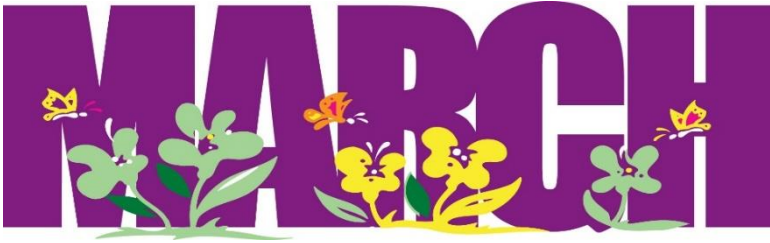


THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: March 2021



Twitter: @leighwesleyMC



Facebook: Leigh Wesley Methodist Church

Wesley Website: www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

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MINISTER'S LETTER



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word '*lencten*', which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry. Traditionally, Lent has been all about giving things up, and over the years people have given up all sorts of things like chocolate, sweets, deserts, and even more recently Facebook and other social media activities!

I think giving things up *can* be helpful if it focuses our thoughts and prayers on our preparation for the arrival of Easter.

But I don't believe that Lent should be a time for *just* giving things up, but also for taking things up!

Sometimes, I think when we *really* look at our lives and the time we spend with God, we can often come to the

conclusion that we've fasted all year since the last Lenten season, or even longer, fasting our prayer life, fasting our daily devotional time, fasting our giving?

So, my prayer for all of us, me included, is that this Lenten season we would take some things up, and really prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And as we grow in our knowledge and personal relationship with Him, Easter will be a far greater experience for us as we commune and bring ourselves into His presence in this time of preparation and confession.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us; ¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ *pray continually,* ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* [NIVUK]

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

March 2021

pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

01702 483827

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Zoom Services at Wesley



On Sunday's Wesley are now offering Services on Zoom. These services are at the usual time of 11:00 am and provide the opportunity for you to chat with people from 10:45 am. If you would like to be sent the zoom link for these Sunday services, please email Judy Taylor to be added to the email list. Judy's email: ukspud@talktalk.net

Information about the zoom services for Wesley and other churches in our circuit is also available on the church website. The email that you send Judy Taylor will act as your consent to share your details under the GDPR regulations.

Waiting room facility on zoom

When hosts are letting people in from the waiting room to the main service there may be a delay as it takes a moment or two to let people in, and therefore you may not be let in immediately. If you are trying to access the main service once the service has begun, you may be held in the waiting room until a convenient moment arises for you to be let in. The host is not just responsible for letting people into the service but also running the power point for the preacher. The hosts are all new to this type of service and are learning new things all the time, we would ask for your patience and support.

Wesley Community Survey

Thank you for all your responses so far to this survey, which formed part of our discussion at the recent 'Worship Consultation & Outreach' meeting. There have been some trends emerging from the responses to date; ensuring we are at the heart of and supporting our community, the need to appeal to families and widen our reach, as well as the feeling that we need to modernise and become more up to date in various aspects of the church life. We want to make sure that as many people as possible are able to give their thoughts and ideas, and so the survey remains open for you to fill in and provide feedback. Please could I encourage you to fill it in, through any of the ways listed below? It is important that the results are representative of the whole church family so that as we plan for the future post-Covid, we can ensure that Wesley is working for our community and providing what you need - both in worship and services, and more broadly. What we are doing well, and things we could look to add, improve or adapt.

The survey consists of 8 questions - this can be filled in anonymously online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F8VPZQY> (this link can also be found on the church website).

Alternatively, you can send your answers to the below questions to leighwesleymethodist@gmail.com or share your thoughts and ideas with any of the leadership team (if you would like to speak by phone, Anna Wratishlaw can be contacted on 01702 557764)

1. Do you currently go to a church (either Wesley or a different church) or access any online services?

2. What would make church more appealing to you? eg. services at different times/days/content of services

3. What are the most important things to you with regards to a church? Please choose all that apply.

Church culture / Inclusivity / Service content and style / Church involvement in the community / Youth provision / Service length /

Location / Church community / Biblical teaching / Other (please specify)

4. What type of worship services most appeal to you? Please choose all that apply.

Contemporary / Family-focused / Traditional Liturgy (eg a set service from a worship book) / Youth-led / Meditative / Contemplative / Small-group / Discussion-based / Formal / Informal / Participatory / Creative or Craft-based / A Service of Holy Communion / Traditional Morning Worship (Hymns/Sermon/Prayers) / Other (please specify)

5. What type of music do you like in church services? Please choose all that apply.

Traditional hymns (e.g. played on the organ) / Contemporary music and worship songs / Songs you remember from school / A mixture of styles / Other (please specify)

6. In terms of childcare & youth provision, which of the following statements apply to you? Please choose all that apply.

I am interested in family-focused services and events / I am interested in services aimed at adults, with childcare or youth provision /

I am interested in services aimed at adults, without childcare or youth provision / Childcare or youth provision is important to me at church or during services / I would need creche facilities

7. What is your current view of the church/Wesley Methodist in particular? Please be honest!

8. Any other comments?

PASTORAL REPORT as at 19.2.21

- > Pastor Steve is making good, steady progress and hopes to return to work on 1st. March.
- > We are all grateful for the committed work undertaken by Pastoral visitors.
- > Marjorie sent the following update about Jean Turner “We continue to pray for Jean, who is now in the Sandringham Care Home in Westcliff, for respite. We send her our love and get well wishes to her”.
- > Adrian Gravatt had a fall recently and having had an X-ray has been diagnosed with a ‘slow fracture’, which should clear up in 4-6 weeks. He tells me he is pain free.
- > I had a lovely chat with Mirian Gifford the other day and she tells me that she has to go into hospital for 2-6 days soon and obviously will be pleased when this has happened.
- > Keith Threadgold has been in hospital with COVID and the whole family were quarantined when he came home. He is gradually feeling better.
- > We keep all our Wesley family in our thoughts and prayers.

Eileen Simmons

Pastoral Coordinator

CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL

JUMBLE SALE 2021

As you may remember it was with great regret that this event was cancelled because of the pandemic. This would have been the 18th Year that pam and family had organised the event, raising thousands of pounds.



BUT THAT IS NOT ALL

Pam and her family along with a few others have been walking 500 miles, socially distanced of course, to raise money for this very worthy organisation. Although Covid has been on all our minds, alas Malaria is still very prevalent in parts of Africa and recent outbreaks have killed many. Any money raised will go to provide the medicines to prevent deaths from this disease.



If you feel able to support this sponsored walk or Christian Hope International there are a number of ways you can donate:-

- 1) wearefamilywalk500milesgive.net is the link for the sponsored walk.
- 2) go to the website for Christian Hope International and follow their instructions [Christian Hope International](#) Please be aware it will only be shown as coming from you as an individual.
- 3) Pam is willing to collect cheques (NOT CASH) and send them to the charity. The payee on the cheque needs to be Christian Hope International.

Please contact Pam 07971785425 for her address or if you want any other details.

Hopefully, the Jumble sale will make a comeback in 2022.

God Bless.

Worship and Consultation Meeting

As you may know Wesley church friends are regularly invited to meet together to discuss the format of our worship at Wesley and to talk about and instigate ideas for Mission and Outreach. Following a break of a number of months due to Covid restrictions, we met again on 1st February via Zoom. The notes we made follow. Please take a look and pray about the way forward for Wesley. Our next meet up is on 8th March at 7.30pm. The link is at the end of the notes and will be sent out to everyone for whom we have an email address. Please let Judy Taylor know your email if you don't think that we have it.

Sanya and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Gabrielle Greenway Co coordinating Steward and Mission and Outreach

Notes following Worship Consultation and Mission Meeting 1st February 2021

Meeting held on Zoom

Apologies from Pastor Steve Mayo, Judy Taylor and Emma Hearne

Following devotions, we started by looking back on Worship in 2020.

1. FEEDBACK ON 2020 WORSHIP

Following the first Lockdown we met at Wesley in a Covid – safe manner, this involved, spacing chairs, mask-wearing, and no singing. Overall, this was found to be quite a lonely, strange experience which rather underlined what we were missing, we were not supposed to mix, and chat and this aspect is welcomed at Zoom services. Not everyone was able to attend the worship as they were shielding but are able to attend Zoom.

Going forward perhaps we need to rethink the format of live worship and get away from the traditional format while restrictions are in place, to try to overcome these drawbacks.

Zoom has been popular, but it is difficult to encourage the community to join in even with the links on the website and the safeguarding GDPR measures that are in place.

U tube services are also popular, reaching many more people than Zoom or Live worship. Many appreciate the combination of Zoom and U Tube. U Tube can be watched with partners and families who do not usually attend worship.

2. SURVEY RESULTS

The Survey on Worship has been emailed out, been on the church website and on Social media. It has been in the Clarion twice. The survey is anonymous. The Church has tried to ensure that the views of the community be heard, and it not just be an echo chamber.

We agreed that producing an updated leaflet about our services and facilities with links to our online worship and the types of worship we offer. This could also include information about the survey. We could advertise our desire to get the community's views by putting a poster outside Wesley.

The intention is to leaflet drop in Leigh, post-Covid people may be more open to hearing the message.

3. LENT and HOLY WEEK

Dates are

Shrove Tuesday 16th February

Ash Wednesday 17th February

(Mothering Sunday 14th March)

Maundy Thursday 1st April

Good Friday 2nd April

Easter Sunday 4th April

Whilst we do not know the government restrictions which will be in place for Easter, we thought that the following would be good ideas:

We will plan for all 3 types of service (U tube, Zoom and Live)

We will have a Lent course led by Jane Fulford on Zoom – link to send to everyone.

Jane will get together with others and have a display in the garden.

In future we would consider Palm or Easter Sunday processions.

4. UPDATE ON ALL WORSHIP SERVICES

Memory worship group are bereft without their services. Thorpe Bay Methodist managed services in October and November, with social distancing which worked reasonably well. As soon as we can find a safe way back for Memory Worship it is desperately wanted.

Similarly, Fusion group are really missing their connection to Wesley. We must find a pathway to bring them back and support them.

MISSION AND OUTREACH

We last met a year ago and we followed up the Action Points

- We had badges made for everyone in a helper role at Wesley
- We held a Mission quiet prayer lunch
- We held a Songs of Praise service
- We organised a team to offer Saturday coffee at the front of the church

We agreed that in the aftermath of Covid we must plan to operate differently and not just return to the old normal and we should approach this as an opportunity.

To assist in this, we will participate in some Mission training from District. The areas that will be looked at are as follows

- Decide on a process
- Do a community audit
- Conduct a church review
- Dream together
- Choose priorities
- Identify Actions
- Consider the fruit
- Review

In the meantime, we agreed that as soon as the government and Methodist church guidance allow, we will do everything in our power to resume Memory Worship, Fusion and start a coffee session in the church. We noted the need for support for the lonely and bereaved and will look into ways of answering this need.

We will look at this in detail at our next meeting on Monday 8th March 7.30pm

Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85017788066?pwd=QjVxdG1FS05Yb0xKMTRhMkVSVWdkUT09>

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you to everyone who is sending me cheques in respect of their normal giving or as one-off payments to help the church out. Could I please remind people to make the cheques payable to the CHURCH and not to me.

For those who have made cheques payable to me, please be assured that I have booked a trip to Disney World! Seriously, I have paid the cheques into my personal account and then transferred the money into the church account and there is a paper trail for auditing purposes.

Many Thanks, Tina

January 2021 Figures

January 2020

Income	£3,751.59	£10,527.79
Expenditure	£3,264.13	£6,754.51
Net	£487.46	£3,773.28

Total Funds	£62,399.88	£89,066.81
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WESLEY PRAYER CHAIN/PRAYER FOR YOU

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

Isobel Wratishlaw 557764 mob 07508164525

Jane Fulford

Linda Lister

June Childs 711891

Vivien Threadgold 713325

Miriam Gifford 716175

Maureen Chambers 01702 870956.

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please speak to Gabrielle Greenway



TIME FOR HEALING

Time for Healing – In common with most other church activities the Time for Healing Prayer Group is suspended until further notice. We will continue to pray for healing for all at this uncertain time

Editors information

Please could I have all items for the April's Clarion by Friday 19th March 2021

If you would like to donate towards to cost of The Clarion, there will be a plate out during the Coffee Shop mornings and on a Sunday morning, should anyone wish to donate.

Judy Taylor – ukspud@talktalk.net

**Wesley Methodist
Southend and Leigh**



Church is a member of
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.

