



## Prayer & Thanksgiving – June to September

### CIRCUIT –

**Please pray** for the Methodist South East District as it develops its future strategy, especially in Kent. Help us to stop and think about all that God has enabled us to do in our own lives. Help us reflect upon the difference it has made for us as members of the Methodist church, and the people who are part of our fellowship. Remind us of the various Methodist Societies which are part of the Folkestone Circuit and the activities that take place.

**We give thanks** to God for the communities outside our church buildings, the societies with which we are involved and the charities we aim to support. Help us to be people of vision willing to look at all possibilities for the future, open minded, adaptable and aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit as our lives develop.

**We give thanks** for all our Ministers, Local Preachers and two Local Preachers on trial. For the ministry amongst us over the last five years of the Rev. Ian Hamilton, particularly for his pastoral care of the Sandgate Road and St. Andrew's churches. We also give thanks for Patricia, Ian's wife, who has been a very active member of our church family. **Please pray with us for** God's blessing on their future ministry and for God's peace while they move this summer.

**Please pray** for the leadership team as they prayerfully work together, looking at the future plans for the ministry and witness of the Folkestone Circuit.

**We give thanks** for the East Kent Forum day held in Ashford which many of the Folkestone Circuit attended. For those who organised and led the day, giving us guidance in our thinking and shared stories on how God's Kingdom is being advanced in other parts of the Connexion. For Rev. Mark Wakelin (Secretary for Internal Affairs in the Connexional Team), Rev. Steve Wild (Cornwall District Chair) and our Chair of District Rev. John Hellyer, who all stimulated our thinking. We were prompted to know the purpose of our planting, and were posed challenging questions, "if it's not us who is it? If it's not now, when is it?" **We give thanks** for the reminder that we need to draw closer to our first love, Jesus Christ, so close as described in John 20:22 "And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit...".

## INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES

### Folkestone (Sandgate Road) –

**Please pray** for the success of the various fund raising activities taking place to raise the money needed for a new roof on the church.

**Please pray** for John Simpson who in September 2010 will be climbing Mt Kilimanjaro in support of Marie Curie Cancer Care. The 6-days of trekking will take him to the official summit of Kilimanjaro – Uhuru Peak – which is, at 19340 feet above sea-level, the highest point in Africa.

<http://www.stageone.org.uk/news/KilimanjaroClimb.html>

**Please pray** for the Stage One ecumenical drama group and all their forthcoming productions throughout the year.

<http://www.stageone.org.uk/>

**We give thanks** for those who provided coffee on a Tuesday morning and tea on a Friday afternoon.

**Please pray** that this time of fellowship and Christian outreach in the community will continue to be one of support and spiritual strengthening.

### Cheriton (St. Andrew's)

**Please pray** for the junior church leaders following the recent changes. **We give thanks** for the many years of service given by those stepping down and pray God's blessing on the work of the new leader and those who assist.

**Please pray** for part of our outreach, "Alone on Sunday" teas, where church members invite those in the community to come along for a friendly chat, tea and cake. Also, for the ongoing Wednesday coffee mornings.

**Please pray** for the ecumenical event "Cheriton Fun Day" on 4<sup>th</sup> July, which St. Andrew's is a part of. There will be a joint service at 11am followed by a free barbeque, games and activities. **Please pray** the churches of Cheriton will be able to effectively bring the gospel to the surrounding community.

**We give thanks** for the visit of the Lay Witness Team (<http://www.laywitness.org.uk/>) who led us in a "Sharing God's Love" weekend. The seven volunteers, backed by seven prayer partners, encouraged us to think about how we may develop the way we serve God, both individually, and as a church. From the weekend came the imagery of the submarine Christian who only comes up on Sunday but remains submerged for the rest of the week. **Please pray** that we raise our periscopes and surface more often, having the courage to demonstrate our faith on the other six days of the week as we go about our daily lives. **Please pray** for the house group that will be using the follow-up material and the church family meal on 2<sup>nd</sup> July where there will be discussions about the ideas, hopes and visions from the weekend.

**We give thanks** for our hall which is used significantly by the community. **Please pray** that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit on how we can build bridges with the users of the hall.

**We give thanks** for the outdoor space our church is blessed with. **Please pray for** us as we look at how it can be used for furthering our witness in the community. Some of the possibilities that have been discussed are outdoor services, open air coffee mornings and children's activities outside.

**We give thanks** that we have the facilities to provide temporary accommodation for the Baptist church's youth club. For the wonderful fellowship of the ecumenical Bible studies held at St. Andrew's, while the Baptist Church are having their premises renovated.

**We give thanks** for our two recently qualified and approved Worship Leaders.

### **Rhodes Minnis**

Now that the improvements to the Chapel have been completed **please pray with us** that we might find new opportunities to reach out to the local community, and the Circuit. Maybe people would like to think about making a 'pilgrimage' to the Chapel and spend some time there reflecting on how the Holy Spirit helps us to make sense in this troubled world.

**We give thanks** for the Circuit Quiet Day that was held in this wonderful and tranquil chapel set in the heart of the beautiful countryside of Rhodes Minnis.

### **Lyminge**

**We give thanks** for the three recently qualified worship leaders.

**Please pray** with us for the future witness and use of our hall complex in the life of the village.

**We give thanks** for our Ecumenical Team in the village who have been busy preparing a programme for the coming year. **Please pray for** one of the events, the "Big Picnic", to be held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July at Tayne Field, Lyminge, for the building of relationships between the churches and the ongoing Christian outreach within the village.

**We give thanks** for 'Pushing Up Daisies', the shop held on the Methodist church premises, which is manned by volunteers and sells interesting items to raise money for the benefit of the Village.

### **Elham**

The Churches in Elham have been working together for many years. **We pray** that this will continue with strong leadership by the clergy and laity.

### **Sellindge**

As membership declines and the elderly are unable to attend the Chapel for worship we ask for the Holy Spirit to guide us in our thoughts and prayers about the future.

### **Dymchurch**

**We give thanks** that Richard and Diana Blackwell have joined our small society. Richard is a recently retired URC Pastor.

**Please pray for** the continual ecumenical work in the area, for deepening the fellowship with all churches on Romney Marsh, for the Bible study group planned to commence in September. Please also remember the holidaymakers who will be coming to the village during the summer; that they may find recreation and relaxation. **Please pray that** the churches may be equipped to offer them the spiritual support that they may be looking for.

### **Hythe**

**Please pray for** the existing worship/liturgy committee and Joint Council, consisting of six members from our church and six from our neighbouring Anglican church (St. Michael's), as they work together. **Please pray for** them as they seek to find positive outcomes for the closure of St. Michael's, and the Methodist Church being developed as a shared resource.

**We give thanks** for the good number which attended our Church Anniversary and Annual Meeting in May.

**We give thanks** for the extensive use of the church premises keeping the Church finances on an even keel and enabling some refurbishment to take place.

**We give thanks** for the twelve pastoral visitors continuing to keep in close contact with members and those on the community role.

**We give thanks** for those willing to speak at the Tuesday fellowship and those who attend. It is such a valuable time for pastoral support and outreach. **Please pray for** the growth of this meeting.

**Grace Court (MHA Home)**

**Please pray for** the fortnightly service which is taken by the Ministers and local preachers of the Folkestone Circuit. **Please pray for** the residents as they gather together for a time of reflection, worship and prayer.

