

THE CLARION



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Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: December 2021



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MINISTER'S LETTER



As we come together at this time of year, a time for family and friends, it's good for us to also spend some time reflecting on the "real reason for the season" – Jesus.

It's important that we welcome Him into our homes and into our celebrations, remembering that, as Christians, we celebrate Christmas not as a secular holiday, but as a celebration of the birth of our Saviour. As Scripture says; *'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.'* [John 3:16 NLT] and that; *'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.'* [John 1:14 NLT]

In a world that wants to make Christmas *only* about presents and food, Father Christmas and self-indulgence, it can be all too easy for the Christian celebration to be '*drowned*' out. Do take time for family, friends and parties, but also take time for Jesus.

May you be richly blessed as you celebrate the birth of Christ this year.

Pastor Steve Mayo

01702 483827

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Neil and Annette would like to announce the engagement of Ian Charnock to Emma Herron on August 31st. We are delighted for them both and send them our congratulations

THANK YOU: We would like to say a very sincere thank you to Pastor Steve, Eileen Simmons and Georgina Paveling for making the Pastoral Dedication Service such a memorable occasion. Also for the kind words extended to us and the lovely gifts presented in recognition of the many happy years we spent with the Parent & Toddler Group. The support and prayers from the church family has been very much appreciated.
With love, Marjorie and Keith Charnock, Pam Caton.

Lockdown Reflections

Dear ALL

Each one of us has experienced 'lockdown'. It is, we hope, something unique. The memory of this time should not be forgotten. We need to speak of this experience through any means possible –a poem, a prayer, a piece of scripture, a piece of writing, even a sketch, picture, photo or one word – to express the sorrows that need to be heard and the joys we found that helped us through.

For those of you who would like some help in writing down your accounts and reflections of this time, please contact Revd. Teresa Rutterford and she will help to write it down with you. Perhaps some thoughts and experiences about using “new technology” for meetings, services, etc.... Hopefully we shall receive some thoughts and reflections from our Ministers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, and others who have had to learn how to keep in fellowship and worship when we were in isolation, unable to meet or leave our homes.

Revd Teresa is willing to collate all the memories, experiences and reflections that we have had, and share how they have affected your lives and your faith - So please, please write, draw, look back on your phones for pictures or in your memories and thoughts and maybe, just maybe - see God in the midst of it all.

For more information, please contact Revd Teresa via email teresa@rutterford.net – her home address and telephone details are on the Circuit plan.

All memories to be with Revd Teresa by 31st Dec 2021.

Thank you, in anticipation,

Jane Fulford and Revd Teresa

Fern's Fitness

This is an Exercise class for the over 50s usually on Mondays from 11am to 12 noon in Wesley Hall. It is a very friendly group, and the exercises are adapted for any ability and no ability. There is a small fee of £5.

Recommended by Pam and Linda

Hope to see you there.





The Worship Consultation and Mission & Outreach meeting is having a rebrand. Therefore, we would like to invite you to an ideas meeting called, 'Yes, and..'.

Come and share your ideas for the worship, mission, and outreach opportunities at Wesley Methodist Church.

Date: Tuesday 1 February 2022

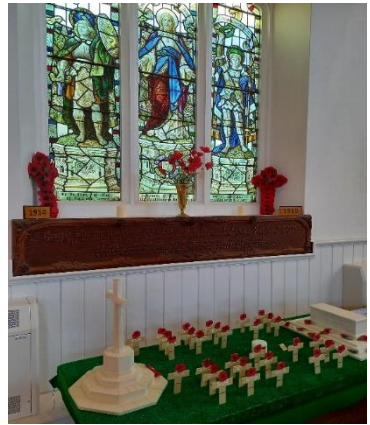
Time: 7.30-9pm

Venue: Wesley Methodist Church

There will be light refreshments of tea, coffee, doughnuts and fruit.

For more information, please speak to Gaye or Sanya.

**Photographs by Barry
Lovell**
Remembrance Displays
2021



CAROL SINGING is BACK



This year the Carol singing will be on **Friday 17th December.** We meet in the Concourse at Wesley **ready to leave at 6pm.**

We need as many voices as possible to bring the real spirit of Christmas to those living in our community. We may be accompanied by musicians, weather permitting, but anyone may bring an instrument and join in.

Please bring a TORCH so you can read all the verses of the carols from the sheet provided by Action for Children. All monies raised will go to this organization.

Children are required to bring a responsible adult, but families are always welcome – the more the merrier and louder! Please wrap up warm.

In the days before Friday 17th December, I will leaflet the roads we normally sing in and inform them we are going to be singing again and to listen out for us as we will **NOT** be knocking on doors this year. Any money we do raise will go to Action for Children.

The evening will end in the usual way with possibly the same quiz, and soup, rolls, mince pies and tea, coffee or squash.

For any more details, contact Jane and Geoff Fulford.
fulford.family@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS CARDS AT WESLEY



Please post your cards in the box and give a donation for postage money to any member of the Leadership Team or to Jane or Geoff Fulford. All monies collected will go to Nkanfoa Methodist School in Ghana, supported by longtime Wesley members Diana and Ian Bosman. This year the box will be in the foyer/entrance and NOT in the concourse.

Please make sure that your cards have clear names and addresses.

The cards will be **sorted on Friday 17th Dec**, put on tables in the Church and be available for collection at the morning service on **Sunday 19th Dec**. Any uncollected cards will be delivered. Volunteers to deliver uncollected cards will be greatly appreciated.

Please note that this will be the last year that we do this so please think if you may be able to take the job on and let the Leadership Team know. It really isn't that difficult!

Thank you. Jane and Geoff Fulford

DEAFNESS and the CLARION

We all love the Clarion, and it is a splendid publication: interesting news and always a source of sound information. I write personally, but also representing others, who are hard of hearing despite availing ourselves of aids. Please include all information in the Clarion and do not rely upon a notice given out before a service. I mishear or simply miss an oral message every now and then. If you want me to know please include it in the Clarion.

Eileen Simmons

TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE 11am. 19th. December 2021

I am taking this service and would be pleased to include your favourite carol. I prepare quite well ahead so let me know if you wish me to include a carol, prayer or reading.

Eileen Simmons

[Tel:472521](tel:472521) email: eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Since we joined Wesley, we have continued our custom of not sending Church Christmas cards, but instead choosing to make extra charity donations. This year we have chosen the Southchurch Foodbank as demand has grown

enormously in COVID times, and for such long-time churches were not able to make regular donations. We have also made an extra donation to One Love Soup Kitchen, Southend, who provide an amazing range of services including showers and a change of clothing for rough sleepers, take away meals, a mini market for food, welfare checks, etc. Their services just keep expanding. We have not been able to open the circuit Night Shelter since COVID started and One Love has grown replacing some of the Night Shelter activities and many more innovations.

Geoff Nash & Eileen Simmons

PASTORAL NEWS

On 24th November we are holding a meeting for Pastoral Visitors during which we will exchange news of those people in our groups. We would welcome new Pastoral Visitors. Do please talk to me or Pastor Steve if you wish to help. Technically Pastoral visitors need to be members of the Methodist church, but anyone can become involved and there are such individuals who undertake this valued role.

I visited Pamela Metcalfe recently and she is so pleased to keep up with Wesley news via the Clarion.

We wish Linda Lister well and pray for a full recovery. Linda has had COVID.

As always, we thank our team of Pastoral Visitors for their valuable work. Eileen Simmons 18.11.21

CHRISTMAS TEA AND CAKE **AFTERNOON**

Thursday 9th December 2021

2-4 pm

Canteen Room Wesley Church

We do hope to see you there –

Covid restrictions permitting.

Janet Whiddett



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS 2021

This year's Christingle collection will go to the organisation that makes the resources we use for this service which is The Children's Society. All other services collection will be going to the Music Man Charity in memory of Sir David Amess.

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP
PRESENTS

PUSS IN BOOTS

by Ben Crocker

FRI 3RD DEC 7.30PM **SAT 4TH DEC 2PM & 6PM**

WESLEY HALL | ELM ROAD
LEIGH-ON-SEA



TICKETS: £7

CHILDREN: £5

**FAMILY TICKET
(2A & 2C): £20**

**BOX OFFICE
01702 480968**

BUY ONLINE:

**WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK
/WESLEY-THEATRE-GROUP**

BY KIND PERMISSION OF
BEN CROCKER PANTOMIMES

**Lunches in December, Friday's
3rd, 10th, and 17th from 12 noon
to 2pm**

£7

**Jacket Potato and salad, and
Dessert**

Dear all

Miriam Gifford has kindly offered to serve Light Lunches at Wesley on three Fridays in December. Please do read the menu and come along. For catering purposes, and so that food is not wasted, we are asking that you book by signing on the sheet that will be available in the Sanctuary on Coffee mornings and at Services or phone Jane on 01702714213.

God Bless

Miriam and Jane

WELCOME TO WESLEY

Lunches in December 12 noon to 2pm

£7

Jacket Potato and salad, and Dessert



Friday 3rd December

Tuna Mayo or Chilli

Friday 10th December

Tuna Mayo or Curry

Friday 17th December

Cheese or Beans

Dessert

Cake and Cream

Please book on the sheet in the church or phone Jane on 01702 714213 for catering purposes.

Please pay cash on the day. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing you

Creative worship' also known as **'Informal Worship'**

On the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8pm we hold worship for about 30-50 minutes. This worship can take many forms. Here are just a few: -

Taize

Divine Reading (Lectio Divina)- simply reading scripture

Labyrinths based on Being 'God's Jewel' or The Book of Revelations

Using all our senses to explore the elements of an unusual French Cross at Easter

Adaptions of services from the Iona Community

A more traditional service with themes of:

Friendship

Journeying

The water of Life

Pebbles and Prayer

All the services are carefully and prayerfully designed and offered with the one aim of enabling those present to deepen their faith and feel the presence of God. There is probably more silence and time for thinking than a Sunday morning service and, of course, no sermon but each service is very different.

So, is it creative or informal? Do you want to come along? Please do join us or talk to Isobel, Sue, Jane or Gaye to find out more.

The next date is 25th January 2022.

TALKING POETRY



September to December 2021 pm Wednesday at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

8th Dec – Any living poet

15th Dec – Any Christmas poem

please contact Joan Hawkins on email
joanh838@icloud.com for further details'

TIME FOR PRAYER

Time for Prayer is usually held on the third Saturday of each month but please note that, for December, the meeting has been moved to avoid the inevitable busyness of the last Saturday before Christmas. The format is still evolving with each meeting (in line with prevailing Covid guidance) and includes both communal and private prayer with a focus on general, healing, and personal matters. The next meeting will be at 11.30 am on 11th December in the Sanctuary.

CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL JUMBLE

SALE 2022

As you may remember it was with great regret that this event was cancelled because of the pandemic in 2021.



BUT THAT WAS NOT ALL

Pam and her family along with a few others walked 500 miles, socially distanced of course, to raise money for this very worthy organisation.



AND AN AMAZING £1,350 was raised.

This year Pam and her family are organising another sponsored walk for February 2022 and a Coffee morning on SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2022 at Wesley to show the work of CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL.

So DO NOT COLLECT ANY JUMBLE instead get your WALKING SHOES ON OR SPONSOR those walking and let's BEAT that amazing amount in 2021.

See you walking and see you on the 19th of February 2022.

Pam and family

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 07733173810

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



Dates for December 2021

Sunday 5th December at 11:00am- Preacher Pastor S.
Mayo Toy and Gift

Sunday 12th December at 11:00am- Preacher S. Hockett
Nativity

Sunday 19th December at 11:00am – Preacher E.
Simmons Carol Service

Sunday 19th December - 5.30 Inspire Carol Service

Friday 24th December - 4 pm Pastor S Mayo Christingle

Friday 24th December - 11.15 pm Midnight Service

Saturday 25th December - 10.30 am Pastor S Mayo

Sunday 26th December - Church closed.

Worship Dates for January 2022

Sunday 2nd January at 11:00 – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo

Sunday 9th January at 11:00 – Preacher: S King

Sunday 16th January at 11:00 – Preacher: J. Fulford

Sunday 16th January a 5:30 – Inspire

Sunday 23rd January at 11:00- Preacher: K. McCullough

Tuesday 25th at 8pm - Creative Workshop — every 4th

Tuesday in the month – All are welcome

Sunday 30th January at 11:00 – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo-
United Service

Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the January Clarion by **Friday 17th December 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.

