



Church Notices

Superintendent Minister:

Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard (07590 564477)

Today, Sunday 13th January:

10.30 am. Our preacher today is Irene Shepherd

Next Sunday, 20th January:

Our Messy Church service will be led by Rev Bonni-Belle Pickard

Today's hymns are:

StF 34; MP 115; StF 233; 419; 662

Today's scripture readings are:

Isaiah 43, vv 1 - 7 and Luke 3, vv 15 - 17 & 21 - 22

Welcome

A very warm welcome to everyone worshipping with us today, and especially to those who are visitors. We hope you will stay and join us at the back of the church for tea and coffee and a chat.

Do join us at any of the events and meetings listed in this notice sheet. We look forward to seeing you again.



Notices for this week

- 14th Jan** The Maidstone Churches Winter shelter will be hosted at our church overnight, and will continue on each Monday night until 18th March.
Stewards Meeting 7.30 pm
- 15th Jan** Funeral of Betty Free: Short service of committal at the Crematorium at 11.45am (for family only) followed by a service to celebrate Betty's life, at 12.30pm at Union Street Church. Refreshments will be served in the community centre afterwards.
- 17th Jan** Circuit Walk Meeting at Knole, Sevenoaks (TN15 0RP) car park for a winter park walk of about 4.5 miles. Meet at 10.15 am (car park charge £4, free to NT members)



Looking Ahead

- 22nd Jan** Everyone is welcome to attend the Church Council meeting to be held in the Gordon Higgins Room starting at 7.30pm. Please could those who will be writing reports, send them to Bonni-Belle (copied to Eve Orry please) by early on Friday 18th January (or earlier if possible) so that copies of the reports can be printed and collated in time for the meeting.
- 23rd Jan** Centrepont Beetle Drive 7.45 pm



Prayer

Let us remember especially in our prayers:

Any friends in the congregation experiencing bereavement, along with any of our members and friends who are suffering from health problems, and those in hospital. We continue to pray also for any friends in residential homes.

In particular, we pray for the family and friends of Betty Free.



We pray also for the Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter as they welcome guests for the coldest weeks of the year.

Regular Events

Tuesdays 12.00 - 1.00 pm. Frontline lunch meeting to share experiences and to chat. Thought for the Day and prayer are at 12.30. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee are provided.

Wednesdays 3.30 onwards. Youth Drop In in the Church Centre

Find us on Facebook at **ydimaidstone** or on **www.youthdropinmaidstone.co.uk**

Thursdays 10 am - Noon Thursday Market in the Church. Refreshments available **Please note:** the Thursday Market will not be open again until **Thursday 31st January.**

Fridays 10.00 - 12 noon.. Craft Group in the Gordon Higgins Room. All are welcome.

First Saturday of each month: Messy Breakfast 8.30 - 10.30 am. Do come along.



There are also **House Groups** which meet regularly. For details speak to Richard Vincent, Eve Orry or Peter Herrin. Ask a Steward if you need to be introduced to a House Group co-ordinator.



Psalm

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue; be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.

Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.

Psalm 31: vv 1-5

Gracious God, draw us towards yourself,
that in our busyness we may find space
to be still in your presence,
and in your presence be touched and
transformed by your glory.

Ever-present God, as we encounter others,
grant that we may glimpse in them your image
and in so doing be changed so as to mirror you to them.

Yearning God, stir up within us your Spirit,
that we may echo your aching for the world
and become agents of your change.

Midwife God, deliver us from our self-centredness
so as to be liberated as the children of God,
bearing witness to your kingdom breaking forth.

Holy God, stop us in our tracks to gaze upon your glory,
that we may be changed from one degree of glory to another
and be lost in wonder, love and praise.

Peter Barber, Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District Chair



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Future Notices

Please send items for next week's notices to
notices@usmc.org.uk by 6pm.on Thursday 17th January.