

MEDWAY

CENTRE OF MISSION

Happy New Year and all the Very Best for 2021 from everyone at Medway Centre of Mission.

How are you all as we embark on another year? I pray you are all well, and that 2021 is good to you.

I'm sorry that it is the middle of January and I'm just getting this New Year's Newsletter out to you now. But since my last up-date in November things have been, due to Covid-19 restrictions, changing at what seems like a daily basis.

The first bit of news is that Mike Dare and his wife Claire will be leaving Medway in Mid-February. Mike has accepted the post of Lead Evangelist at Church Army's Haverfordwest Centre of Mission. Mike and Claire will be a miss to Medway, but I'm sure you will join with me and wish them both all the best as they start a new adventure following Jesus over in Haverfordwest.



Over the past few weeks, we have been working on running a daytime drop-in for the guests from Medway Night Shelter at the Emmaus Church. This plan has now been put on hold until Covid-19 restrictions are eased. We will however be involved with opening the Medway Night Shelter 24/7 until the end of March, the end of the Winter Season. Please remember the homeless, the vulnerable, and the disadvantaged in your prayers.

During the present Lockdown and with cases of coronavirus so high at the moment it was decided to put on hold for the moment the Private Prayer at St. John's. This has also meant that we have not for the moment been opening the Clothing Bank. However, on my regular "Patrols" on Chatham High Street, I have on occasion been able to hand out warm clothing, and winter coats to those who need them.

In December we received a massive donation of toys to give out to families in the community, also some money which with part of this money we were able to put together 70 Christingles in a bag to distribute to our Messy Church families. We were pleased to welcome the Rev Serena Willoughby to Emmaus Church to talk about our work, and how we can work in partnership with Rev Serena, and the congregations of St. Lawrence Street, and St. Margaret's Underriver. This was also a chance to thank in Person Rev Serena and her amazing congregations.



Also, in December we started partnering with the Hygiene Bank Strood & Hoo Peninsular. The Hygiene Bank were able to supply us with Hygiene Packs both male and female for giving out to those who come along to the Clothing Bank, they also supplied us with some very nice Christmas Gift Packs which we gave out to our visitors to St. John's Clothing Bank over Christmas. Plus, a great big bag of Hand Sanitiser which I am still giving out on my "Patrols" on the High Street.



We have started back with the Speak Jesus sessions after a Christmas Break and the next is on Sunday 7th March, please come along if you can the details are on the poster. The February session of Speak Jesus will be looking at Evangelism in the City. We are still in the process of putting together the Diocesan wide Evangelists Network, in fact I have just sent out the first Newsletter for the Network. Please pray that this year God will ignite a fire in the hearts of people wanting to go out and Proclaim in Presence, Words, and Action, The Good News of Jesus, and the Kingdom of God.

Saturdays are still spent helping to feed the Homeless, and vulnerably housed in Medway as we continue to work in partnership with the Open House Project Rochester. Every Saturday at the Open House we give out around 40 hot meals, sandwiches, hot drinks, and various other goodies to our lovely guests.

God is Good and looking ahead to the next few months when we pray Covid-19 restrictions will be loosened. We have everything in place to start back up Medway Oaks, Private Prayer, and the Clothing Bank at St. John's, plus the Garden project at St. John's. Please remember this work in your prayers.

This is strange times we are living in but hopefully with this vaccination programme rolling out we might get back to a bit more "normal" in the coming months.



Details of the next Speak Jesus.

Do you want to talk about your faith in interesting and life transforming ways?

sPEAK jESUS...

Webinars on Simple Evangelism

'EVANGELISM IN THE CITY'

Please join us for our Rochester Deanery course on faith sharing.
Sunday 7th February @ 6PM on Zoom
 Join Stephen and learn how to simply sPEAK jESUS in our everyday contexts



Scan to Join the Webinar



Presented by the Rochester Deanery Churches:

- St Austins
- Christ Church
- St Philip and St James Church
- St John's
- St Stephen's, Chatham
- St Matthew's, Borstal
- Christ the King, Princes Park
- St Peter with St Margaret, Rochester

CHURCH ARMY
 WITH **STEPHEN RAMSHAW**

Thank you for all you do to support our work here in Medway, we will keep you all in our prayers, and I wish you all the Very Best for 2021.



Patron
 HM The Queen

President
 The Rt Revd & Rt Hon
 Lord Williams of Oystermouth

Interim Chief Executive
 Des Scott

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GET INVOLVED

PRAY

Prayer is such an important part of your support. We need God's help in every aspect of our work:

- Please continue to pray for all of us here at the Medway Centre of Mission as we look to share the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God going forward into 2021.
- Please Pray for Mike and Claire as they set off on a new adventure, life, and ministry over in Haverford West.
- Pray that when restrictions are loosened, we can get quickly started with all the work we are all set up for, quickly and safely. Medway Oaks, The Clothing Bank, The Garden Project....
- Pray for Helen Kiralfy one of our valued volunteers here at Medway Centre of Mission, as she continues her training.
- Pray that people meet with Jesus and we can see individual lives, and the lives of whole communities transformed by meeting the Risen Lord.
- Pray for the whole world as we battle against this coronavirus.

I want to pray for you also so please let me know how I can, by emailing stephen.ramshaw@churcharmy.org

VOLUNTEER

If you would like to come along and get involved, then again please get in touch.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A Massive **Thank You** for your continued support of our work here in Medway. I don't take your support for granted, so thank you so much for standing with us.

God bless,
Stephen

WAYS TO DONATE

QUOTE REF: MEDWAY

Online: churcharmy.org/donate

Internet banking:

Barclays Bank
Sort Code 20-49-81
Account 80255459
Quote Ref: Your full name / MEDWAY

By card: Phone 0300 123 2113



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The Rt Revd & Rt Hon
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