

# Dovercourt Central Church



## Contact

**Autumn 2023**

**Methodist & United Reformed Churches Together**

**203 Main Road, Dovercourt, Essex, CO12 3PH**

**[www.dovercourtcentralchurch.org.uk/](http://www.dovercourtcentralchurch.org.uk/)**

*Suggested contribution 50p*



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## Minister's Report, October 2023

Yet again, as I reflect on the year, there is so much still to thank God for. He has certainly blessed us over this last year. Our Messy Church continues to go from strength to strength and we anticipate this growing and developing further over the coming year. The holiday club that ran over the Summer was again a blessing to all who attended. Thank you one and all who were involved in its planning, preparation, and execution. The dedication and faithfulness of the team that serve our children and families is a true blessing to us all.

Pause for Thought each Friday morning continues to evoke really meaningful discussions, thank you to those who are involved in its preparation, and our bible study is regularly and well attended and I am so grateful for everyone's contribution.

The community lunches continue, in my mind anyway to be a great success, I am just sorry I missed the last one because of another commitment and I am so looking forward to our anniversary meal next Sunday on 15<sup>th</sup> October. The provision of meals has also been extended this past year with the 'Friendly Kitchen' and the warm hub that have been running. A tremendous blessing for all those who have partaken.

Two highlights this year have been the visit of Pastor Davis and his wife, Ruth in July, who attended a bible study, Pause for Thought and joined some of us for lunch. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Dovercourt and really appreciated the calendar we gave them with lots of photos of Dovercourt. Having Mark's CRCW contract extended for another 5 years and the additional financial support from the Methodist Circuit has also been exciting. We look forward to what the next 5 years brings as God's mission develops and the church and the project work in the Lounge work more closely together.

We also acknowledge those that are no longer with us, but who have now gone to be with the Lord, not least Doreen Dennant who has died in the last year, a pillar and mainstay of the congregation in her day. We are so grateful for her ministry to us over the years.

But despite the loss there has been so much to be thankful for, not least what I have already alluded to and the celebration of our church's 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month. There are so many who I wish to thank, for all that you all do week in, week out to make the church what it is, too many to name individually, but I do wish to thank those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain our building and the leadership team who continue to be such a tremendous blessing accomplishing so much. Do remember to thank them when you see them. And those in the kitchen too with our community meals, not least our anniversary meal, other fellowship meals, Messy Church catering and so on. So much good stuff happens round the table whilst we eat together. Do pray as we explore the future of warm hubs this winter. If any others believe they are being called or sense the call on another, either to eldership or to some other ministry, do please speak to me or one of the elders or the person themselves so we can explore this together. There is certainly wisdom in team ministry.

And as we look forward there is much for which we can be hopeful and expectant for - so many new initiatives, so many opportunities. I pray that we discern correctly where God is leading us and directing us to serve.

I continue to be deeply privileged that I have the opportunity to serve God and you in ministry in Dovercourt and beyond. I look forward to the future with you with much excitement as to what God will continue to do in and through us. 'Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'

Yours, as ever in Christ, Trevor

## **CRCW REPORT AGM**

Well, another breathless year gone by. The main focus has been The Lounge, which has gone from strength to strength, from the initial one day a week to now things happening Monday to Friday each week. Various local groups and organisations now use the space, from Homestart and The Ark to Essex Family Wellbeing, Parkinson's Support, Futures in Mind and The Salvation Army. Ages range from tots to nonagenarians and at times these are all together, which is wonderful. If you haven't been able to get along to a session yet, then come along one day and drop in to see what is happening. Many of those who come along are the more vulnerable and fragile members of the community and it is great to have a space to welcome them, get to know them and help them see a brighter future. God seems to be in the business of transformation so it's good to get on board with that where we can and play a small part. If you would like to know more about the project, then do please ask, only too glad to talk. We have another 2 years funding for the Lounge, which means I have time to seek more grants to enable it to further develop and grow

Of course, you will be aware that this year has also seen the CRCW review, with a favourable outcome, in that we were accredited for a second term of 5 years, which I was only too happy to spend with you. There is so much potential in what is happening here that I would love to see develop.

Our partnership with the Salvation Army has grown and strengthened, which is great, there is real integrity in working together to see the kingdom grow. It means that the Heart Drop In service, that has developed on Friday mornings is constantly growing too, through contacts, networks and local organisations all wanting to get on board with what is happening there. It has several professional agencies working from there, giving advice and support to those in the community that really need it. Also, available is food parcels and surplus bakery that we get from the local Lidl store. The community has really taken to it and we have anything up to 50 people in any one session, which means it is full on, but shows that it is certainly serving a need.

Through the various places and people we encounter, Messy Church is growing too. This is great too, as it provides another opportunity to build relationships and share a bit more about what we believe and see God at work. In order to help it grow better we sought and were given a grant from the Synod Mission Fund, which will help greatly. If you would like to get involved, come along and see how you can help with this wonderful fun family activity.

Finally, on the not so positive side, you will be aware that my mum sadly lost her battle with cancer in the summer. It was a tough time for all the family and we were appreciative of all your support and prayers. It continues to be difficult for dad in particular, but he is slowly coming out of the other end and looking to move forward into a new way of being without mum.

I look forward to this year and to see where God takes us next. Hold on tight as you never know what is in store, and that's part of the excitement.

Many blessings, Mark CRCW

Dear Friends,

I had prepared this article before reading Trevor's report for the AGM. Having read his report, I see we have both appealed for more help from those of you who might feel able to offer any.....

(While I was away in the beautiful (wet) Devon countryside, grandchild-sitting, I had plenty of time to think, reflect, rest and recharge my somewhat exhausted 'battery's'. I came to the conclusion that, even though I loved serving the church as Church Secretary, I should give notice to the Leadership Team that I would be stepping down at the end of October.

Since my return, however, I have been thinking, reflecting, talking with the Leadership Team and Trevor about my decision and, health permitting, would like to continue. (I love so many aspects of the role, engaging with and getting to know everyone so much better and much more.) The Leadership team and Trevor have been very supportive and I will now be the first point of contact for Central church and some of my tasks will be taken on by members of the Leadership Team.

This brings me to the real reason for writing this article. There are only six members of the Leadership Team, (five Elders and Mark), most of whom are still working or studying, and who also have demanding roles in the running of Church affairs.

There are a number of people who work tirelessly behind the scenes, enabling smooth running of the church...you know who you are. Thank you so much. However, we do need more people to consider offering their help in some way, however small. Also, some of you might consider becoming a member of the church and, eventually, an Elder. Do think about this and approach a member of the Leadership Team or Trevor for more information.)

.....We have now held our AGM and, to those of you who offered to help, thank you.

With love and thanks to all of you in our church fellowship,

Anne

## INNUMERABLE STARS

Jeremiah 33.22

As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand or the sea measured:

At the time of Jeremiah Science said that there were only 1100 stars.

## COMMUTING

People commuting day in day out  
Tell me what is it all about.  
Travelling each and every day,  
Yes, because they have bills to pay.

Spending many hours on a train  
Enough to do in your brain  
Concentrate on being calm  
Bed at 10 and you set the alarm.

Working hard at their computer  
Every day an early commuter  
Sitting at the screen they get eyestrain  
Tomorrow they will have to do it again.

4.Hoping one day they will be rich  
Wishing life wasn't such a pitch  
Travelling home on a Friday night  
Working so the future is bright.

By Garry Sysling.

*PAUSE FOR THOUGHT*

*LOTS of folk on holiday*

*On or by the sea,  
Camping, tramping here or there,  
Happy as can be.*

*Holidays? My hat, I'd say*

*Half the world has gone away!*

*Don't forget, though, lots of folk*

*Simply cannot roam ---*

*Busy folk and invalids*

*Who must stay at home.*

*If a rest and change you've got*

*Drop a line to those who've not!*

Found in a 1997 copy of Cores End URC Church.



*PAUSE FOR THOUGHT*

**LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE**

A Banker is one who lends you an umbrella when the sun is shining, then wants it back when it's raining.

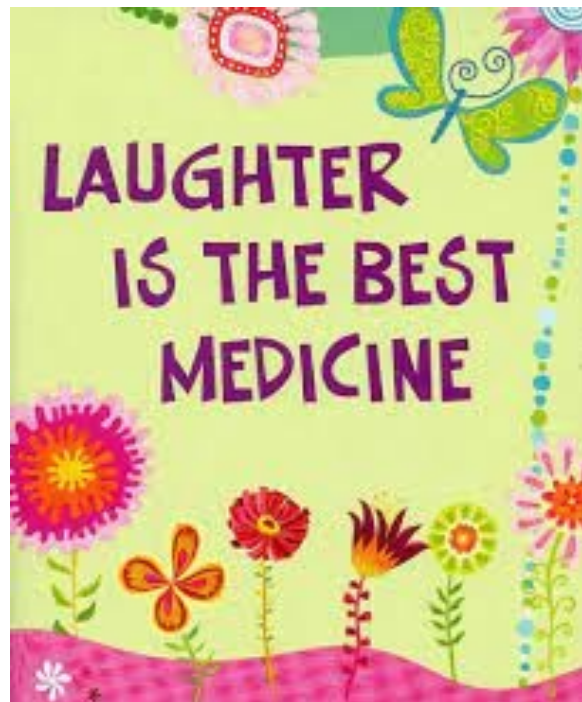
Never forget, the Christian, through Jesus Christ our Lord, has the last laugh.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We must remember the door is open to all who come to him in simple faith.

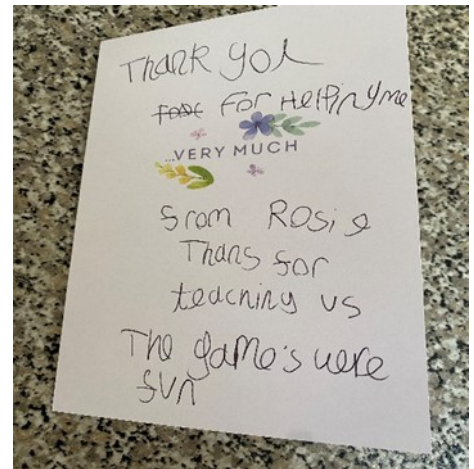
Whatever has happened in our lives up till now,  
God can wipe the slate clean and give us a new start.

Garry Eastwood.



## Shell bay Holiday Club 2023

Dovercourt Central Church,  
203 – 205 Main Road, Dovercourt CO12 3PH



We had a great three days with total of 14 children attending over the three days. We followed the United Reformed Church programme of 'Love is.....' and Nicola, Children and Young People's Development Officer for the Synod led the programme.

We made Creation Trifles; Surprise Buns and Cheesy Feet as well as lots of different craft activities. We headed to the beach on two days for a paddle.....

Thanks to Carrie, Devon, Mark and Beth, Children's Worker from Christchurch URC Clacton, for assisting us. Without these volunteers we would not be able to organise.





### Report from Junior Church for AGM – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The number of children attending Junior Church, during the last year, has remained small and in the main they have remained in church with their parents. However, we do have about 6 children who attend from time to time. We continue to have a rota of volunteers who will be ready to deliver a session should it be needed. My thanks to Anne, Hazel, Margaret, Judy and Christine for their dedication in supporting the young people within the church.

Helen Smith

### Report from Messy Church for AGM – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Messy Church has continued to grow and thrive throughout the last year and we have welcomed a number of new families as well as familiar faces. Each session consists of time spent doing craft activities, a time of worship and sharing a meal together. My grateful thanks to all those who give up their time, so generously, to make Messy Church happen – Margaret, Edna, Anne and Mark. Also, to those who come along and support the craft activities and spend time chatting with families.

Moving forwards, we are excited about the coming year and what Messy Church holds for us here in Dovercourt. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 3.30pm – 5.30pm. Anyone wishing to come along either to help run a craft table, help in the kitchen or to just have a cuppa and chat will be most welcome.

Helen Smith

## Church Notices and Advent

Bible Study	Thursdays in July @7.15pm (break after 20 July)
Advent Coffee Mornings	Fridays @10:00am 8th, 15th and 22nd December
<b>Christmas Raffle—</b> donations to Margaret and Hazel <b>Tombola—</b> donations to Rosmarie	
Soup and a Roll	@ lunchtime 8th and 22nd December
Carol Service and Christmas Dinner	Sunday 17th December

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)**

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### **Are you interested in becoming a School Governor?**

Mayflower Primary School, in Dovercourt, is looking for someone with connections to the church who would like to become a School Governor.  
If you are interested in finding out more about this role, please speak to Helen.

## Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday 12th November	<b>Remembrance Service and Communion</b> <b>10.45am</b>	<b>Rev Trevor Hahn</b>
Sunday 19th November	<b>10.45am Gift Service</b>	<b>Mark Tubby</b>
Sunday 26th November	<b>9.00am Communion Service</b> <b>10.45am</b>	<b>Rev Trevor Hahn</b>
Sunday 3rd December	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>William Glasse</b>
Sunday 10th December	<b>10.45am (incl Communion)</b>	<b>Rev Trevor hahn</b>
Sunday 17th December	<b>10.45am Carol Service</b>	<b>Birgit Ewald</b>
Sunday 24th December	<b>10.45am (incl Communion)</b> <b>11.30pm Midnight Communion Service</b>	<b>Margaret Smith</b> <b>Rev Trevor Hahn</b>
Sunday 31st December	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>TBC</b>
Sunday 7th January	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Rev Lythan Nevard</b> <b>(Moderator Eastern Synod)</b>

<b>United Reformed Minister Methodist Circuit Minister</b>	<b>Revd. Trevor Hahn Revd. Tom Osborne</b>	<b>01255 483288 01206 396654</b>
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