

The **CLARION**

Wesley **Methodist** Church 



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)

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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.

The Traidcraft Stall is open 10am till 12 through the week and on Sunday, giving you the opportunity to buy fairly traded goods.

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

Ministerial Co-Worker: Anne Lane Tel 01268 565644
Email: annelane8@btinternet.com

Children and Youth Worker: Jonathan Logan Tel 07852 905742

Mission Enabler for Older People: Julie Peek Tel 01702 479804

Administrator: Paul McDowell. Tel 01702 711851

Wesley Website: www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

Twitter: @leighwesleyMC Facebook: Leigh Wesley Methodist Church



 **MEMORY WORSHIP**

.....
Worship for those with
and without Dementia
.....

2PM - 4PM
3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

MINISTER'S LETTER

The Global Village of 100 People



Thank you to all the people that contacted me following last month's editorial on counting our blessings. Several of you had visited the Eden Centre, and suggested that I look at the piece on global statistics where patterns of inequality are pictured as a global village of 100 people. With *Racial Justice Sunday* on the 12th February, the article provides us with much to meditate upon and I provide it for you here.

If the world's population was understood as a global village of 100 people:

- **60** would be Asian
- **14** would be African
- **11** would be European
- **09** would be South American
- **05** would be North American
- **33** would have no access to electricity
- **15** including **10** women, would not be able to read or write
- **18** would live on less than \$1 a day of whom **11** would be women and children
- **37** would have no access to a toilet
- **50** would live in an urban area of whom **15** would live in slums
- **13** would have no access to drinking water
- **10** would be disabled
- **14** would have no right to basic health services

- **02** would be born this year and **1** would die
- **09** would be under 5 years old
- **15** including **3** children, would be undernourished
- **06** would be infected with malaria
- **10** would die from tobacco related illness
- **20** richest would possess 90% of the wealth
- **15** would be overweight, **4** would be clinically obese
- **10** would be over 60 years old
- **24** would have access to the internet

Let us pray

We share a common earth.

We stand among each other.

We share our planet,

We share birth, death, hunger, love.

The sky opens above us and we receive space.

The earth stands beneath us and we receive ground.

Living things die for us.

And we die, returning to soil, sea, and air.

We are the people of pain and fear.

We are the people of anger and joy,

We are the people of compassion and grace.

In all of us, let there be a longing

for a life that has not yet come,

for a world that is free and just,

a dream of hope for all people.

Amen.

Dorothy McMahon 'Celebration of the Unity of all Humankind'

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Jack Decker

Local Preacher since 1954, passed away on 31st December. His thanksgiving service will be at Benfleet Methodist Church at 2.30pm on Friday 3rd February.

Thanks

Just to say thank you to all our friends at Wesley for the cards, presents and wishes over the festive season, and to Vivien who sends us the Clarion every month. We gave a donation to the Macmillan Support Group.

Angela and Trevor Dewberry

WESLEY NOTICES FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

Car Park Tickets

Car Park tickets for 2017 are now available – see Peter Lister.

Sound rota

We could do with more people on the sound desk rota at weekly services, so if you are interested please see Geoff Nash or one of the stewards. Training will be given.

Christian Hope International Jumble Sale

Sat 18th February 2017

10am-12midday

Come and grab yourself a bargain then enjoy a bacon buttie and a coffee and why not take a peek at the newly refurbished church. Don't forget if you have any jumble we will gladly take it off your hands.

Thank you, Pam & Viv

**Tour of
House of Commons
and House of Lords
plus
Prime Minister's Question Time
Wed, 22nd February**



**Numbers limited
to 20 from the Circuit.**

**For further details or to book,
phone Eva Hayes 01268 683551**

LEIGH CHURCHES TOGETHER NOTICES

Healing services

Benfleet Methodist Church are hoping to introduce a monthly healing service within the next few months, and have arranged a meeting with Rev Peter Edwards from Central Hall to prepare for this ministry at Benfleet on Weds 15th February from 5 to 7.30pm. It will incorporate discussions and question and answer sessions as well as sharing a meal at about 6pm. Anyone in the circuit who is interested is welcome to attend. For catering purposes please let Stella Holden 01268 752624 stellamholden@yahoo.co.uk know if you are planning to attend.

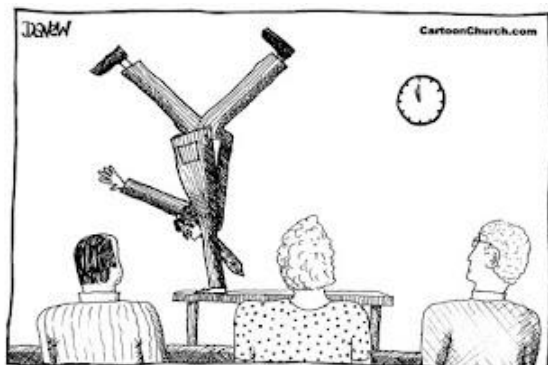
Activate, a programme of refreshment for women

We warmly invite you to our 2017 events.

Lunches are held in The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, Leigh-on-Sea at 12.30pm
Weds 15th March (lunch £12)

PETULA HABERSHAW – having spent years of ill health, wheelchair bound. Petula experienced miraculous healing. She is now well and walking tall by the grace of God. Hear her remarkable story.

For all chargeable events, please pre-book (by the Monday morning prior to the event) with Alison (621343) or Mary (710893)



Dave was surprised at the variety of tasks a youthworker was expected to perform.

Mission with Youth - Job Opportunities.

We have been made aware of the following job opportunities in youth work in the area. Please pass on to anyone you may think might be interested.

Christ Church United Reformed Church, Rayleigh

CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORKER

An exciting opportunity to inspire and develop the children and family work in the church and wider community. School term time contract with some flexibility for other events in school holiday time. A flexible ten hour week at £10.00 per hour with pro-rata holiday. Full job description and person specification on request.

Please contact Sue Deane on 01268 779392 or suedeane2@gmail.com

Closing date for applications Friday, 10th February 2017

Tiptree Youth Project Outreach Intern Required

INTERN

We are looking for an intern aged 18-24 to support our inter-church youth work in Tiptree and the surrounding area during the academic year 2017 – 2018. This is a fully funded opportunity in collaboration with the Diocese of Chelmsford and the New Wine Discipleship Year scheme at All Saints, Woodford Wells. This is a full-time position (subject to enhanced DBS disclosure) in which you would be working alongside our youth worker. There will be opportunity and support to work creatively, developing new ideas for activities, fund-raising events and schools work. We are particularly committed to exploring ideas and possibilities for fresh expressions of church for young people. An integral part of this opportunity is a weekly training day at All Saints. Fees, living expenses and travel costs are covered, and we will make every effort to arrange suitable accommodation locally should you require it.

Closing Date: Friday March 31st

For more details contact Tessa at: tessaperrin@sxdc.myzen.co.uk

Website: www.typo.uk.net

Tiptree Youth Project Outreach is a registered charity: No 1141995



The Christmas Charity 2016 collection totals were as follows:

Action for Children: £512.44
Age Concern: £198.41
Side by Side: £496.83

Thank you for your generosity.

A donation was also received for Nkanfoa £113.00

We are very fortunate in having Tina Gowers as our Treasurer.

Tina keeps meticulous records and the list that follows is her record of all the charities supported during the 2015/6 Methodist Church year.

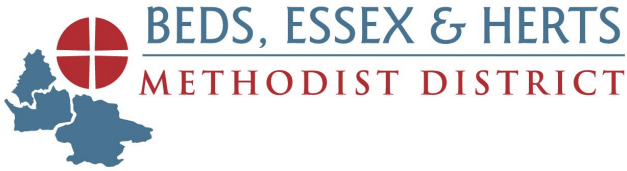
Charitable Giving 2015/16

World Missions inc JMA	£147.60
Action for Children	£861.27
Christian Aid	£152.00
Red Cross	£4.60
Hope International	£1419.94
Malapascua	£1000.00
Night Shelter showers	£1000.00
Nkanfoa	£112.55
Macmillan	£316.43
Total	£5,014.39

In this regular Clarion report I shall be inviting individuals to tell us about their work and how the community benefits eg Anna and the team helping with the FOODBANK collections. It is not just about money. Those foodbank donations are vital and I am so proud of our Wesley generosity in all sorts of ways.

P.S. Are you saving Jumble for Pam?

Eileen Simmons



District Visit of the President of Conference

When the President of the Conference led Sunday morning worship at Oxlease Methodist Church in the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit, the congregation were delighted to welcome back one of their former ministers. Rev. Dr Roger Walton was minister at Oxlease Methodist Church in the 1980s until being appointed to serve in the then Division of Ministries. The congregation, which included numerous old friends, greatly appreciated Roger's imaginative leading of worship and accessible preaching style. Lively conversations continued over a splendid lunch prepared by members of the church's Zimbabwean fellowship.

Afterwards, the president visited nearby Birchwood Methodist Church, which is a very fine example of the way in which outdated church premises can be replaced by a compact and more suitable building, funded by the sale of part of the site for residential housing.

Later, at Hatfield Road Methodist Church in St Albans, the president addressed a circuit audience, providing clear and insightful answers about the contemporary mission and ministry of the Methodist Church in conversation with the Superintendent, Rev. Rosemary Fletcher, who drew on topical questions submitted by the audience. Following a welcome break for tea kindly provided by the church, the president preached at a lively circuit service led by circuit staff together with the worship band. In both morning and evening services, the president addressed the themes of holiness and justice in an engaging and inspiring way.

On the following day, the president travelled with the district chair to Clacton in the Tendring Circuit to meet with the ministers before visiting the Brooklands ward of Jaywick, which is among the most deprived communities in Britain. Here Deacon Janet Jenkins gave the president a tour of an area in which she exercises a ministry of befriending and supporting some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Then it was back to Trinity Methodist Church in Clacton for the regular Monday 'grub club' run by the church where 'guests', many of them experiencing acute poverty and even homelessness, can enjoy a free hot meal served by volunteers. Over lunch, the president listened attentively to many of their stories, his warm and easy-going manner winning an appreciative response from those whose voices are often not heard let alone respected.

In a packed schedule, the president was soon being whisked away to High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon, where he led a retreat for those ministers in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District in their first ten years of ministry. Again, the president skilfully combined his considerable theological, educational and pastoral gifts to lead a three-day ministerial retreat on 'Exploring Holiness and Justice'. Our ministers returned to their circuits having been well nourished spiritually and theologically, and greatly encouraged in their ministry. Everywhere he went, the president made new friends as a result of his personal grace and holiness.

Rev. Dr David M. Chapman

FLOWER ROTA FOR FEBRUARY

- 5th Flowers given in loving memory of Ann and Eric Brown from their family Maureen, Roy and David.
- 12th Flowers given in loving memory of Winnie Chandler by her daughters, Margaret and Ann, and granddaughter, Jo.
- 19th Flowers given in loving memory of Derek and Paddy Milner, remembering them on their birthdays, given by Joy, Nigel and Nicola and their families.
- 26th Flowers given in loving memory of Alan Moss and his granddaughter Kate Evans, by Molly and Liz and Ray and their family.

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

Prayer Diary February 2017 The main theme is love

1 Wed 1 Corinthians 13:2b-3 'I may have faith to move mountains but if I have no love, I am nothing. I may give all I possess to the needy, I may give my body to be burnt, but if I have no love, I gain nothing by it.' Dear Lord we pray that all people may know love. The kindness and compassionate love that shows itself in good and despairing times.

2 Thu The Last Farewell Ron Webster *For you are beautiful, and I have loved you dearly More dearly than the spoken word can tell* Loving Lord, we pray for the broken hearted but rejoice upon reflection of having known love.

3 Fri 1 Corinthians 13:7-8 'There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance. Love will never end.' O Lord may all people have lifetimes giving and receiving love. Knowing that at the centre of that love is Christ Jesus showing us the way and the truth of life.

4 Sat Love Changes Everything Charles Hart, Don Black *Yes love, love changes everything Now I tremble at your name Nothing in the world will ever be the same* Dear Lord we give thanks for such gifted writers and singers that can transform our minds, hearts and souls with love.

5 Sun 1 John 4:19 'We love because he loved us first' Dear Lord, help us to appreciate the ability to feel the emotions that make us who we are. To understand that we love because you first loved us into being. My we accept and know the love of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

6 Mon The Lady in Red Chris de Burgh *The lady in red is dancing with me, cheek to cheek There's nobody here, it's just you and me It's where I want to be* Loving Lord we thank you that we can love another human being with such intensity and joy.

7 Tue HP 220 Percy Dearmer God is love: his the care, Tending each, everywhere God is love – all is there! Jesus came to show him, That we all might know him.

8 Wed Annie's Song John Denver *You fill up my senses Like a night in a forest Like the mountains in springtime Like a walk in the rain Like a storm in the desert Like a sleepy blue ocean You fill up my senses Come fill me again* Such love Lord enriches us to see the beauty of your world, the love in others and the potential in our love to another.

9 Thu Julian of Norwich Lord, before ever you made us, you loved us. Nor has your love ever slackened, nor ever shall. In love all your works have been begun, and in love they continue. In this love we shall see you and be glad in you for ever. Amen

10 Fri Somewhere Stephen Sondheim *There's a place for us, Somewhere a place for us. Peace and quiet and open air Wait for us Somewhere.* Dear Lord we do not know the future but with love in our hearts we can dream of love and peace to come.

11 Sat I Believe Ervin Drake, Jimmy Shirl, Al Stillman and Irvin Graham *I believe above the storm the smallest prayer Will still be heard. I believe that someone in the great somewhere hears every word. Every time I hear a newborn baby cry Or touch a leaf Or see the sky Then I know why I believe* Creator God help us to be faithful and recognise your wondrous work in all we see.

12 Sun John 13:34 'And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.' O loving Father, help us to love all those we meet, our friends, family and colleagues. Help us to love those whom we find difficult to love as only then are we truly following the commandment of your Son, Jesus Christ.

13 Mon You'll never walk alone Oscar Hammerstein II *Walk on, walk on With hope in your hearts And you'll never walk alone You'll never walk alone* Constant God, may we know that through all the struggles of life your love is there for us. We are never alone and will find peace and hope.

14 Tue 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 'Love is patient and kind. Love envies no one, is never boastful, never conceited, never rude; love is never selfish, never quick to take offence. Love keeps no score of wrongs, takes no pleasure in the sins of others, but delights in the truth.' Loving Christ may we know the gifts of the Holy Spirit when love can become a burning in our hearts, a vision of loveliness in our minds and shown through all our actions.

15 Wed Happy Together Gary Bonner, Alan Gordon *Imagine me and you, I do I think about you day and night, it's only right To think about the girl you love and hold her tight. So happy together* Holy God may each couple be so in love that they remember that love is patient and kind and keeps no score of wrongs. It is not controlling but liberating and joyous.

16 Thu John 3:16-17 'For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal

life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.' Dear loving God, you gave us the gift of your son. A precious gift of love and sacrifice. He came to show us the love of God instilling hope and faith for all who believe.

17 Fri The Power of Love Holly Johnson, Peter Gill, Mark O'Toole and Brian Nash *The power of love. A force from above Cleaning my soul. Flame on burn desire Love with tongues of fire Purge the soul Make love your goal* Empowering Spirit, may we always treat everyone with love and care especially those who we find difficult to love. Those who have betrayed us... Those who have hurt us and our families Those who are different For we are all human being and Christ died for the love in all of us.

18 Sat HP 267 Charles Wesley Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down, Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown, Jesu, thou art all compassion, Pure unbounded love thou art; Visit us with thy salvation, Enter every trembling heart.

19 Sun When you were sweet sixteen James Thornton *I love you as I never loved before Since first I met you on the village green Come to me or my dream of love is o'er I love you as I loved you, when you were sweet When you were sweet sixteen* Dear Lord we pray for teenagers experiencing their first love with all its wonder excitement and nervous apprehension. May they treat one another with kindness and respect.

20 Mon Crying in the rain Howard Greenfield, Carole King *I'll never let you see The way my broken heart is hurting me. I've got my pride and I know how to hide All the sorrow and pain. I'll do my crying in the rain* Caring God, you cry with us knowing the hurt we feel. We pray for all those who have broken hearts may they soon know other love and kindness.

21 Tue The Best Thing Mokka *I've got the best thing in the world Coz I got you in my heart In this cruel little world Lets hold hands together We can share forever Maybe someday the sky will be coloured with our love* Caring God, you give us love to help us through the hard times of life. You give us the love of another person that we might experience a togetherness that will never be forgotten. May we know this love was because you love us all.

22 Wed My baby just cares for me Gus Kahn *My baby don't care for shows. My baby don't care for clothes. My baby just cares for me. My baby don't care for cars and races. My baby don't care for high-tone places.* Dear Lord we pray that all people can feel this special, may their human love be everlasting and joyous as your love for us is eternal and beyond explanation.

23 Thu John Wesley Deepen within us, holy and blessed Jesus, a true sense of your infinite love; that adoring you and believing in you, we may trust in your infinite merits, imitate your holy example, obey your wise commandments and finally enjoy your promises; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen

24 Fri Endless Love Lionel Richie *My love, there's only you in my life. The only thing that's bright. My first love, You're every breath that I take You're every step I make And I, I want to share All my love with you No one else will do And your eyes, your eyes, your eyes. They tell me how much you care. Ooh yes, You will always be My endless love.* Constant Loving God, we pray that you are with us forever and that will know the power of endless faith and will proclaim your love for all humankind.

25 Sat Can't help falling in love Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore, George David Weiss *Wise men say only fools rush in But I can't help falling in love with you. Shall I stay. Would it be a sin If I can't help falling in love with you.* Love can make us do many things may they always be good for us and those around us.

26 Sun HP 105 Christina Georgina Rossetti *Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine, Love to God and all the world, Love for plea and gift and sign.* Parent God, you sent your son to show your love for us. First as a baby, as a misunderstood student, as a man expressing love and kindness against tyranny and a man who died for us.

27 Mon When I'm sixty four Lennon and McCartney *When I get older losing my hair Many years from now Will you still be sending me a valentine Birthday greetings, bottle of wine?* Dear Lord we pray for enduring love, a love that overcomes the struggles of life. We pray for faith in God's love that is eternal.

28 Tue You raise me up Brendan Graham *When I am down and, oh, my soul, so weary; When troubles come and my heart burdened be; Then I am still and wait here in the silence, Until you come and sit awhile with me. You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains; You raise me up to walk on stormy seas; I am strong when I am on your shoulders; You raise me up to more than I can be.* Loving Holy God, you raise us up in Faith, Hope and Love. When we hear this song my we know we can turn to you and know we are loved.



TIME FOR HEALING

The next Time for Healing Prayer Group will be held on February 11th between 11.30am - 12.30pm, after which the meetings will revert to the general time slot of the third Saturday of each month. 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. The next meetings are planned for the following dates:

- 11 February 2017
- 18 March 2017
- 22 April 2017
- 20 May 2017
- 17 June 2017

Also, I have been asked to include the meditations we use at the group in the Clarion following each meeting. In January we reflected on healing and the post-Christmas period and hopefully this still feels relevant now.

And after Christmas.....Healing!

“This night is the eve of the great nativity when those who are longing await His appearing.

Wait with watchful heart.

Listen carefully, through the stillness; listen hear the telling of the waves upon the shore.

Listen, hear the song of the angels glorious – e’re long it will be heard that His foot has reached the earth: news – that the glory is come.”

(Christmas (Extract) taken from Celtic Daily Prayer-From the Northumbria Community)

As a church we have just celebrated Christmas, when we gave our thanks and expressed our joy for the coming into the world of Christ as our saviour and friend. We were focussed on the beginning of a new life and the possibilities it presented. We were looking forward to the way in which the Lord would grow to teach us about the right way of living and also remembering his ultimate sacrifice for us.

As we start a new year, we will also be hoping and praying that it will provide us with new blessings, especially if the last year had been a difficult one for us, or for our family and friends. However, it can sometimes be hard to see a way through our circumstances, whether be they illnesses, or suffering, or losses of any kind, and these burdens can seem overwhelming with any joy of Christmas being quickly forgotten. But, the enduring message of Christmas is that hope is there throughout the year! We should continue to look for and give out the message of goodwill, friendship, hope, caring and reconciliation. Christmas is not just for Christmas – it's for life!

We should continue to seek both God's help and forgiveness as a key to our healing. Our two way relationship with God through Jesus in prayer means we can ask for His help and then listen for His guidance in reply. Healing comes in many forms and may not always be quite what we were desiring or expecting, but it will ultimately come, even if it does not feel like it now. Our illnesses, or those of others for whom we may be caring or supporting, can leave us feeling burdened and uncared for. We may feel that we can do no more. We may resent being unable to fulfil our true potential. And yet, for all our difficulties, we are still blessed with life and hope, and far better provided for than many in the world. God will help us use our experiences to better understand how we can be part of the changes we wish to see.

...I say to Thee "Lord why am I here? ...What great thing can I do for others – I who am captive to this dreary toil?"

And ... Thou answerest, "I cannot do without thee. Once did My Son live thy life, and by His faithfulness did show My mind, My kindness and My truth to men. But now He is come to My side, and Thou must take His place."

(From Hebridean Altars (Extract) taken from Celtic Daily Prayer-From the Northumbria Community)

Matthew 5:3-4

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.”

(Taken from The Holy Bible – New International Version)

To conclude, we can perhaps reflect that Christ’s coming into the world and, his manner of leaving it, shows how much God cares for us. God has an unconditional love for us all and we can know that we are considered worthy in His sight. We can trust that he will be working in our lives to our greater good as the year progresses.

Psalm 91:1-2

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.”

(Taken from The Holy Bible – New International Version)

Terry Harper

WESLEY MONTHLY MOVIES

Friday 24th Feb “Swallows and Amazons” 10.30am

An enchanting new take on the beloved novel by Arthur Ransome, Swallows and Amazons tells the story of the Walker children, whose summer holiday in the Lake District sees them sailing out on their own to a local island, only to find themselves in a competition with a rival group of children who call themselves the Amazons and ultimately an adventure far bigger than they could have imagined.

With a great British cast including Rafe Spall, Andrews Scott and Kelly Macdonald, prepare to be delighted and enchanted by this wonderful tale for the whole family.

FREE event – Refreshments will be on sale including Rossi ice cream.

Wesley Theatre Group presents

‘It’s on, it’s off!’

By Ray Lawrence

Fri 31st March and Sat 1st April 2017
Wesley Hall 7.30 p.m.

Gerald and Daphne appear to be a normal married couple. Their daughter, Tina is due to be married on Saturday. What can possibly go wrong?

Everything!

If you ever thought your family might be dysfunctional, be reassured by the chaos that envelopes this family when startling truths emerge in this hilarious farce. An outrageous plot and confused relationships litter the play with false trails and astonishing revelations.

Tickets £7.00 available from Judy, Gaye, Anna, Ian or Geoff or ring 01702 714213

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP HOST DISTRICT SYNOD IN MAY 2017

Dear Friends,

The circuit is hosting the District Spring Synod at our Rayleigh Church on 6th May 2017 - it is a half day Synod and is attended by all the presbyters in the District and by lay representatives of each of the 12 Circuits which make up our District. For any who have never attended Synod it is a time for business, reflection, learning and fellowship - and all are welcome to come and see what we get up to there.

To host the event we need a team of volunteers from around the circuit as we want to share the work load and not just leave it all to the Rayleigh folk! We will need -

1. Outdoor stewards - for car parking, to put up external signage on access roads, perhaps directing at major junctions etc
2. Indoor stewards to direct people (reps and stallholders) and cover indoor signage and needs.
3. Caterers - probably an early morning shift and a lunch time shift
4. Audio visual links - synod can bring its own sound system and will bring its own monitors for the "top table" plus its own person to run the PowerPoint etc - but we will need a local link with knowledge of the Rayleigh set up.

We will need people for an hour or so on the Friday evening (5th May) to set up and from around 8am on Saturday morning to complete the set up and act as stewards and caterers - we provide tea, coffee & biscuits on arrival and soup and rolls and more tea & coffee at lunch time. Then of course we get to clear up after lunch!

I have already had one volunteer - thank you Frank - but I would like to get a team together so we can meet with the Rayleigh folk to plan. Anyone who is able and willing to help please let me know your names and contact details and I will call us together once we have met with the Synod Secretary in February.

Many thanks

Kathy

Kathy Burrell, Senior Circuit Steward, Southend & Leigh Circuit
01268794741 kathy@burrellkm.plus.com



The message for our homebased congregations in Leigh

Greetings to everyone reading this at home. I hope that you are keeping warm and feeling encouraged as the evenings slowly lengthen, and the snow drops can be seen in the garden. I also like to buy my first bunch of daffodils on the 1st February, to mark St Bridget's Day. Their vibrant colour cheers me on to remember that new life will come again.

From a church liturgical point of view, this month will end with *Transfiguration Sunday* on the 26th February. It is a sure sign that God's grace is at work, providing us with a foretaste of God's power and glory, that might sustain us through the more challenging weeks of Lent.

Psalm 96 is often chosen as the psalm for the day, calling everyone to joyful praise.

1 O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvelous works among all the peoples.

4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
He is to be revered above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

6 Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

9 Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.

10 Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

12 Let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

13 before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the
peoples with his truth.

The Psalmist here, doesn't hold back, but seems to be providing a singing lesson. God is enthroned on high and not just the people but all the earth needs to respond in joyful singing. To recognise God's glory makes the earth sing with praise. It all reminds me of my Methodist Tutor at college, who when we were getting bogged down and side tracked by debate, would quote his short hand version of the Westminster Catechism, "*What is the chief end of human life?*" "*To glorify God and enjoy God forever.*"

To do that, we don't have to be running round completing the umpteenth task, in fact that might get in the way. We can do it sitting in a chair, looking out into our world; through the people who visit; the radio we listen to or the TV we watch. The Psalmist also doesn't imagine you glorifying God alone. No, he pictures us joining with, "*the sea,*" "*the fields,*" "*and all the trees,*" praising God (verses 11-12).

The implications here are huge. As we go about our day, meditating and praising God, we are partners with all the people of the earth (verse 7) and with oceans, soil, trees and air, glorifying God together. It seems very clear that we are *all in this together*. Which reminds me of a reading we will find at the end of our Lenten journey, when Jesus is told by the religious leaders to keep his disciples quiet. He responds by saying that even if they do, the stones of the temple will shout out praises to God. For Jesus, even the stones sing the glorious praises of God!

So as you sit there, talking to people; looking into the garden, noticing the new signs of life beginning to emerge; catch the changing pattern of the sky and birds visiting the garden, remember that you are well placed to be singing this “*new song*.”

And this “*new song*” recognises our partnership with all people and creation, and our responsibility and enjoyment to live in harmony with these partners in praise. As you learn the notes of that song, you could teach it to others as they call to see you!

May God bless you this month and remember, aside from *Songs of Praise* on the BBC, *The Sunday Service* is broadcast every Sunday on Radio 4 at 8.10am and there you will hear a complete service, including a sermon!

Rev Julia Feb 2017

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

Alison Newnham 621343 mob 07863954388

“Pray without ceasing” 1 Thessalonians 5: 17

TEL: 01702 345373

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

Dates for the Diary

Tues 7 th Feb	Ace Lifestyle . Healthcheck Wesley
Tues 14 th Feb	Quiz and games Wesley
Tues 21 st Feb	Sarah Moore . lunch . 12.30. £1 registration fee. Select your choice from menu, pay at venue, no deposit required.
Tues 28 th Feb	Speaker . Retired Detective Inspector Wesley
Tues 7 th Mar	Soup - Lunch . Wesley 12.30 . 2.30 Soup, French bread/butter, sponge pud and custard, tea and coffee. £5 advance payment.
Tues 14 th Mar	Speaker, Antarctic, South Georgia and Falklands. Donations welcome Wesley
Tues 21 st Mar	Van Looy, Clifftown Rd, Southend. Lunch 12.30 . £1 registration fee. Pay at venue, no deposit required.
Tues 28 th Mar	Quiz and games Wesley
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month we have lunch out Club closed	

SUNDAY 5th FEB

UNITED SERVICE WITH HIGHLANDS

	11.00am	Preacher: Rev Julia Monaghan
Mon 6 th	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
Tues 7 th	2.00pm	Age Concern Community Club
Wed 8 th	9.00 am	Midweek Communion - Belfairs
	10.00am	Parent & Toddler
	2.30pm	Talking Poetry – I / An Irish Poet
Thurs 9 th	6.00pm	Fusion Youth & Kids
Fri 10 th	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 11 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Time for Healing

SUNDAY 12th FEB

	9.00am	Communion
	11.00am	Preacher: Mrs Eileen Simmons
Tues 14 th	2.00pm	Age Concern Community Club
Wed 15 th	9.00am	Midweek Communion - Wesley
Sat 18 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	10.00am	Christian Hope Int'l Jumble Sale

SUNDAY 19th FEB

	11.00am	Preacher: Mr Bob Briant
Mon 20th	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
	2.00pm	Memory Worship; Worship for those with and without Dementia
Weds 22nd	10.00am	Parent & Toddler
	2.30pm	Talking Poetry – J / K Kindness or Jealousy
Thurs 23rd	6.00pm	Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth
Fri 24 th	10.30am	Wesley Movie Morning “Swallows & Amazons”
	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 25th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

SUNDAY 26th FEB

	11.00am	Preacher: Rev Clifford Newman
Mon 27th	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
Tues 28th	2.00pm	Age Concern Community Club
	8.00pm	Informal Worship
Thurs 2nd	6.00pm	Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth
Fri 3 rd	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 4 th	10.00am	Coffee Morning

FORWARD EVENTS

Sat 18th Feb

Jumble Sale in aid of
Christian Hope International

Sat 22nd July

ALLEGRO in concert @ Wesley

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 **MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2017**



Wesley Methodist Church is a member of **Southend and Leigh Circuit**
www.southendandleigh.org
and part of the
Beds, Essex and Herts District of 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.

