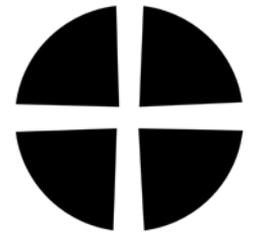


# Newsletter

SITTINGBOURNE METHODIST CHURCH

ISSUE No. 91 AUTUMN 2016



www.sittingbournemethodist.org.uk

## From the Minister *Harvest Mission*

For the past eight years Luzia and I have been supporting a crèche belonging to the Methodist Church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. In August 2010 we took a group of people from Tonbridge Road Methodist Church and Larkfield Methodist Church to visit the Methodist Church and Crèche. For a few people this was a life changing experience and they were touched by the care and the strength of the Methodist people in Belo Horizonte and especially the children in the crèche. Tonbridge Road Methodist Church in Maidstone has continued to support the crèche financially over the past five years and without the money they have raised the crèche would definitely have closed. The crèche currently clothes and feeds 170 children a day from poor communities and many of these children would be living on the streets or going without daily food without the ministry of the crèche.

The funds raised have bought new cots and mattresses for babies and toddlers. The crèche has been repainted inside and out, new toilets and showers fitted, new washing machines and dryers as well as installing bat nets, new security bars and refitting the dining area and kitchen. It is amazing to see how much a sum of money such as the £1000 a year raised by Tonbridge Road Church can make such a difference. The people who went on the trip five years ago also ran a community market to raise funds and visited other Methodist Churches in poorer areas in Belo Horizonte. The group were deeply touched when they had the opportunity to go out into the city at night with church members to offer soup and clothes to homeless people. The homeless in Belo Horizonte do not just include single men; there also families with young children



forced to live on the street because of poverty.

I am writing this for two reasons:

**1.** At harvest time we need to remember that in the UK even those with little and who struggle to get by day to day still have so much more than those living in poverty overseas. Harvest is a time to thank God for the blessings we have received and to give something back to the poorest in our community by donating non-perishable goods. I want to encourage you to reflect on the blessings you have received from God – a home, family, security, food, education, health care. After this time of reflection why not try and give something back to others in need. This harvest let us give thanks to God for all that he has given us by bringing our harvest gifts to bless those in need within our society, the homeless, the addicted and those without hope. Let's use this opportunity to show our community that we give thanks to God for his provision and let's share the good gifts that God has given us with others.

**2.** Next year, I am due to take a sabbatical and as a part of this I would like to take a group of people back to Belo Horizonte, Brazil with Luzia and me. It would be an opportunity to get to know the Methodist Church in Belo Horizonte and share in their mission. There will be opportunities to serve the homeless, feed the hungry, visit the Methodist crèche, run a bazaar and even go on a trip to visit Rio de Janeiro.

Date: 27 July 2017 (for two weeks)

Cost: around £1300 including flight, hotel (bed and breakfast) This could be more or less depending on the cost of the flights. The trip to Rio De Janeiro would cost extra.

It would be incredible to share this experience with you, and I would hope that it would be a life changing experience. Let me know if you are interested or want more details.

May the Lord of the harvest bless you

Gary



## Sittingbourne Methodists

Closed group

Joined ▾

Share

Notifications

⋮

Discussion

Members

Events

Photos

Files

Search this group



Write Post

Add Photo/Video

Create poll

More

### RECENT ACTIVITY



**Pru Cahill**

9 hrs

Thank you everyone at Sittingbourne for the support - financial and prayer - you've been giving to the Word on the Street project on Cavell Way. Bill, Karen and Pru are committed to several sessions each week and the house is now open on a Monday afternoon after school for children aged 9-14, on Tuesday mornings for adults and pre-school children, Tuesday afternoon for parents and children aged 5-8.

The very first group was of ten children who enjoyed some craft, table-tennis, and video games. The house has been kitted out with new appliances for the kitchen, new sofas, pool table, office furniture and equipment provided by kind donations such as yours. We are looking for volunteers to be alongside, to make drinks, to be available to talk, to sit and chat. And in a week or two there will be an open day especially for anyone/everyone interested in knowing what your money and prayers have been doing in God's hands. Exciting times.



**YEAR ONE**

# £1,100

**raised for Word on the Street**

Like

Comment



METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN  
SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT, EASTERN AREA DAY

## “Learning to Treasure Mercy” with Deacon Pru Cahill

**Saturday 15 October 2016 · 10.30am – 3.30pm**

at Sittingbourne Methodist Church  
High Street Sittingbourne ME10 4PB

Local contact:

Rosemary Madgwick [rosemarymadgwick@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarymadgwick@gmail.com) 01795 474075

£3.00 minimum day charge covers drinks and a contribution towards expenses. Please give more if you can.

Collection for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY)

**Everyone welcome!**

# At last!

*The Christian Resources Exhibition is coming to Kent!*

*The only place to find a huge range of church resources under one roof!*

CRE

EQUIPPING AND  
EMPOWERING  
THE CHURCH

## **Over 30 years of equipping and empowering the Church.**

Christian Resources Exhibitions are the largest, most successful and best-known events providing everything needed to resource, equip and empower the Church. CRE has established a place in the church calendar for its flagship exhibition at ExCeL, London, every May. This annual exhibition and event was first held in London in 1985 and for many years was a single event held at Sandown Park, Esher, and just a few years ago it moved again to central London. The event has since branched out to regional shows in Exeter, Bristol and Manchester. But for the very first time there is a regional show in the South-East to be held at The Kent Event Centre (Detling Showground) on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 October 2016.

## **CRE is more than just an exhibition.**

The daily programme includes seminars, workshops, arts theatre, and guest speakers, including Chris Bowater (considered to be the father of the modern worship movement), Gerald Coates (Pioneer Network), David Pawson (speaker and author), Pastor Mary Eniolu (Lighthouse Christian Centre) and many others.

## **Ten great reasons to visit the exhibition:**

- To see the best in Christian resources available for the Church
- To visit the specialist exhibition zones
- To browse and buy at the extensive CRE book and resource store
- To attend practical and resourcing seminars



- To attend the specialist workshops
- To enjoy the very best in Christian theatre and music
- To meet new Christian organisations and ministries
- To meet authors and performers who will be doing book and music signings
- To enjoy the experience of meeting hundreds of suppliers and Christian organisations
- To be equipped and empowered

## **Ticket prices**

Pre-registered online £4  
(£3 concessions)

By phone £5 (£4 concessions) call 01793 418218 and dial 1, have your credit or debit card to hand.

On the door £6 (£5 concessions)

To view the full brochure paste this url into your browser [https://issuu.com/bibsocnewmedia/docs/9753\\_bible\\_society\\_cre\\_south\\_east\\_b?e=3833127/37793505](https://issuu.com/bibsocnewmedia/docs/9753_bible_society_cre_south_east_b?e=3833127/37793505)

If you require any additional information please contact Tony Brown.

# Vision for the future

## Food and water

We need to have a vision for the poor of the world in the countries where there is often very limited safe, clean water. This may need international cooperation, especially where rivers go through different countries. It will also require cooperation from individuals and companies as well as local and central government, where too often the cheapest method of disposing waste is to dump it into water supplies. We need to avoid food waste, which occurs in many countries including the United Kingdom, where about one third of the food in the supermarket chains is wasted. As Britain is to leave the European Union it would be helpful, as the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) stated in August 2016, if agricultural subsidies were geared towards environmentally friendly policies rather than going to richer farmers who do not need the subsidies.

## Climate change

We need a clear vision of how to combat climate change, which can threaten rich and poor countries alike in the future. We have the technology to reduce future demand for fuels, sometimes by having regulations about future buildings being better insulated, having heat extractors, solar panels and other efficient methods of preventing climate change. The Governor of the Bank of England has stated that climate change is one of the most important issues facing the United Kingdom and the world generally. It would be helpful if schools and colleges had to study this topic when much less important issues are often studied.

Paula Clifford, a climate adviser to the former Archbishop of Canterbury and head of theology at Christian Aid, has written an excellent book "Angels with trumpets" subtitled the church in a time of global warming. She shows why Christians should take the subject seriously. Yet particularly in the United

States of America, many so-called evangelicals are hostile to measures to reduce the effects of climate change.

## Energy

Power supply is often erratic in many countries including India. Solar power would often help to eliminate this problem since it can be produced locally rather than relying on cables and power stations, which can break down. The late economist J.K Galbraith commented in his books about built-in obsolescence. By this phrase, he meant that many machines and other equipment were not built to last but to become obsolete very quickly, perhaps because of not having spare parts or maintenance facilities. Sometimes obsolescence occurs because people are persuaded that the latest gadget is necessary even when it is economically better to keep the existing gadget. This contributes to the amount of resources being used often without any compensating benefits.

David Spurling

---

# Pastoral care and beyond

## How would you describe pastoral care?

Someone who is caring, a good listener, can adapt easily to different situations: comforter, taking a person (or persons) out for a coffee, shopping, prayer ministry, phoning someone or emailing them, texting, writing a letter or sending a "thinking of you" card and it can go on.

At Sittingbourne we have a good pastoral care system with dedicated people giving their time to do one of the above mentioned. Friday coffee morning is part of our outreach where we listen and this is part of pastoral care. Thursday luncheon club includes our Friendship Group (formally 3H) which meets in our Frontline Lounge each week. We listen, care and support all those who come along, and its wonderful fellowship also comes under the umbrella of pastoral care.

## So what word is missing? Visiting

We all visit when we are able to. If you see someone regularly at church, or any of the activities that have been mentioned and you enquire if they are all right, if they chat about various situations and they are quite content with that arrangement, that is acceptable. If someone requests a visit then that is part of our pastoral care and we carry out that request.

At Sittingbourne this works well. The housebound or those in residential care may request Holy Communion, and Ray Borrett (our student minister) is available to do this. If you speak to the pastoral coordinator it can be arranged.

So what about our pastoral visitors themselves? They don't actually have a pastoral visitor but most of them share with each other their individual cares and concerns and they can also spend time praying together.

Whatever we do in our church life is God's work and as a pastoral team we do it to glorify his name.

Linda Brown Pastoral Coordinator



## The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

|| What church activities help us most to deepen our faith in God? || How effective are our small groups in linking faith to everyday life? || How do we learn about the challenges of Christian life today from churches elsewhere in Britain and the wider world? || Are there peripheral activities we should stop, to make time for our training and learning needs? || What activities make it easy for others to join us? What links do we have with groups using our premises? || What do we expect from our pastors? What do we expect from one another by way of support and care? Do we notice or care about those who drift away or leave?

# God is with us

## *A Personal Letter...*

People may be wondering why I am still preaching at 93. I retired in 2003 after 55 years as a local preacher. As some preachers feel, after 50 years or so, I thought I had said all there was to say. I was wrong! Then in 2014 I heard that South Green chapel was about to close. I had a particular affinity with this little church as it was one of the first I had visited when 'on note' in 1939/40 at the tender age of sixteen years. I wanted to conduct one more service there before it closed.

My mind went back to those early days when I cycled to South Green with Bill Bennett, one of our old preachers from Milton Regis (by the way, I must not leave out the word 'Regis', for my hometown is a royal town). As a novice, I only said the opening prayer. We were not allowed to do more than that; I had to learn to feel at ease in the pulpit. Bill was a character, with a very expressive face. He was one of my 'encouragers,' as I like to call them. One evening at our church he began the opening prayers with "Lord, be thou with us this evening" then continuing, "Cancel that Lord, thou art with us already." We had to smile.

Being on my own now, I have plenty of time to think and I think a lot in the quiet moments late at night. I think of all the wonderful years I spent with Jean, travelling to distant places across the world with old friends, even to the Holy Land, a special present from



Jennifer on our ruby anniversary. I realise I have a wonderful family who are always there should I need them, and I think to myself "What have I done to deserve all this?"

What can I do to say thank you to God for being with me all these years. He was very much with me, I thought recently, during the war in Normandy and beyond when during those days I had a few 'near misses'. He had really been with me then. How could I not continue to preach the good news and what is more, I felt able to. I feel a new inspiration, my body may be a little weaker, but my mind is doing overtime – and better still, I have been kindly received. The time will come when I shall no longer be able to do these things – but not yet!

I am not well educated or clever, but I try to preach a simple gospel. I can do no other. It is a tremendous privilege

and responsibility to be a Methodist local preacher and I still feel very humble at the lectern. I sometimes ask myself, still, "Why did God call me, of all people, to speak for him?" When the time comes for me to 'stand down,' I shall know the signs, but not yet. You will have to put up with me for a few more years yet, I hope.



I love telling stories and jokes! Let me tell you one. An old preacher long ago was heard to say to a friend after his service, 'Do you think the congregation approved of my sermon?' 'Oh yes,' his friend said, 'Did you not see them all nodding?'

And a bit of advice for any young preachers – 'If you do not strike oil in five minutes, stop boring.'

**Ernie Slarks**



## *Autumn Tints*

*Out on the common the bracken is turning  
From green and yellow to bronze and gold.  
The flames of autumn are bright and burning  
Over the hills where clouds unfold.*

*And there will be fragrance from autumn showers  
And morning sunshine to gleam and glisten  
Scattering light on the blazing flowers  
Where man may prattle and God will listen.*

**by Kathleen Partridge  
Submitted by Rosemary**

# Another little gem from Cornwall



Wesley Cottage is situated just off the A30 between Bodmin Moor and the Devonshire border, approximately 54 miles from where we were to be staying in Portreath.

We had a relatively trouble free journey although the A30 wasn't without its problems. As we approached Bodmin we seemed to catch up with the caravan brigade (nothing personal Bill and Jenny!)

A few weeks before setting off on our holiday in Cornwall I read an article in the summer edition of Mission Matters about Wesley Cottage in Cornwall. Tony and I thought a visit to this place was an opportunity not to be missed. We had planned to make a stopover for some R and R at one point and the location of the cottage seemed to fit in well with our plans.

Wesley Cottage is in the small quiet village of Trewint which was easy to find. Trying to find somewhere to park led us to a couple outside a cottage. The man was up a ladder doing some repairs while his wife stood dutifully at the bottom steadying it. They gave us some helpful information – we were but a few minutes from the site.

As we arrived the curator John Hogarth was busy showing another couple around so he directed us to the prayer garden just across the narrow lane. Immediately we found a sense of peace although we were only minutes from the main trunk road, so

this was a welcome rest after six hours of driving. In this little oasis we felt the true presence of God; there were stone tablets around the garden containing various verses of scripture which helped to ground us as we prepared for this two weeks' break in "God's country".

Thirty minutes later we went into the cottage where John was just saying farewell to his first two visitors. He told that he had not had any visitors so far that day, then two couples came almost at the same time. John actually lives in the cottage adjoining Wesley Cottage so it was no real problem for him. We had a complete tour of the cottage which was really fascinating.

John Wesley stayed there on a number of occasions, and the lower room of the chamber where visiting preachers

stayed is thought to be the smallest Methodist preaching place in the world. Wesley Cottage first opened as a museum and place of pilgrimage in 1950. Since then, thousands of visitors have been inspired by this historic site. Many visitors have no connection with Christianity and often ask questions regarding John Wesley and matters of faith today.

In 2011 a full development project was proposed and significant sums of money were raised in Cornwall for this work. A grant from the Methodist Connexion enabled the first phase of the work to be achieved. Through this development, Wesley Cottage will educate and provide an experience to both tourists and Cornish visitors. The mission is twofold: firstly educating people about the history of Methodism in Cornwall, and secondly as a mission centre for the Church in presenting the gospel in a new way.

Today Wesley Cottage provides an unique visitor experience set in an 18th century cottage and chapel. The highlights of our visit were hearing the story of the first Methodist preachers visiting Cornwall and calling at the cottage. The 'Wesley Room' where John Wesley prayed and slept, with its display of 18th century artifacts. There is an excellent small bookstall and a Wesley Cottage quiz (especially for younger visitors) And there is a bonus of complimentary light refreshments normally available.

So if you are in that neck of the woods do try and take time out to visit. Winter Opening by arrangement, to visit please email [wesleycottage@live.co.uk](mailto:wesleycottage@live.co.uk) or telephone: 01566 880265 Summer Opening (1st May to 31st October) Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Contact: [wesleycottage@live.co.uk](mailto:wesleycottage@live.co.uk) or telephone: 01566 880265 Full address Wesley Museum & Cottage, Trewint, Altarnun, Launceston

Linda Brown

# Prayer Stations

I am continuing to place some more prayer stations in the church, this time in our sanctuary area. This is part of an assignment I am doing for my further worship leader training. We have an area already in the church with the themes of peace, love, the tree of life and our beautiful praying hands circle that Deb Borrett made for us.

Also to the left of the church as you walk in from the main front doors there is one which signifies birth and new life in Christ.

The two in the sanctuary area on will represent poverty and refugees fleeing from Syria, which represents part of mission and outreach and cities and towns ravaged by violence.

We will include these prayer stations in our prayers of intercession from time to time. We will invite anyone from the congregation to stand alongside the prayer stations and light a candle if they wish.



Prayer stations are becoming a more significant part of worship especially within Methodism. It used to be more of an Anglican tradition but candles are becoming a major part of worship nationally also within our homes, with scented varieties and those with unusual shapes in many colours and sizes.

I am a candle person myself – a flickering flame, as you look into it and pray, for me is very moving and it speaks to me and the flame reminds me of Christ the light of the world. Christ is our guide even when times are difficult, the path we walk becomes rugged, but our journey with him continues. Even in our darkest times Christ's light shines, we don't have to flick a switch for on and off. His light is always on; it is up to us to recognise it even in our darkest times.

Linda Brown



## Letter from UK's leading children's charities

We welcome the Prime Minister's words on entering Downing Street committing her government to tackle the barriers facing the most disadvantaged.

In order to achieve this, working to improve children's outcomes and opportunities must be front and centre of the Government's agenda, even as Ministers tackle wider economic and foreign policy challenges.

As the Prime Minister begins her leadership at a time of economic uncertainty, it is critical that children do not suffer. Children have been disproportionately affected by spending reductions, and we must make

absolutely sure that this is not repeated in coming years.

Leaving the European Union also creates the challenge of unravelling a web of domestic and international legal provisions - in doing so, it is crucial that protections for the most vulnerable children are not compromised. Those protections currently implemented and safeguarded through European law must be enshrined in domestic law.

Children do not have a say in who governs the country, and they couldn't vote in the EU referendum. But the decisions adults take do affect them, both now and in the future. This places a particular responsibility on us all to ensure that their voices are heard loud and clear in the times ahead.

For many decades our organisations have stood together to protect and speak out for the most vulnerable children in our society. Collectively, we are able to bring to bear the voices of hundreds of thousands of children and young people. In the coming months and years, as the United Kingdom finds its way through the uncharted territory ahead, it is our duty to make their voices heard. We look forward to working with the new Government to do so.

**Matthew Reed, Chief Executive,  
The Children's Society**

**Peter Wanless, Chief Executive, NSPCC**

**Sir Tony Hawkhead, Chief Executive,  
Action for Children**

**Javed Khan, Chief Executive of Barnardo's**

# The top 25 Christian songs for 2015/16

Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) was originally established in 1988 to provide a copyright solution for churches wanting to reproduce the words of hymns and worship songs as overhead projectors and photocopiers began to replace hymnbooks. As churches began to adopt new technology into their activities, CCLI responded to their needs with copyright licences to show films, play or perform music, record services, photocopy from authorised publications and to legally download song lyrics and music from the internet. CCLI became aware that other organisations needed permission from the copyright owners for their activities and were able to offer licences to schools, events, Christian bookshops and many others. Today CCLI administers over 165,000 licences in Europe and 515,000 worldwide.

Every church regardless of denomination which uses word or music copies, photocopies of hymns and songs from other sources which are under copyright and also those who project them is legally responsible to send a return into CCLI every year and pay a licence fee. There are various levels of licences depending on how the church operates; in our case it costs around £250 per year.

**Each year CCLI lists the top 25 hymns and songs that have been played most in the previous 12 months. Here are this year's results.**

- 1 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)** by Myrin, Jonas/Redman, Matt (released 2012)
- 2 In Christ Alone** by Getty, Keith/Townend, Stuart (released 2001)
- 3 How Great Is Our God** by Cash, Ed/Reeves, Jesse/Tomlin, Chris (released 2004)
- 4 Here I Am To Worship** by Hughes, Tim (released 2002)
- 5 Cornerstone** by Morgan, Reuben/Myrin, Jonas/Bradbury, William Batchelder/Liljero, Eric/Mote, Edward

## TOP 25



**CCLI**  
*Encouraging the spirit of worship*

- 6 How Deep The Father's Love For Us** by Townend, Stuart (released 2009)
- 7 Be Still** by Evans, David J. (released 2003)
- 8 Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)** by Baloché, Paul/Brown, Brenton (released 2006)
- 9 Shout To The Lord** by Zschech, Darlene (released 2003)
- 10 How Great Thou Art** by Hine, Stuart Wesley Keene (approx.1954)
- 11 Blessed Be Your Name** by Redman, Beth/Redman, Matt (released 2002)
- 12 King Of Kings Majesty** by Cooper, Jarrod (released 1996)
- 13 Everlasting God** by Brown, Brenton/Riley, Ken (released 2006)
- 14 Mighty To Save** by Fielding, Ben/Morgan, Reuben (released 2008)
- 15 Psalm 23** by Townend, Stuart (first released 1996)
- 16 This Is Amazing Grace** by Riddle, Jeremy/Wickham, Phil/Farro, Josh (released 2013)
- 17 The Servant King** by Kendrick, Graham (released 2001)
- 18 Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)** by Giglio, Louie/Newton, John/Tomlin, Chris (released 2008)
- 19 Forever** by Tomlin, Chris (released 2001)
- 20 Faithful One** by Doerksen, Brian (released 2010)
- 21 Our God** by Myrin, Jonas/Reeves, Jesse/Redman, Matt/Tomlin, Chris
- 22 Come Now Is The Time To Worship** by Doerksen, Brian (released 1977)

- 23 There Is A Redeemer** by Green, Melody (released 1982)
- 24 Great Is Thy Faithfulness** by Chisholm, Thomas Obediah (released 1925)
- 25 I Will Offer Up My Life** by Redman, Matt (released 1998/2005)

### Quite revealing I think you will agree?

We have to bear in mind this is not just a list of contemporary worship songs; the results are drawn up from actual statistics received by CCLI from churches. "10000 reasons" being at number one is no surprise; in just four years it has an amazing following. "How great thou art" has had an incredible revival – first performed in 1954 by the late George Beverly Shea at the first Billy Graham Crusade in the UK, it has surely stood the test of time. "Be still" continues to be a firm favourite as does "King of Kings, majesty" and of course the reworking of two evergreens, "Psalm 23" by Stuart Townend and "Amazing Grace (My chains are gone)" by three individual artists, also it's good to see that "Great is thy faithfulness" is still a good contender.

Sometimes statistics can prove very little, but I do believe that this does tell us that there is a great yearning for more hymns and songs that communicate God's loving nature and his glory and grace to people in this 21st century, but by making this statement I don't intend in any way to suggest "throwing the baby out with the bath water"!

**Tony Brown.**