

We meet every 3rd Thursday of the month; start at 10:00am

Phone Lesley (01622 739039 or 07733 046915) for further information).



New walkers are always welcome!

Alan's report on the April Walk: Holly Hill to Coldrum Longbarrow (and back again)

Laurel and I had tested the walk in early March and found it a bit boggy in places but passable. We went again shortly before the walk and it was much wetter and slipperier - we couldn't get all the way round as it was waterlogged in Ryarsh Woods. So I re-planned the route just to go from Holly Hill to Coldrum Longbarrow and directly back again.

However British weather can be changeable and in the space of a month we went from freezing temperatures to the hottest April day since 1949. In the event, the sun greeted our band of 11 walkers as we set off from Holly Hill which is a few miles north and uphill from Birling.



The woods on the south side of the North Downs provided shade and good protection from the heat and we ambled down the slope to meet Pilgrims Way and then stopped to have our break at the Coldrum standing stones. This chambered long barrow, now ruined, was probably built over 5,000 years ago during Britain's Early Neolithic period and was used to store human remains.



The return journey back up to Holly Hill was a challenge but we were rewarded with fantastic views across north and west Kent where we could just make out the Dartford Bridge, Canary Wharf and the Shard.

Our next couple of walks are:

21st June: Meet at Linton Church Car Park, Linton Hill, ME17 4AW for a 4-mile walk, heading West across the A229. Varied walk with some lovely views for the first mile if the weather is kind; mix of orchards, woodland, grass fields, grass, tracks and quiet roads. We pass the Bonfleur Horse Cross Country Course. Led by Lesley.

19th July: Meet at the Pepperbox Inn, Windmill Hill, Harrietsham (OS137 TQ858501) for a 5-mile walk. There are a couple of short sections of the Greensand Way along the Ridge, with good views across the Weald. Then we loop round via Liverton Street to view

the North Downs. We shall be parking in the pub car park so please park tidily at the back of the car park. It would be good if some of us could manage a pint afterwards! Led by Lesley.

Lesley Hitch



In Memoriam Raj Kesur 1963 - 2018

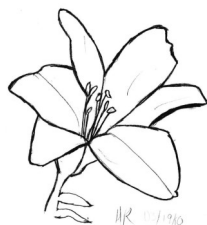
As we went to press last month, we had just heard of the untimely death of our member, Raj Kesur. Many of us subsequently attended his funeral, where we came to understand a great deal more about his life, as we heard from his brother, his son and Eve Orry, who delivered a tribute which drew on both her own and Bonni-Belle's insights into Raj's life, as his pastoral visitor and minister respectively.

Raj's funeral was a standing room only affair - his life had brought him into contact with a wide range of people, and whilst there were many of his family and friends from the Hindu community in the packed congregation, there were also many representatives from at least four different Christian churches: our own, the Salvation Army, the Life Church and St Luke's. Raj was well-known in all these church communities. Indeed, before he arrived at our services on a Sunday morning, he had often already attended two others elsewhere.

Many of us knew Raj to be a stickler for detail - woe and betide if the puzzle in *Vision* had an error, or the answer was not printed when I had said it would be. Raj would be sure to notice - and tell me! Raj's brother's words at the funeral made clear that things had to be done Raj's way, right from his childhood! But that attention to particulars had led him to being a successful contestant on Countdown some years ago, and he regularly spent much time each day enjoying a range of puzzles, especially fiendishly difficult sudokus. He was also a keen Manchester United fan, and had a wide circle of friends in the area. Sadly Raj died on his birthday, which he had celebrated early with a meal out with friends the previous night.

A couple of years ago, Raj chose to take up membership of our church, whilst continuing to attend various services and groups at the other churches. He was a familiar figure at a number of church events, and I think we were all saddened and shocked at the suddenness of his passing.

We continue to remember him and his family in our prayers, and to give thanks for the ways in which he enriched our church community.



Laurel Townend

Famous Refugees

All the people below were refugees or the children of refugees.

All have made their mark in significant ways on the communities that have taken them in: Find others at <http://refugeeweek.org.uk/resources/facts-figures-and-contributions/famous-refugees/>

Michael Marks - One of the founders of Marks and Spencer, Russian refugee.

Richard Rogers – Designer of the Centre Pompidou and the Millennium Dome. His mother was a refugee from Trieste.

Lucien Freud – Well-known British painter, German-Jewish refugee

Anish Kapoor – Artist, who won the 1991 Turner Prize. His parents were refugees who fled Iraq

Sir John Tenniel – Cartoonist and book illustrator, (his *Alice in Wonderland* illustrations are his best-known work) descended from Huguenot refugees.

Albert Einstein – One of the world's most famous scientists, German-Jewish refugee

Ben Elton – Comedian, grandson of a Czechoslovakian refugee



Children's Pages

Bible Story

Elijah at the end of the Drought

(Based on versions from The Illustrated Children's Bible and other accounts found on the internet)

Just before the heavens had opened and the rain finally came to the land of Israel, Elijah advised King Ahab to prepare his chariot and horses and to head for home immediately before the rain could stop him from travelling. Surprisingly, Elijah pulled his robes around his waist and, strengthened by God, he ran ahead of the King's chariot all the way to the city of Jezreel.

On his return, King Ahab told Jezebel what had happened on Mount Carmel and how her prophets had been killed. This enraged Jezebel and she sent a message to Elijah telling him that he would be killed in the same way as the prophets of Baal had been killed. This really frightened Elijah and he left the city immediately and went to hide in the desert of Judah.

Elijah became very depressed while in hiding and could see no point to his life. He had led a lonely life. The King and Jezebel disliked him because of his faith in the Lord God. He had hoped that his victory over the priests of Baal would change everything because he had shown that the Lord God was the true God. But nothing changed because of Jezebel's hatred for him.

Elijah was lonely, afraid, hungry and thirsty. He lay down and prayed to God that he should die. He fell asleep but he was woken up by an angel of God who ordered him to get up and eat. On opening his eyes he saw that there was water and cake prepared for him. So he ate and drank and then he fell asleep again. For a second



time he was woken by an angel who told him to eat and drink because he had a long journey ahead of him. Elijah did as he was told and set out on his way. With the strength from that simple food, Elijah walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached Mount Horeb.

Jan Hinchliffe



May Madness

Hi everyone,

I just want to say a **big thank you** for your help in raising money for our building. It was amazing to see so many members of our local community joining together to help us. Unfortunately, due to the weather, we didn't manage to attract as many people as last year, yet, despite the weather, there was a sense of joy and fun around. Well done everyone!

Some members of the public that I spoke with didn't seem to mind the weather and after they had played a few games outside, they were getting cosy inside by eating yummy cakes. I hope you had a lovely time too.

I would love to hear your opinion about the event so we can improve it for next year. Can you comment on 3 things you really liked and 3 things that you think could be improved for next year. Thank you very much.

God bless you all

Luzia Watts



Just email your comments labelled "May Madness" in the subject header to vision@usmc.org.uk, and I will pass them onto Luzia. **Ed**

Centrepoint

Centrepoint Programme: 2017-18

14th June End of Season Supper

As can be seen from the calendar above, our Centrepoint season is almost at an end. Activities will however resume in September with a new programme of meeting etc. As previously pointed out, the next session is likely to contain rather more home grown social evenings, partly due to the ever increasing cost of speakers and partly because such evenings seem to go down very well with members enjoying a little more informality and time to chat.

Our penultimate meeting of this year's programme comprised a fun evening of various quizzes of a light hearted nature, together with some lively games including one involving throwing specially marked up dice and the need for some quick thinking!

The apparent success of this evening and the friendly competitive nature of the participants reinforced the view that social evenings are welcomed and enjoyed.

The final formal evening of the season comprised a re-run of a very successful 'Call My Bluff' evening organised by Lesley, at which it was good to welcome a number of visitors in the audience as well as the 'distinguished guests' who formed the two participating teams.

The evening once again proved to be very entertaining and educational particularly for anyone who is a word expert or a dedicated Scrabble player, with the identification of the meaning of various very obscure words of course being the whole basis of the activity. Thanks go to Lesley and her helpers for organising this evening. Thanks also of course go to those who volunteered (or were press ganged!) into taking part.



At the end of our season, it is also right to express thanks to all

the Centrepont committee members and all others who work in any way to make the group a continuing success.

As noted above, Centrepont meetings will re-commence in September when we will as ever, welcome any new members or any visitors who may like to come along to the occasional meeting.

Peter Herrin



A Prayer

Please God never let the day come
When I need to seek asylum,
That my home I should have to flee,
That I become a refugee.

For there are many, not just some
Places I would not be welcome.
The number of which seems to grow,
Soon there will be nowhere to go.

Should you make me a refugee
Pray God not in vain let it be.
Let it teach all humanity,
Compassion, mercy, empathy.

Damian Murphy, 2016

from <https://hellopoetry.com/words/refugee/>



Rotas

Date

June 3rd
June 10th
June 17th
June 24th

Vestry Steward

Christine Richards
Ian Jenkins
Lin Smith
Christine Richards

Pastoral Steward

Lin Smith
Christine Richard
Bill Orry
Lin Smith

Door Steward

June 3rd
June 10th
June 17th
June 24th
Alan Wilson
Betty Free
Michael Packer
Eve Orry

Hymn Books

Freda Wilson
Norma Hitch
Pete Smith
Val Liddle

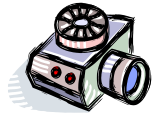


Projection

June 3rd
June 10th
June 17th
June 24th
Paul Smith
Paul Smith
Alan Townend
Paul Smith

Sound

Ernie Munn
Ernie Munn
Ernie Munn
Ernie Munn



Reader 1

June 3rd
June 10th
June 17th
June 24th
Peter Herrin
Paul Smith
Ernie Munn
Barbara Herrin

Reader 2

Bill Wallis
Gillian Starkey
Lesley Hitch
Alan Townend

Intercessions

June 3rd
June 10th
June 17th
June 24th
Bill Wallis
Iris Pring

Organist

David Hitch
Jenifer Horbury
David Hitch
David Hitch

Communion Stewards

June 3rd
Lesley Hitch, Bill Orry & Peter Herrin



"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' " **Matthew 2: 13**