



Larkfield and East Malling Methodist Church

The **Methodist** Church
in Britain

Notices for Sunday 9th March 2025

Prayer for our Worship today

Lord God, we come as your family to worship and adore you.

As we enter this season of Lent,

keep us strong to withstand evil and all that tempts us to turn away from you.

We ask for strength, courage, and inspiration

to stand as your people, the salt and light of the earth.

Lord God, we offer you our lives and we offer you our worship this day. Amen

Our Sunday Services

Sunday 9th March, Lent 1

10 am: Morning worship

led by Jacky and Brian

"The Methodist Way of Life"

Week 1 in series, "Worship"

Steward: Valerie Thornewell

Welcome Stewards: Peter Cox, Mike Winsor

Organist: Rob Wilding

Café Church at 3pm, "Lent or borrowed"

led by Monica

Sunday 16th March, Lent 2

10am: Morning worship led by David Newell

"The Methodist Way of Life"

Week 2 in series, "Learning and Caring"

Steward: Gwen Bartley

Bible Reader: Tony Buddin

Intercessions: Tony Buddin

Welcome Stewards: Audrey Harris

Organist: Rob Wilding

Café Church in Burham at 3pm in the Old School Community Centre

The Online Service for today, 9th March will be at 10.30am. The link and service sheets can be found at:

<https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/invitation-to-worshipfrom-home.html>

Those without the Internet can dial in from a landline or mobile and listen to the service, using these steps:

Step 1: Between 10.15 and 10.30, dial 020 3481 5237 from a mobile or landline - charged at standard national rate.

Step 2: When requested, enter the meeting ID (742 958 8134) followed by #

You do not need a 'participant ID' - just press #. Between 10.15 and 10.30 there will be an opportunity for those dialling in to chat; the lines will be muted at 10.30 so everyone can listen to the service. If you have a laptop, iPad or phone, you can also get into the service on these devices with just one click using the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/99987643710?pwd=bmhvSlh2Nk45QUZXS2JubXgxbEiYdz09>

'A Methodist Way of Life'

Sunday 9 March will mark the first in a four-week preaching series looking at 'A Methodist Way of Life.' MWOL involves 12 spiritual practices (or 'stations') that help us to encounter God, grouped into the four areas of the calling of the Methodist Church: worship; learning and caring; service; and evangelism. These services will be led by Jacky and Brian, David Newell, Monica, and Rev. Naomi. Find out more about the ideas behind MWOL before the first service (and perhaps to start reflecting on which 'station' you feel most comfortable in!) you can find all the details [here](#).

Message from Christine

The funeral of Monty, Christine's husband, will take place on Wednesday 26th March, 2pm at Vinters Park Crematorium, followed by refreshments at The Pond Cafe, Tyland Barn, ME14 3BD until 4.45pm.

Gift Day 2025 – Gift Day letters are available now. If you haven't got yours please ask one of the stewards. Our official "Gift Day" will actually be on Sunday 16th March. Your gifts for our Church Funds are welcome any time, but the Gift Day 2025 fund will close at the end of March. Please see Rev. Naomi's letter for different ways of giving.

Talk by Jacques Arnold with Supper - Our next Fund-Raiser

Friday 14th March at 6.30pm. Tickets £10

Jacques will be giving a talk on "The House of Windsor", an illustrated talk about the royal family.

Please see the poster at the end of the notices.

Please book your place in advance. Tickets available from Monica

Recent Fundraising

Thank you everyone for your generous support for our recent fund-raising events.

For the Supper and Talk by Monica we raised **£160**

For the Valentine's Day Supper and 60s Music we raised **£300**

For the Coffee Morning and Book Sale we raised **£144** (including books sold the following week)

Lent Daily reflections

The Methodist Church's theme for Lent this year is 'Soul Food,' focusing on spiritual nourishment. You can sign up to receive daily reflections and resources straight to your inbox [here](#).

Lent Course - Starting Wednesday 26 March on Zoom with Rev. Naomi

You are warmly invited to join friends from Eccles, Hextable, Larkfield (including Burham), Tonbridge Road and Union Street for a condensed four-week Lent course over Zoom on Wednesday evenings, starting on 26 March at 7.45pm (and then on 2, 9 and 16 April). We'll be using resources based on the film 'The Greatest Showman,' so do watch the film beforehand if you get the chance (it's currently available to watch on Disney+, if you have a subscription). Do let me know if you'd like to join us.

Rev. Naomi's Weekly Message:

Dear friends,

I wonder what makes you angry? Not 'accidentally-stepped-on-a-Lego-brick' angry, but truly angry. Many of us, I'm sure, will have felt a rising tide of anger last week as we watched footage on Friday of President Zelensky of Ukraine being interrupted and berated at the White House by the American President and Vice-President. Anger is a very natural human emotion - one we see Jesus wrestle with in the Gospels. We are exposed to so many stories in the news of cruelty and injustice, and our response - understandably - is often one of anger. But if our anger simply festers inside us, it can quickly turn to bitterness. One of my favourite readings for the season of Lent, which began yesterday, is Isaiah [58:6-11](#), which reminds that the kind of fasting God truly desires from us is to stop 'pointing fingers' and 'talking maliciously' and instead to turn our anger outwards, allowing it to drive us to 'loose the chains of injustice' and to ensure that the hungry are fed. In another reading we often hear during Lent, Jesus did just this when he became angry at the sight of ordinary people being taken advantage of by salespeople and money-changers in the temple courts. He overturned their tables and benches in an act of holy protest. So, this Lent, perhaps part of our discipline is to recognise the righteous anger within ourselves - and to allow it to drive us to reshape the world around us.

Some news and updates for the coming week...

Visit from our MP - Monday 10 March 10am

We are delighted that Tris Osborne, the MP for Chatham and Aylesford (which covers Larkfield, Burham and Eccles) will be visiting the Welcome Hub at Larkfield at 10am on Monday 10 March. We'd love for Tris to see the Hub in full swing, so please do pop down for a cuppa and a piece of cake on Monday morning.

Cafe worship in Burham - Could you help?

As you know, we'll shortly be launching a new, monthly cafe-style service in Burham, in partnership with friends from All Saints, Wouldham. We're very excited about this new venture, and the first service on Sunday 16 March at 3pm in the Old School Community Centre. We need some volunteers to help set up tables and chairs in the hall, provide homemade cakes and/or serve teas and coffees. If you could help in any way, please do get in touch.

Gift Day - Sunday 23 March

Our annual Gift Day is coming up on Sunday 23 March - I've attached a letter with all the details, which many of you will have already received in hard copy. We invite you to think and pray about the invitation to support the church financially in one of the ways suggested in the letter - but also to remember that, if you are unable to do so, we are enriched just by having you as part of the church family. Thank you.

Prayers for Rev Rocky and family

As many of you know, our circuit is receiving a probationer minister, Rev Rocky Chan, in September, who will be working with the Chinese Church and with Spital Street. One of the things we are encouraged to do as a circuit to prepare for Rocky's arrival is to pray for him, and for his family, as they prepare for their new life in North Kent and for Rocky's ministry in our circuit. Please hold Rocky (whose Chinese name is Chi Lok Chan) in your prayers, together with his wife Gisela, and their young children Asher and Levi.

Resettlement charity seeking new Trustees

I'm privileged to be a Trustee of Change for Good, a small charity working with ex-prisoners resettling in London, supporting them to transform their lives and to flourish. The Board is a great bunch of people, and it's been exciting to see the charity grow in new directions in recent years. Amazing, too, to hear the stories of transformation from the men we support.

We're currently recruiting for new Trustees - would you like to join us, or do you know someone who might? You can find all the information [here](#), and find out more about Change for Good [here](#).

Annual leave

Just to let you know in advance that I'll be on holiday from 17-22 March inclusive (and preaching in Coventry on 23 March). Please do nudge me if you're waiting for something from me that you'll need before I go!

Every blessing,
Naomi

The Revd Naomi Oates
Eccles, Hextable, Larkfield & East Malling, and Tonbridge Road Methodist Churches
01732 875 072 / 07485 072 407
Rest day: Friday

Support for the Church in Eccles

Several of you have asked me how we might support our friends at the Church in Eccles. Eccles, , has seen some exciting developments recently - in recent weeks, we have received three new members, and a visit from the local school with whom we are building stronger ties. Several members have also taken on new roles, after Stella stepped down as Senior Steward after 56 years of faithful service. However, the church is still small (16 members) and fairly fragile, especially in terms of finance - last month, there was only £373.77 in the bank, which is far from sustainable, and the church is entirely dependent on income from the preschool. Like Burham, Eccles is the only church building in the village, and we would be grateful for any help to safeguard its future. Here are some suggestions if you wish to help:

1. Make a **financial donation**. The account details are: Eccles Methodist Church Council, sort code: 30 95 37, account number: 48903468. If you are eligible for Gift Aid, please ask me for a form, so we can claim the extra 25% at no cost to you.

2. Organise a **fundraiser** (Larkfield are excellent at those!).

3. If you are a **Worship Leader**, consider whether you could offer an occasional service at Eccles. To do this, Eccles' Church Council would need to appoint you as one of 'their' WLs.

4. Help to build the relationship with the local school. Pupils will be coming to the church for **Easter workshops** on Monday 31 March, and we are also planning a **Messy Church** on Wednesday 9 April at 2pm. If you could help with either, please let me know.

5. And most importantly - **pray!**

Many thanks indeed for your generous support.

Mental Health First Aid training (from Naomi)

There are still spaces available on the Mental Health First Aid two-day in-person training course taking place at Larkfield on 25 and 26 March, from 9.15am to 4pm on both days. Having undertaken this training a little while ago, I can confirm that I have found it hugely valuable, and I would highly recommend it for anyone involved in offering pastoral care and support. It can be emotionally draining, however, so try to ensure you leave the evenings free to rest and recover. We are very fortunate that James, our Circuit Operations Manager, is a MHFA accredited trainer, as usually this training costs £350 to attend! If you would like to take part, simply contact James on operations.nkmc@gmail.com / 07769 219581

Cafe worship in Burham

I recently shared the exciting news that All Saints, Wouldham have invited us to partner with them in launching a cafe-style service in the Old School Community Centre, Burham. The first service will take place on Sunday 16 March at 3pm, and we'd be delighted if you could join us. The services will take place monthly, usually on the third Sunday of the month (with the exception of April, when the third Sunday happens to be Easter Day!). I've attached a joint article for the Burham Buzz from myself and Rev Nicky with more details. The dates for your diary are 16th March, 27th April, 18th May, 15th June, 20th July, 21st September and 19th October.

Next Church Council meeting - Save the date

Our next Church Council meeting will take place on Thursday 16 October 2025 at 7.30pm. All are welcome, so please pop the date in your diary.

Picnic on the Rec - Volunteers needed!

Like last year, the church will have a stall at the hugely popular Picnic on the Rec this year - a brilliant opportunity to meet people from the local community and to publicise our many services and activities. The event will be on Sunday 5 July from 1pm - 5pm (with setup beforehand). If you could join us on the day, please let me know. And please pray for better weather than last year!

Could you be a BB Leader - or do you know someone who could?

Our fabulous Boys' Brigade team are still looking to recruit new Leaders and Helpers. I've reattached the advert - please have a think and a pray about whether you know someone who might be suited to the role (or whether you might be!). Please do pass the advert to anyone who might be interested.

Explore course - May 2025

Explore is open to any member of the Methodist Church in Britain and is a valuable opportunity to consider how you are being called to respond to God's calling (inside or outside the church). You can register at any time of year, although the course element has two cohorts a year and usually runs from September to May, and May to January. You will be offered support through working with an Accompanist; journaling your experiences; shadowing people; learning and development resources; and being part of a group working together over the course of nine months.

There is a taster session for the May 2025 cohort on Thursday 24 April from 7-9pm and the booking link is [here](#). You can sign up for Explore and find out more [here](#).

Wholehearted Monthly - Starting Tuesday 11 March

Wholehearted Monthly is a new online mission series beginning in March, organised by the Methodist Church in Britain. This online webinar is for anyone who is committed to a vibrant friendship between Church and world. There are some fantastic speakers lined up who include:

- Nadia Bolz-Weber – best-selling author, public theologian, pastor, founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints
- Rowan Williams – theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, author of 50 books
- Chine McDonald – writer, broadcaster and author, and Director of Theos.

If you'd like to join me in signing up for the first session on Tuesday 11 March, you can do so [here](#).

BIRTHDAYS:

Happy Birthdays to

Georgia Gambling and **Sharon Martin**, on 12th, and **Alison Hornsby** on 15th March.

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT LARKFIELD

Sundays

First Sunday: **Breakfast Church at 9am, Morning worship at 10.30am**

Second Sunday: **Morning Worship at 10am**

Café Church – second Sunday at 3pm

Third Sunday: **All Age Worship at 10am**

Fourth Sunday: **Morning Worship at 10am**

Mondays

Welcome Hub in the Sycamore Tree - 10am to 4pm - Come and spend a short time or all day with us, with free refreshments, things to do and a warm welcome.

Girls' Brigade- 5pm to 8.30pm, term time only, contact Val Burnage for details - larkfieldgb@gmail.com

Tuesdays

Tuesday Muffins & More 10.00am—2.00pm contact Gwen Bartley or see Notices for details

Sycamore Tree Craft Group 2.00 – 3.30 every Tuesday Afternoon in the Sycamore Tree (Term Time Only),

Wednesdays

Welcome Hub in the Sycamore Tree - 10am to 4pm - Come and spend a short time or all day with us, with free refreshments, things to do and a warm welcome.

Little Larks Toddlers' Club 1.30—3.00pm, term time only, contact Monica Wilding for details

Boys' Brigade 6pm - 7.15pm and 7pm - 8.15pm for aged 11+ contact Liz Morgan: 1larkfieldbb@gmail.com

Thursdays

Chuckles Fellowship Group: Thursdays from 2 to 3.30pm in the church hall

Thursday Dial-in services on the first Thursday of the month

Prayers for this week. We pray for:

- Rev. Naomi, Luke, Rachel and Abigail.
- We pray for Jacky and Brian leading our morning service and Monica leading Café Church.
- For Christine, mourning the loss of Monty, and for all who have recently lost loved ones.
- For all who are recovering from illness or operations, and those waiting for treatment, or struggling with pain.
- We pray for all working in the NHS at this time of pressure and stress.
- Those struggling with poverty and hunger, or finding it difficult to keep warm in their homes.
- Our Welcome Hub, for the guests and the volunteers, that all will find a welcome there, especially on Monday morning when we welcome Tris Osborne, the Larkfield MP.
- We especially pray for negotiations for peace in Ukraine at this difficult time, and for its people who have lost so much.
- We pray for lasting peace in Gaza and Israel. We pray for those who have lost loved ones or homes.
- Our church for growth, in faith and numbers, and we ask God's blessing on each and everyone of us, that we might fulfil our calling to be the people of God working for Him.

Thank you, loving Lord, for all your love, care and concern for each one of us. Thank you that we can always trust you, our strength and our defender. Amen

Online Daily Prayers

Richard will be preparing the on-line prayers again next week. If you have a prayer or thank you prayer, please email him at richwyoung@aol.com

Prayer Wheel

If you wish for a prayer in an emergency, you can email Monica on 07704 105447 or email monicawilding@outlook.com

Church Website - the website address is larkfieldmethodist.org

Contact Martin White at quantum.martin@btinternet.com to include an item on the website.

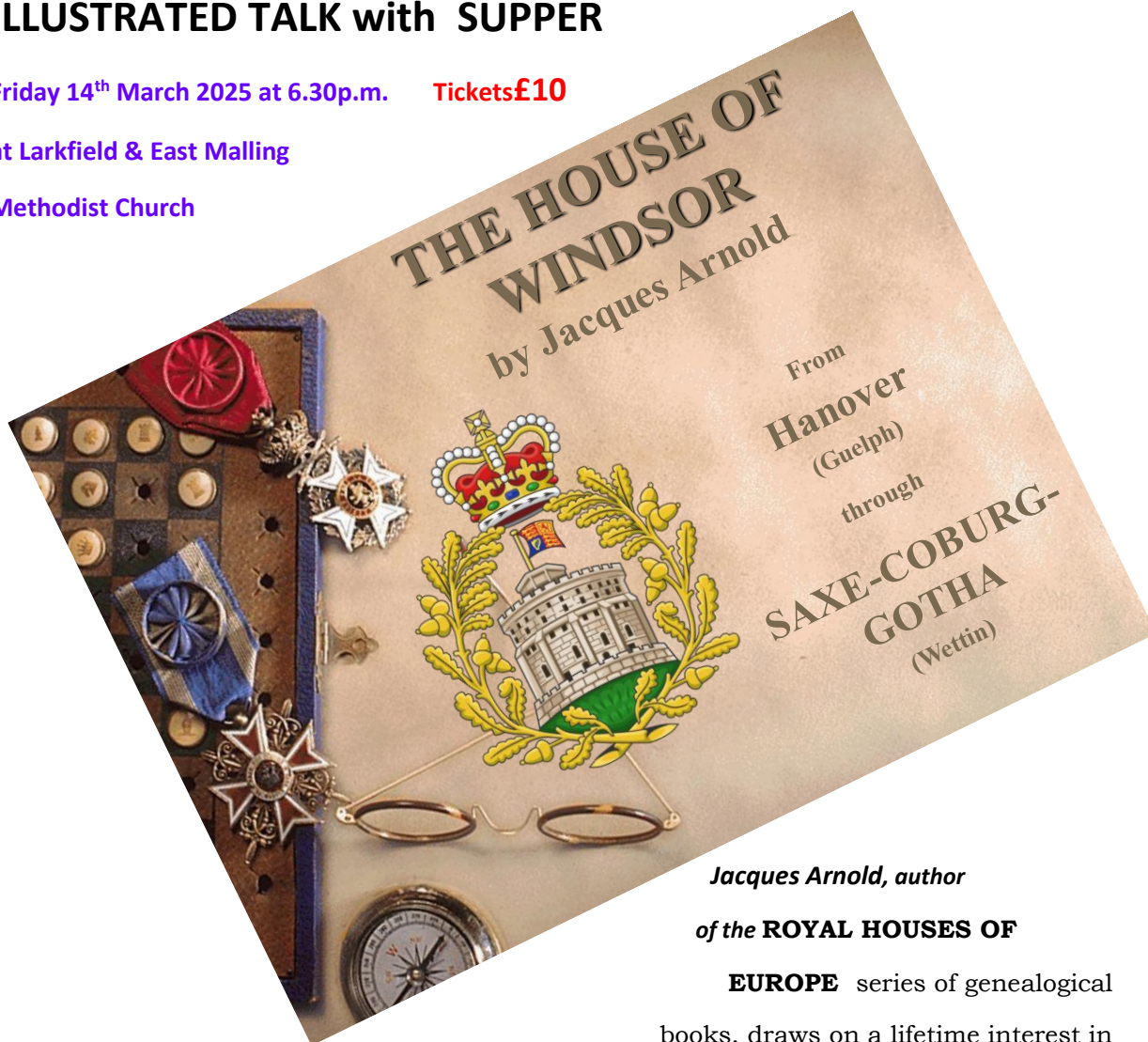


ILLUSTRATED TALK with SUPPER

Friday 14th March 2025 at 6.30p.m. Tickets £10

at Larkfield & East Malling

Methodist Church



Jacques Arnold, author

of the ROYAL HOUSES OF

EUROPE series of genealogical

books, draws on a lifetime interest in

royal genealogy, which was initially

encouraged by Lord Mountbatten, when Jacques

was a schoolboy living in Latin America 60 years ago.