

THE CLARION



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Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: July 2021



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Content Page

Contact Information	3
Minister's Letter	4-9
News from the Pews.....	10-21
Time for Healing	21
Wesley Prayer Chain.....	22
Service Information.....	23
Editor's information	24

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MINISTER'S LETTER



When we look at what seemed important to Jesus in the Bible; seeking out the *'undesirables'* of society; the sick, the leper, the sinner, it was all very much *'people'* issues. Bearing this in mind then, it might come as bit of a surprise *how* concerned Jesus was with what people contributed financially to the kingdom of God. Many have thought Jesus to be *too* spiritual to be concerned about such material things, but on at *least* one occasion whilst in the temple, Jesus sat near the treasury and watched intently as people made their contributions.

Luke 21:1-4; *'While Jesus was in the Temple, he watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box.'*

Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. "I tell you the truth," Jesus said, "this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has." [NLT]

He was *intensely* interested in what was taking place on that occasion. And Hebrews 13:8 tells us that; '*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*' [NLT] So He was interested in the offerings of both the rich and the poor back then, and He *continues* to be interested in our gifts today, because as that reading said, He *doesn't* change.

It has been said that money talks and nowhere does it speak louder than when we are faced with an opportunity to make an investment in God's kingdom.

- ✚ Our gifts indicate our love for God.
- ✚ Our gifts indicate our interest in extending His kingdom.
- ✚ Our gifts indicate where *our* treasure is; whether God or money comes first in our lives.
- ✚ Our gifts are also an indication of our *obedience* to God.

The word *Tithe*, literally translated means ‘*tenth*’ 10% of our first fruits belong to God. Well *actually, everything* we own belongs to God! Psalm 24:1 says; ‘*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.* So, God isn’t asking us to give Him something we own, but a tenth of what we *don’t* own! Because it *already* belongs to Him!

We can make this easy, that’s 10% of your take home pay. So, if you take home £250.00 a week, God is asking for £25.00 per week.

If you take home £600.00 per week, God is asking for £60.00 per week. If only £10 per week, then it’s only £1.00 and so on.

Now I *know* what you’re first thought is going to be; I can’t *afford* to do that! My response would be; “*Can we afford not to!*”

Malachi 3:10 tells us; ‘*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,*” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “*I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!*’

[NLT] I have seen this happen on numerous occasions where people have starting tithing, or increased their giving, and have said to me; *“I haven’t been out of pocket at all!”* I have yet to see a faithful giver get into financial difficulty because of their tithing.

So why don’t some of us tithe?

Well, we’ve talked about one of the first reasons; sometimes we just *don’t* trust God enough to provide for us. And if that’s the case, He *never* will... until we let Him! How *can* God provide for us when our aim is to provide for ourselves?

Maybe some of us don’t tithe because we love what we already have? Thinking that money and material things is what life is all about. But Jesus tells us that *real* living is not found in an abundance of things. Luke 12:15; *‘Then he (Jesus) said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”’* [NLT]

Or maybe it because as human’s we have a natural tendency to procrastinate, and this may have caused many of us to delay tithing. *All* of us hesitate to do something which requires discipline and sacrifice.

Or maybe it's because we think the church doesn't need our money. Well, if that's your thought, think again. I'm astounded by the cost of running our physical building!

I know there have been swathes of time when we've been absent from our churches due to the pandemic, but the bills still keep coming, even though our income has diminished.

So those who tithe, God says He will bless.

Malachi 3:10b; *'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!'* [NLT] We can do literally that, because His promises are as *sure* today as they were *then*! //

If you are a *consistent* tither and God has blessed your heart in doing so, then when the opportunity arises, give your testimony to this fact and this will give strength to those who need encouragement in trusting God more fully in their financial lives.

If you have *not yet* discovered the joy of being a tither, I challenge you to become one. If you don't have faith to make the *full* decision in one big step, then *gradually* take *small* steps in the *right* direction, and begin by increasing your regular giving.

Again, God says; *“I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in!”* [NLT] So, the question isn’t *can* I afford to tithe, but can I afford *not* to!

If you would like to start giving on a regular basis or make a one-off donation Leigh Wesley’s bank details are shown below:

Sort Code: 09-01-52

Account Number: 15898702

Your giving is, and will be, greatly appreciated as we find our way out of this pandemic and continue to undertake God’s mission for His church.

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

July 2021

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Worship Consultation and Mission and Outreach meeting | Monday 7, June 2021 |NOTES

*The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the
gospel of
God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in
worship and mission*

Worship Consultation

The different forms of worship, offered at Wesley, were discussed:

Sunday worship

- There are new people attending the Sunday morning services.
- Some existing attendees to Wesley are not planning to return to worship until we can meet unmasked and sing.

Action point: poster to show we are open – needs to be bigger **[Action: Anna]**

Action point: feather banner to say we are open and one to say 'not here' when it is a United service **[Action: Anna]**

- Organ – Ashley can play it now, but some notes are missing.
- Hymnbook box seems to be locked.

Memory worship – starting on 21 June. Some members have passed away since the congregation last met, so it is expected that the widowers and carers will attend this first service back in remembrance.

Informal worship – leave until September, unless it has already been advertised. **[Action: Sanya to check]**

Inspire – worship was held in May, five people attended. Next is 27 June. Have Mike and Sue on instruments. Later it was also discussed whether Inspire might be the place for more modern, contemporary, current and trending worship songs.

Private Prayer – on Saturday 5 June some café visitors asked to pray and Gaye helped them.

Time for Healing – not happening at the moment

Time for Prayer – not happening at the moment

Fusion – Leigh Town Council Youth Club is happening on 10 June. Leigh Town Council are planning to do 8-11- and 12–16-year-olds. Currently we are unaware that Fusion can meet. Hoping to do a holiday club week commencing Monday 9 August, younger ones 10am-12n, Fusion+ 12-2. Otherwise, we may have to wait until September to fully reopen.

Worship Consultation from February, next steps

In light of the survey results and discussion at the last meeting, we should discuss and create an action plan for the following areas:

- Worship promotional postcard entitled 'Worship at Wesley'

It was agreed to get moving with this.

Action point: Deliver in our area to libraries and community centres. Print run 2,000 postcards.

[Action: Sanya]

Action point: Sanya to bring draft to AGM in July for approval with a door-to-door letter drop in August. **[Action: Sanya]**

Action point: door-to-door letter drop in August.

[Action: All]

Action point: leaflet drop for next agenda **[Action: Sanya]**

- Families – toddler group in the café from September
- Music – we did start a choir
A lengthy discussion was had regarding music during worship at Wesley. The meeting talked about needing a mixture of styles in worship music during Sunday morning worship. Some ideas to help with this included:
 - A note to be placed in the letters to Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and visiting preachers
 - Come and learn a new song event at church similar to the song of praise event
 - Belfairs puppet group was given as example

- Well known hymn lyrics set to pop songs
 - Sanya to see if this can be included in the Worship Academy programme 'where to start with modern songs?'
- Palm Sunday village walk in 2022 with Belfairs, Highlands and Wesley - for next meeting. This has not been discussed or agreed. Action: **[Action: Sanya]**
 - Memorial for Covid – this was discussed by the meeting. It was explained that for some people, this might be too painful, particularly if the passing of some loved ones will have been some time ago. Belfairs are holding a memorial service for Covid. The meeting agreed for Wesley to wait until any further potential third waves of the Covid infections pass before holding a service of memorial.

Mission and Outreach

Mission Planning Workbook and Community

Questionnaire is meant to go out to anybody who comes into Wesley or passes Wesley. Results will be used to give us some pointers and ideas.

How to do this?

- Clipboard outside our church
- Café - leave on tables
- People who use the building (hirers)
- Pub and shops across the road and surrounding areas

- Others we know who are willing to help ask the questions in our local community

The Sanctuary Cafe

- Going well
- Shame can't talk to people
- Still need volunteers
- Times? Stick with these times for now until most groups who use our building are back then review
- Roped chain – it is believed that the rope by the disabled toilets is to prevent the public using the other toilets where the hirers are using the rest of the building. It is also to honour those who are renting our building spaces and might be doing so in covid bubbles. Moreover, it affirms our commitment to safeguarding.
- Volunteers – repeat the appeal for volunteers in the church notices

Next meeting: Monday 2 August, 7.30pm via Zoom [in church if allowed]

All are warmly welcome to attend and contribute to this meeting and its agenda.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

WESLEY GIFT DAY will be Friday 2nd. July and Pastor Steve will be in the vestry to receive gifts personally between 10.30am and 12.30pm.

Pastor Steve will be preaching on Sunday 4th. July and his earlier letter refers to Gift Month as it goes all through July and all connected to Wesley are invited to make a donation.

Afternoon Tea and Cakes 2021.

Afternoon Tea and Cakes will begin again this Summer in the Canteen Room at Wesley. The booked dates are all on Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm on: -

July 29th

August 26th

September 30th



We hope you will encourage your family, friends, and neighbours to come along.

Nearer the time we will check any changes in the Government guidelines but really hope we shall be able to meet again soon.

With love from Janet Whiddett, Linda and Pam.

The **Methodist** Church

**Annual Church Meeting
Sunday 25th July at 12:30 pm**

Agenda

Opening Prayers

Attendance and Apologies

Remembering the Saints in Glory.

Minutes from the last meeting &
Matters arising

Thank you to those who have served

Safeguarding and GDPR updates

Election of New Officers and Existing Officers

Existing Officers for re-election.

Obituary
Professor Kenneth MacKinnon
26th August 1933 – 21st May 2021
By Keith L. Charnock

First and foremost, I would like to offer our sincere condolences to Ken's wife Rosalie, and their two children. Our older readers will remember Ken, even though it was in 1985 the family moved to live in the Black Isle, North of Inverness. He was quite a character, a very exuberant man flowing with abundance of energy.

Ken was born in the London Docklands area to parents whose families came from Popular. Sadly, his parents split when he was quite small, both Ken and his mother going to live with her mother and father.

During the London Blitz in 1941 he was evacuated along with many other children to Cornwall. Once hostilities started to ease on the home front in 1944, a number of children started to return. Mum and Ken were reunited, first in St Albans and later in the same year moved to Leigh-on-Sea, settling in a cottage near North Street Schools.

Ken started his secondary education at 'Westcliff High School for Boys', and even in those early days he became a Scottish Standard Bearer.

I believe on quite a number of occasions he would arrive at school wearing his Scottish Kilt, resulting in a visit to the principal for not conforming with School Uniform dress code. However, it did not stop him becoming 'Head Boy' of such a fine Grammar school. It was during this period he

joined Wesley Youth Club, and then the Church. He remained loyal to Wesley for the rest of his life. His collection of Church Clarions make history, they go back to the very first edition in March 1962!

He took a double degree in sociology and economics at the London School of Economics, followed by National Service with a posting to Germany.

On his return, he taught in Essex schools and Technical Colleges and was head of department at the Barking Technical College and then senior lecturer and reader at the Hatfield Polytechnic.

Ken & Rosalie married in 1955 and they had two children Niall and Morag.

In 1957 aged 24 years he became a Credited Methodist Local Preacher. During his lifetime he wrote many hymns mainly in the Gaelic tongue, with Paul McDowell writing the accompanying music.

Turning to politics, in the 1958 Southend Borough elections he became a candidate to represent the Prittlewell Ward for the Liberal party which he won. Later he became an Alderman, Chairman of the Council's Planning Committee and in 1965-66 the first Liberal Mayor to represent Southend Borough Council. He was also the youngest Mayor, a record which I believe Ken, still holds to this day.

Leigh Annual Folk Carol Service, Ken started this in 1978, based on one he already produced, and organised for the Southend Folk Festival. I am pleased to say, this is still going from strength to strength! Fisherman's Chapel 1978-

2004, Wesley Methodist Church 2005-2007, St Clement's Church 2008-to date.

He continued to run the festival even after moving to Scotland. When due to ill health he was advised not to travel in 2010 he still continued to do much of the co-ordinating.

Ken was known as the father of Scottish Gaelic sociolinguistics studies.

Although not a native speaker of Gaelic, he taught himself Gaelic and took a master's degree. He was made a senior research fellow of the Social Science Research Council and a member of MAGOG between 2002 and 2004, a body providing advice on Gaelic to Scottish ministers.

He held an honorary professorship at the University of Aberdeen, was a reader emeritus at the University of Hertfordshire. He tutored for the Open University in social science, education and language studies which he did till his passing.

R.I.P.

'Ye good and faithful servant.'

PASTORAL NEWS as at 17th. June

Miriam Gifford has been very unwell, but although her cancer treatment has left her extremely tired, she continues to make very good progress. She would like to thank Wesley for all the cards sent and prayers offered for her recovery.

Marjorie has told us that at this time of writing, Jean Turner has moved to the Sandringham Care Home in Westcliff-on-Sea for respite care. Please continue to hold Jean in your thoughts and Prayers.

Eileen Simmons

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY 11th July

Last year we were in lockdown on AFC Sunday so there was no Wesley collection. I have the envelopes ready, and they will be available on AFC Sunday and gifts can be made on that day and for the following Sundays via the collection plate. If you would like to support our Wesley collection, but currently are not coming to services give me a ring and we can bring you round an envelope and return it to Wesley. Action for Children has always had strong support at Wesley so please give as generously as you can.

I quote from the current AFC newsletter –

“It goes without saying that the past year has been extremely challenging. In the face of adversity, though, you’ve found ways to continue supporting Action for Children. While lockdowns put a stop to many fundraising activities, Methodist supporters still managed to raise more than £330,000, which is a remarkable achievement”

“We want to say **thank you** for sticking by us through this tough time, we truly appreciate your dedication, generosity and kindness, and, of course, your determination to help children, young people and families”

“The most vulnerable children and their families have been particularly affected by the pandemic. They need our support more than ever”

Eileen Simmons

Tel: 472521 email: eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

TIME FOR HEALING

In common with many 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

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



Service Information for July 2021

4th July at 11 am - Communion Service and Church Anniversary- Preacher Pastor Steve Mayo

11th July at 11 am – Preacher Eileen Simmons

18th July at 11 am - Preacher Sanya Strachan

18th July at 4 pm at Trinity – Circuit Service - Farewell to Rev Sandy

25th July at 11 am – United Service at Highlands

25th July at 12:30 pm – Annual Church Meeting at Wesley

Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the August Clarion by Friday 16th July 2021

If you would like to contribute 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.

