


The

CLARION

Wesley **Methodist** Church 



Feb
2018

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS AT WESLEY
Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ

SUNDAY SERVICES	9. 00am	Holy Communion - second Sunday in the month
	11. 00am	Morning Worship - Communion as advised
	11. 00am	The Zone on Sunday
MONDAY	10. 00am	Wesley Art Group
	8. 00pm	Wesley Theatre Group
WEDNESDAY	9. 00am	Midweek Informal Communion on the 3rd Wednesday in the month
	10.00 - 11.30am	Parent and Toddler (School terms)
	6.00 - 9. 00pm	St. John Ambulance
THURSDAY	6.00 - 7.30pm	Fusion Kids (School Terms Yrs 1-6)
	6.00 - 7.30pm	Fusion Youth (School Terms Yr 6 plus)
FRIDAY	2. 00pm	Table Tennis 60+ (School Terms) For enquiries- email marjoriecharnock@icloud.com

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Wesley Pre-School Jody French 07581 150978

Daily Coffee Mornings.

The church concourse is open every morning between 10am and 12 noon for our coffee mornings. Everyone is welcome and you can buy a tea or coffee and a slice of cake and meet your friends, or even make some new ones.

On some days there is someone on duty as a listening ear to offer help and support, so if you need some advice they will be able to point you in the right direction, or just simply listen to what you have to say.

FORTNIGHTLY MEETING

Talking Poetry alternate Wednesdays at 2. 30pm.

OTHER MEETINGS

Housegroup Meetings as advised

Minister: Rev. Julia Monaghan

1 Oakview Close, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. SS9 4JN. Tel: (01702) 483827
Email: revjuliamonaghan@gmail.com

Children and Youth Worker: Jonathan Logan Tel 07852 905742

Mission Enabler for Older People: Julie Peek Tel 01702 479804

Lettings: Alan Severne Tel 01702 711851

lettings@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Church Steward: Isobel Wratishaw Tel 01702 557764

Church Council Secretary: Judy Taylor ccsec@wesleymethodist.org.uk

The Notices: Trudi Pipe notices@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Communications: Anna Wratishaw email
communications@wesleymethodist.org.uk



Twitter: @leighwesleyMC

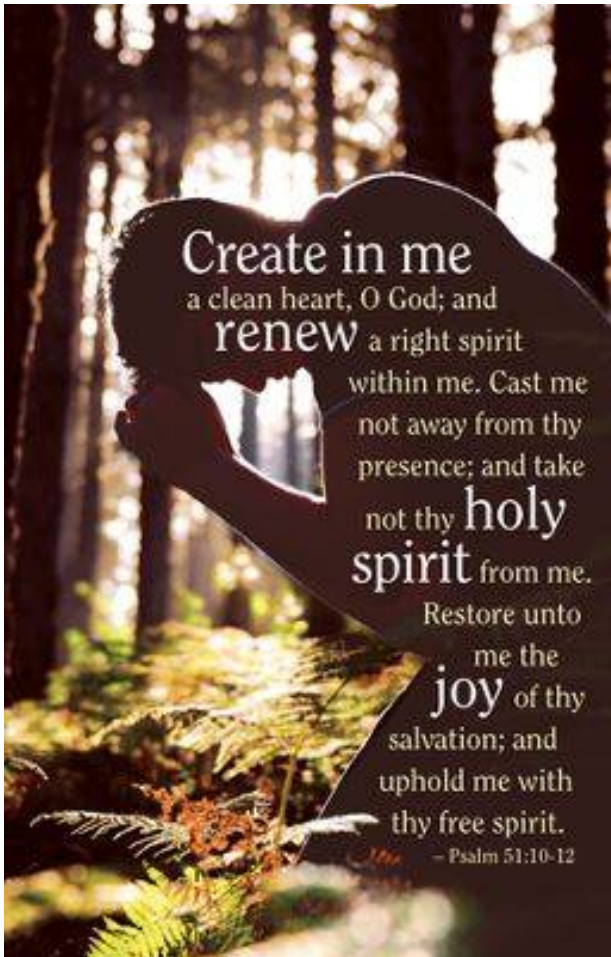


Facebook: Leigh Wesley Methodist Church

Wesley Website: www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

MINISTER'S LETTER

'Create in me a clean heart,'



It is no coincidence that Psalm 51 is appointed for Ash Wednesday, the day that marks the beginning of Lent. The psalmist's words capture the depth of meaning of the 40 days leading up to Easter. Lent is that time of self-reflection and confession and acknowledging our need of God and God's grace.

Psalm 51, is a plea to God, a prayer for forgiveness. The psalmist laments his sin and is clear that only God can deliver him. He wastes no time getting to the point, 'Have mercy on me, O God,' he says in verse 1, 'wash,' 'blot out,' 'purge,' me.

I remember hearing this story told in church, of St Peter sitting at the pearly gates and a woman approaching him.

Peter says, "Tell me why I should let you in?"

"I have gone to church my whole life," the woman says

Then Peter reminds her that she has been unkind to some of the members of the church.

"Well," she says defensively, "I bought shopping every week for a couple of members."

Peter points out that she had on occasion used the member's money to buy a couple of things for herself as well. The conversation continues like this and the woman becomes more and more defensive and distraught, clearly beginning to panic at the thought that she might not be allowed into heaven.

Finally, she falls to her knees in tears and desperation and says, "Forgive me Lord, for I have sinned."

Immediately, the pearly gates swing wide open and Peter says, "Welcome home, my child."

This is not the end of the story, however, there is a promise inherent in the psalm, which is one of recreation and redemption, recognising that God not only saves us, but also gives us new life. 'Create in me a clean heart O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.' Verse 10

The person who wrote Psalm 51, was of course writing long before the birth, life and death of Jesus, yet their lament for their sins and their awareness of their need for God's deliverance, makes this psalm so appropriate for the beginning of Lent and Ash Wednesday.

As we begin the season of self-reflection and repentance, we follow the psalmist's example recalling how we have fallen short and how we are in need of salvation and deliverance that comes from God alone. If it seems all sack cloth and ashes at the start we cling firm in faith that we journey towards the hope of Good Friday and the promise of joy found on Easter Sunday.

May God bless you richly, as you seek to deepen your relationship with Jesus this Lenten tide.

Rev Julia February 2018

LENT GROUPS: ANOTHER STORY MUST BEGIN

Based on the film and novel *Les Miserables*, and looking at 4 characters from the story, this 4 week course explores the grace of God, and asks us to reassess what we can do with our lives for ourselves and for those around us.

It runs at 2pm on the following Tuesdays @Wesley

20th Feb

6th March

13th March

20th March

Julie @ Movie Mornings will show *Les Miserables* (2012 film)

1.30pm Wednesday 14th February @ Highlands

10.30am Friday 16th February @Wesley

Where is Rev Julia until August 2018?

Dear Friends, I have been asked if I am taking a further sabbatical and when are Sam and I leaving? The answer is that we are here until the middle of August, and indeed already have a couple of August Weddings booked in! There will be Annual Leave but no further sabbatical. Before Sam starts with MHA in March, we will be taking holiday from 15th -22nd February. Many Blessings Rev Julia

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Thank you

Thank you so much for the box of biscuits which Alison brought up to me. We planned to have a peaceful, restful Christmas, before my operation in January but as you know the best laid plans of mice and men!

Vanda M Brockway

Laurence Sims

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Laurence peacefully last Thursday 11th January. Laurence who was a member of our congregation moved to Devon last year to be closer to his family. We hold Laurence family in our prayers.

Richard King

Moving on

To my friends at Wesley,

When you read this I shall be very close to my moving date to South Wales, 6th February, and it feels like a good time to reflect on the past 47 years that I've lived in Leigh and just over 40 of those have been associated with Wesley.

When we first met, David was involved with the Youth Club here, but my first visit to Wesley was to play badminton on a Friday evening which we used to greatly enjoy. However our first church membership was at New Road, joining Viv and Keith and Dave and Margaret Cox there. We loved that small community and enjoyed discussion groups after the evening service; Jenny was christened there but after the arrival of our foster son, Chris, and the birth of twins, Ellen and Andrew, we moved to Wesley where there was a Sunday School.

I joined a very thriving Young Wives group here, the activities for which filled the part of our lives that didn't involve motherhood! We had speakers, devotional afternoons, games sessions, were involved in church events, fundraisers and have subsequently remained good friends. I became involved as a Communion Steward, a role that has been replicated recently and was involved with the Sunday School. I was also Pastoral Secretary for a time and have remained as a pastoral visitor and over the years enjoyed being part of various house groups.

In those forty years there have been many changes in our personal lives, as happens to us all. I lost my mum aged 53, six months after Jenny was born and subsequently my dad a few years later, both from cancer. My mother in law was left on her own in difficult circumstances and all this affected family life.

The twins were both baptised at Wesley aged 12 with a special service and support

from Rev. David Read and, with Jenny, were involved with Sunday School and youth groups here, circuit and MAYC events etc.

David had two brushes with cancer and subsequently was diagnosed again and passed away in 2009 - we were so supported by Wesley friends during his illness and afterwards; as with my mother in law who died two months later. There have been happy times too, the weddings of Jenny to Matt, Ellen to Darren and Andrew to Claire shared with many friends from Wesley and outside.

Rev. Julia arrived in 2012 and, along with friends, hugely supported Andrew and myself when Claire tragically died following years of intermittent mental illness.

As for many of us, our lives have undergone so much change, but through it all, bar one or two lapses, my life has been strengthened by God in so many ways. I have felt His presence, experiencing a real spiritual reawakening following David's death. I have experienced His transforming love through my own vulnerability and have grown in a deeper knowledge of His love. I have valued very much all that I learned on a course about Spiritual Direction at Pleshey, particularly that God teaches us on so many levels. I had the opportunity to take stock and see how He has been showing me a new personal relationship with Him; the importance of giving time for prayer; appreciating the little things as well as the bigger things and my responsibility to others. We follow Him by Grace, keeping an open heart.

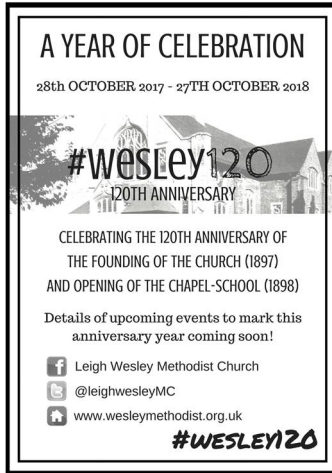
I really want you all to know how much I appreciate your influence, your friendship, your care, support and love. It has been wonderful recently to be involved in Memory Worship at Wesley and to see after the first year how it is moving forward in supporting carers, those who suffer from dementia and so moving to hear the stories of those involved.

I have thought and prayed about this move and really feel that God is leading me on. I shall be living in Mumbles, South Wales, nearer my grandchildren and daughters. However I shall be back to see my son and all my friends both at Wesley and nearby and really hope you will come and visit me - I have a spare bedroom and there is a guest flat too.

Meanwhile, take care of yourselves and each other.

God bless you, with much love, Alison x

My address will be: Flat 44, Mumbles Bay Court, Mayals Road, Blackpill, Swansea, SA3 5BS. Tel: 07863 954387 (land line to follow). Email: newnham406@aol.com



#WESLEY120

What an achievement

We are celebrating 120 years of Worship here at Wesley with a united service with Highlands and Belfairs on Sunday 4th March 2018. We hope that many old friends will join us for this celebration and we will have a display of photographs and memorabilia. If you have any photographs from the past of events at Wesley please see Gabriel Greenway as she will be arranging a display in the canteen room. We look forward to making this a celebration to remember!

Wesley stories

The idea of recording our Wesley stories is taking off and we may publish as a booklet, rather than monthly in the Clarion, so please talk to me if you are willing to contribute.

Eileen Simmons

Show Choir Concert – Sat 10th March

As part of the celebrations in March the Show Choir who use our buildings are giving a concert of songs and music in the church on Saturday 10th March at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £ 10.00 for an adult children FREE
(including tea or coffee in the interval)

Proceeds are in aid of church funds and our work in the community.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the concourse.

Please ask your friends and family to support what will be a great evening's entertainment.

Richard King

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

An evening with singer NOEL RICHARDS @Rayleigh Methodist

7pm Sunday 25th February 2018

Tickets£5 from Rev Steve Watts email: revswatts@bopenworld.com

Urgent is this you?

Cooks and Breakfast Staff Required for the Night Shelter. If you would be able to give time from 6.30am - 9am on a Sunday morning to cook breakfast; serve, clear up afterwards the Night Shelter would like to hear from you. Please contact Jo Galley on - office@umc.southend.org.uk or joannagalley@yahoo.co.uk

Mission Is....

10am - 12noon Saturday 10th February 2018 Highlands Methodist

Come and play *Mission Is*, an interesting card game that gets you thinking about church mission in a whole new way. For more information contact Pam Smith on 01702 557702 or email: psmithp148@aol.com

CAP FLIPPING MARVELLOUS PANCAKE PARTY

Tuesday 13th West Leigh Baptist Church

10- 3pm

All are invited and any money raised will go towards CAP
(Christians against poverty).

We would love to see as many new faces as possible share with us in this event.

Every blessing

West Leigh Baptist Church Administrator

Death Is Nothing At All

By Henry Scott-Holland

Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.

Everything remains exactly as it was.
I am I, and you are you,
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched, unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow upon it.

Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.
What is this death but a negligible accident?

Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just round the corner.

All is well.
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.
How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!



Southend on Sea CIO

TEL: 01702 345373

**Age Concern Community Club
Wesley Methodist Church Elm Rd Leigh
Tuesdays 2 – 4pm Dates for the Diary**

Tues 30 th Jan	Quiz and Games Wesley
Tues 6 th Feb	Speaker – Life in the Forties “Tripe and Trotters” Wesley
Tues 13 th Feb	Quiz and Games Wesley
Tues 20 th Feb	Lunch out – Regatta Restaurant, Leigh Road. £9.95 + £1 admin fee
Tues 27 th Feb	Quiz and Games Wesley
Tues 6 th March	Speaker – Mindfulness Wesley
Tues 13 th March	Quiz and Games Wesley
Tues 20 th March	Lunch out – Arlington Rooms £15 lunch and live entertainment 1 – 3.30pm
Tues 27 th March	Easter Tea at the Wesley £6
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month we have lunch out Club closed	



Week of Accompanied Prayer: 15th – 22nd April 2018

Sign Up on the Sheet at Belfairs, Highlands and Wesley by the 28th February 2018

Belfairs, Highlands and Wesley are holding the third Week of Accompanied Prayer with our friends at St Clements after Easter.

Why are we having a Week of Accompanied Prayer (WAP)?

The purpose of such weeks is to encourage people in their prayer lives by providing an opportunity to reflect each day on their prayer, in the company of a prayer guide, or companion. What an individual participant experiences, over the course of the week, will be unique to them. For example, one may learn different ways in which to pray, another be helped to overcome a difficulty they have with prayer and someone else may simply begin to pray regularly for the first time. Often people experience a new or deeper meaning in their prayer and a greater awareness of God's presence in their daily lives. Each day you will meet with your guide for thirty minutes either in St Clement's or in Wesley Church. Also you will be invited to set aside thirty minutes to pray on your own each day. For the rest of the time the activities of your day continue as they would normally whilst feeding into and being fed by the prayer.

What happens on a WAP?

The WAP begins on the first Sunday afternoon with a group meeting in which all of the Participants and Guides can meet one another. This session provides an opportunity for introductions, general guidance about prayer to help Participants get started, and initial conversations.

Also it is good for participants to meet all together so that they can be aware throughout the WAP retreat of others who are also making the week of prayer, and so foster a sense of mutual support. At the end of the week everyone will come together again to reflect upon and celebrate the event on the final Sunday afternoon. The WAP is free to join, but a donation of £5 -£10 is very welcome towards costs. Please be assured this is an inclusively led retreat and all are very welcome.

What do I do next?

Please sign up on the sheets at the respective churches

Rev Julia Monaghan

TIME FOR HEALING

The next Time for Healing Prayer Group will be held on Saturday 24th February between 11.30am - 12.30pm. Meetings are typically attended by six to ten people with the majority often being from outside our usual church membership. The format usually includes prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, together with a short meditation on the theme of healing and occasional testimony. This is followed by the opportunity for private prayer with one or more of the group leaders. It is open to anyone, so please come and join us if you can, and give, receive, or just take much needed time out. Future meetings are planned for the following dates:

- Saturday 24th March
- Saturday 21st April

We hope to see you there.

Terry Harper

FORTY ACTS OF KINDNESS, 2018.

Lent starts on February 14th this year and if you wish to do the 40 acts of kindness during Lent that would be great. Last year the Zone did it as did the Pre School and individuals and at least two House Groups. It was very helpful to those who took part.

The Head of North Street wants to do it again this year and I said I would help in any way I can.

Eileen Simmons

HELPING HANDS

The following contacts from our wider church family may be able to help if you are struggling with housework, gardening or odd jobs?

Gardening Services and Odd Jobs	Steve Hockett	07952 058251
Painting, decorating & Odd Jobs	Mark Wiltshire	01702 475089
Dog walking	Freya	07771 643665

WESLEY JUMBLE SALE
FOR
CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL
Sat 17th February 2018
10 oclock-12 midday
Admission 50p
Come grab yourself a bargain
Enjoy a bacon butty and a coffee
The jumble sale team look forward to
seeing you all.

Thank you Pam and Viv



WESLEY PRAYER CHAIN

A prayer chain is a way for people to gain God's assistance through prayer for any need by permitting the intercessor to pray as Jesus prayed. It is interceding or praying on behalf of one another.

We use it at Wesley to pray for the needs and emergencies of our church family, friends and those close to us in the community.

Telephone anyone below and they will set off the chain.

Gabrielle Greenway 557071 mob 07554884780

Susan Mthimkulu mob 07454011257

Isobel Wratlaw 557764 mob 07508164525

Steve Hockett 478772 mob 07952058251

Jane Fulford

Linda Lister

June Childs 711891

Vivien Threadgold

Miriam Gifford 716175

"Pray without ceasing" 1 Thessalonians 5: 17



- Over the Christmas period Wesley has been very active in charity giving. Church Council made decisions in September about which charities to support and our donations have been sent as follows. Thanks Tina for handling this so effectively.
- From the Christingle, the National Autistic Society received £504.79 and we thank the Charnock family for all their hard work in making this possible. Traditionally the Zone choose the charity for Christingle. I have only once been in Leigh for this service and it was wonderful. Thanks for your generosity.
- Similarly thanks for those who helped at the Carol service and Christmas Eve communion. At Church Council it had been decided to pool the two collections and divide equally between Shelterbox and Barnardos and each received a similar amount: £339.18. Tina wisely decided not the split the odd penny!
- The Carol singers collected £179.78. This went to Action for Children; Thanks to the Fulfords and volunteers, who enjoyed themselves.
- Leigh Lights evening was really delightful. Again thanks to the Fulfords for organising us. Along with other volunteers I took great pleasure in chatting to our guests. One man came with his wife and two children as they wanted to show their children, where they were married. He could not get over just how beautiful the church was now. Others were similarly thrilled with the building. Money donated; £47.93 was given to church funds.
- Finally a message from one of our Wesley family
"To all at Wesley, who have supported my little girl, Ruby-lee by sponsoring Steve Hockett who did a run for her (with amazing results), many thanks. The money raised is helping fund her private Physiotherapy, which costs £150 a week. Your help is much appreciated. Ruby-lee is getting stronger and will return to physiotherapy in two weeks. Hopefully this will be our year that Ruby-lee will walk independently. I personally, Sarah Dawson, Ruby-lee's mummy would like to say a BIG thank you for everything. GOD BLESS xxxxxxxxxx."

Sarah Dawson, mother of Ruby-lee.

Eileen Simmons



Illustrated by Trudi Pipe

FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

- 4th Flowers given by Maureen Lewis and family, in loving memory of Ann and Eric Brown. Arranged by Sue Hockett.
- 11th Flowers given by Ann and Jo Sharpen in loving memory of Winnie Chandler. Arranged by Annette Charnock.
- 18th Flowers given by Joy Milner and the family in loving memory of Derek and Paddy on their birthdays. Arranged by Sue Hockett.
- 25th Flowers given by Liz Evans and Molly Moss, in loving memory of Alan Moss and his granddaughter Kate. Arranged by Annette Charnock.

WESLEY MONTHLY MOVIES

Friday 16th February 2018 "LES MISERABLES" 10.30am

In 19th-century France, Jean Valjean, who for decades has been hunted by the ruthless policeman Javert after breaking parole, agrees to care for a factory worker's daughter.

This month we are screening Les Miserables to coincide with LENT course entitled "Another story must begin", this 4 week course explores the grace of God, and asks us to reassess what we can do with our lives for ourselves and for those around us.

FREE event

THE REVOLVING DOOR – CONFLICTS AND CONTRADICTIONS

The role of the Street Pastor is fraught with conflicts and contradictions: everything from the measured approach and language necessary - so as not to put ourselves in harm's way, when trying to persuade argumentative drunk people not to fight; through needing to be non-judgemental when helping a hapless drunken person to sober up so a taxi driver will allow them into his or her car; to the dismay at finding a rough sleeper still on the street in the knowledge of how much local agencies have endeavoured to engage with them.

When we see the passion of argument building into an assault in front of us, we focus on Prayer as our key 'Tool in the Box' - both as intervention and for our own protection. Our mission is not one of physical intervention or even passive resistance and certainly not martyrdom. Sometimes our mere overt presence can be calming and indeed it can often be disarming just to state that we have already drawn attention of the CCTV Centre to the incident; that the police are probably already on their way; and that during the intervening period, we as a team will be praying that God will help them reconcile their differences. Many times we have seen such arguments just dissipate in front of us: Coincidence or the power of Prayer? It happens too frequently to be coincidence!

The second category are more easy to deal with because the sobering up process just takes a bottle of water, our calming influence and the patience to walk the person for a while – perhaps to another taxi rank by which time they have often recovered capacity to speak their address coherently enough to be accepted by the driver. Often we can extract a phone number and persuade a typically highly embarrassed but very thankful parent to come out to collect. We don't discuss what their conversation might be the following day! But perhaps we should because we often muse that the typical club-goer can pay high drink prices while their lifestyle seems so poor in spirit.

Those in the third category are typically rather more intractable and here are a few examples which are pertinent in the context of this winter season:

Joan is a middle-aged woman who I have encountered throughout the few years that I have been Street Pastoring. Usually drunk, she will respond to suggestions of her seeking support from Family Mosaic or HARP by the announcement that "They are all corrupt". We know that the Southend Borough Council's Complex Needs Panel have allocated her a place within the recently commissioned 'Housing First' hostel operated on their behalf by Family Mosaic, but typically on Friday and

Saturday nights she will be found begging in the doorways on the High Street. Then when I ask why she is not using that accommodation her normal responses "it is worse than prison"! She has spent so much of her life doing whatever and when she pleases that any tenancy rules cause so much conflict that the discomfort of the street is to her, a better option. A key question arises here: If Joan dies there, who will the Echo blame?

We find a couple in a tent at a temperature falling below 2°C, when we know that David has been allocated a room in the HARP hostel and Kelly would have been expected at the Church Winter Night Shelter. There is not a long-standing relationship between them but nonetheless, such is the camaraderie amongst rough sleepers that David felt he needed to watch out for Kelly to the extent of staying with her in conflict with his own interests by risking loss of his room at the hostel. An example of how life on the Street can undermine mental capacity necessitating us having to point out that, all he had to do was to accompany Kelly to the night shelter and then go back to the hostel.

George is another long standing rough sleeper who believes that his experience on the Street can carry him through all circumstances. He declines to seek accommodation in the Church Night Shelter because a friend has told him that he will be breathalysed and not allowed in. He refuses to believe our assurances to the contrary preferring to rely on 'street rumour' rather than 'fact' from ourselves who serve or have served volunteers at the shelters. We see contradiction here but our judgements based on our values are far from the realities in George's experience. Often drunk revellers demand to know: "Why is the Council not helping those rough sleepers" as if conflicted by their own profligacy. We try to explain the complexities but they are so diverse and 2 am on Sunday morning is no opportunity for such discourse. And can we intervene with advice not to give those who are begging money - because it goes on drink and drugs? In reality we just cannot go there because firstly, we are there to befriend in sharing God's love as Jesus did and secondly, we know that the depth of mental health and sustained rehabilitative support they need in order to be able to hold down a tenancy is just not available.

We await Southend Council Housing Department's revised Homeless Prevention Policy following on from the new responsibilities thrust upon them under the Housing Reduction Act 2018 - which passed through Parliament - notably unopposed, and will commence from April next year. Even with £61million of new government funding for the legal duty now placed on councils to give people

meaningful support to help the likes of Joan, David, Kelly and George to resolve their homelessness, there will be no easy answers. And the key issue in Southend is shortage of rented accommodation for all household sizes. The official count of rough sleepers in November saw double the number from at least 40 in 2016 and we know that the Church Winter Night Shelters will draw more into the Town from surrounding areas. Local press recently headlined the practice of London authorities giving homeless people 'one-way' tickets here but this is not new and some East London boroughs have even purchased housing to relocate their people. Housing associations operating regionally have also allocated 'social housing' tenants here, all taking up our local housing capacity.

So when you see an increase in your Council Tax in March, bear a thought for Southend's Housing officials who have to respond to the contradiction in our asking them to cut expenditure whilst having to respond to these increased demands. *Our shortage of housing nationally is at crisis point and much is made of the inability of first time buyers to afford to purchase but less about how the resulting increased rental demand has made accommodation unaffordable for those on benefits so pushing them onto the street. I can only infer it was God's realignment of me recently into collaboration with one of the founders of **HopeThree16** on a finance initiative for social and affordable housing (over which your prayers will be welcomed) but we will still need to identify where to build! So surely the ultimate contradiction in this context is the demand on Government to build more housing whilst defending our own space by deploying the 'not in my back yard' argument. We must ask ourselves: What would Jesus' response be?*

We annually recognise how inappropriate Jesus's birth in a stable was 2000 years ago but at least Mary and Joseph had opportunity to establish a home in Nazareth when they returned there. Not so for the chaotic pregnant women we encounter on the street such as Jane who attended the Night Shelters last Winter; she failed to follow the 'house rules' at the hostel she was placed in by Social Services to protect her unborn child and was excluded. When eventually her third 'unwanted' child - each from a different 'partnership', was born shortly after Christmas, Social Services did recognise their 'duty of care' to the child and placed her immediately into care. However, Jane was back on the streets within months. I can't help wondering how the next 2000 years would pan out if this was the manner of Jesus' promised 'Second Coming' today.

Peter Courtenay – a Southend Street Pastor

SUNDAY 4th FEB

COMMUNION SERVICE

	11.00am	Preacher: Rev Julia Monaghan Porch: Linda Lister
Mon 5th	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
Tues 6th	12.30pm	Age Concern Community Club
Weds 7th	10.00am	Parent & Toddler
Thurs 8th	6.00pm	Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth
Fri 9th	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 10th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Time for Prayer

SUNDAY 11th FEB

	9.00am	Communion
	11.00am	Preacher: Rev David Chapman Porch: David Cox
Mon 12th	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
Tues 13th	2.30pm	Age Concern Community Club
Weds 14 th	2.30pm	Talking Poetry – “Valentine”
Fri 16 th	10.30am	Wesley Movie “LES MISERABLES”
Sat 17th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Time for Prayer

SUNDAY 18th FEB

Café Church

11.00am

Preacher: LA

Porch: Maurine Chambers

Mon 19th

10.00am

Wesley Art Group

Tues 20th

2.00pm

LENT COURSE "Another story must begin"

Weds 21st

9.00am

Mid-Week Communion

10.00am

Parent & Toddler

Thurs 22nd

6.00pm

Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth

Fri 23rd

2.00pm

Table Tennis 60+

Sat 24th

10.00am

Coffee Morning

11.30am

Time for Healing

SUNDAY 25th FEB

11.00am

Preacher: Mrs E Simmons

Porch: Richard Faraway

Mon 26th

10.00am

Wesley Art Group

Tues 27th

12.30pm

Age Concern Community Club

8.00pm

Creative Worship

Weds 28th

10.00am

Parent & Toddler

2.30pm

Talking Poetry – "Easter"

Thurs 1st

6.00pm

Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth

Fri 2nd

2.00pm

Table Tennis 60+

Sat 3rd

10.00am

Coffee Morning

11.30am

Time for Prayer

SUNDAY 4TH MARCH

#WESLEY120 ANNIVERSARY

UNITED SERVICE

11.00am

Preacher: Rev Julia Monaghan

Porch: Margaret Cotegrove

FORWARD EVENTS

Sat 3 rd Feb	4.00-5.00pm	Next FUSION Family
Sat 17 th Feb		Christian Hope Int'l Jumble Sale
Sun 4 th March		#WESLEY120 Anniversary Service
Sun 15 th -22nd April		Annual Week of Accompanied Prayer
Sat 19 th May		Royal Wedding Afternoon Tea
Sat 19 th May		Salvation Army Band Concert
Sat 9 th June		Allegro Concert

MARCH CLARION

Items for the March Clarion should be emailed to julie.peek@hotmail.co.uk or placed in the folder outside the vestry by **FRIDAY 16th FEB 2018**



Wesley Methodist Church is a member of **Southend and Leigh Circuit**

www.southendandleigh.org

and part of the

Beds, Essex and Herts District the Methodist Church

A dementia-friendly community is a city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported and confident they can contribute to community life.

