

THE CLARION



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Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: Jan 2022



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Content Page

Contact Information 3

Minister's Letter4-5

News from the Pews..... 6-16

Wesley Prayer Chain..... 17

Time for Prayer 18

Service Information.....19

Editor’s information 20

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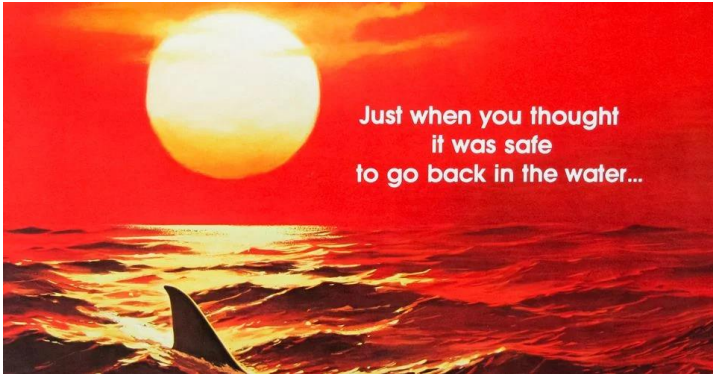
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MINISTER'S LETTER



The above poster was advertising Jaws 2 back in 1978, and contains that famous tagline; *'Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water...'*

With the roll-out of covid-19 vaccines and booster jabs, I think most of us were hoping that we had seen the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic. But along comes Omicron, and restrictions start to come back into force and will only probably get stricter in the New Year.

So how do we stay positive when the future looks bleak?

Well, we focus our thoughts on higher things; we focus on hope. The Bible is full of passages which talk about hope...

*'At least there is **hope** for a tree: if it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail.'* [Job 14:7 NIVUK]

*'But God will never forget the needy; the **hope** of the afflicted will never perish.'* [Psalm 9:18 NIVUK]

*'Be strong and take heart, all you who **hope** in the LORD.'* [Psalm 31:24 NIVUK]

Hope is something which allows us to live our lives with dignity and confidence.

I once had a church member who always lived '*under the circumstances*' of life, and because of this, always had a dim view of the future. Often her future looked hopeless.

But we don't need to be living '*under the circumstances*' because we have a hope, a hope in Jesus. This world, with its problems and stresses is only part of our lives and our futures. In this world we will always have difficulties and issues. But Jesus gives us hope through what He tells us in John 16:33; '*I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*' [NIVUK]

When we live lives focusing on hope, it helps us surf over the problems of life. We may still be buffeted, and at times even swamped, but we will not be defeated because we have a hope in Christ.

So, as we look into this New Year, look through the lens of hope, and your future will look so much brighter and full of hope.

Happy New Year to you all!

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Fern's Fitness

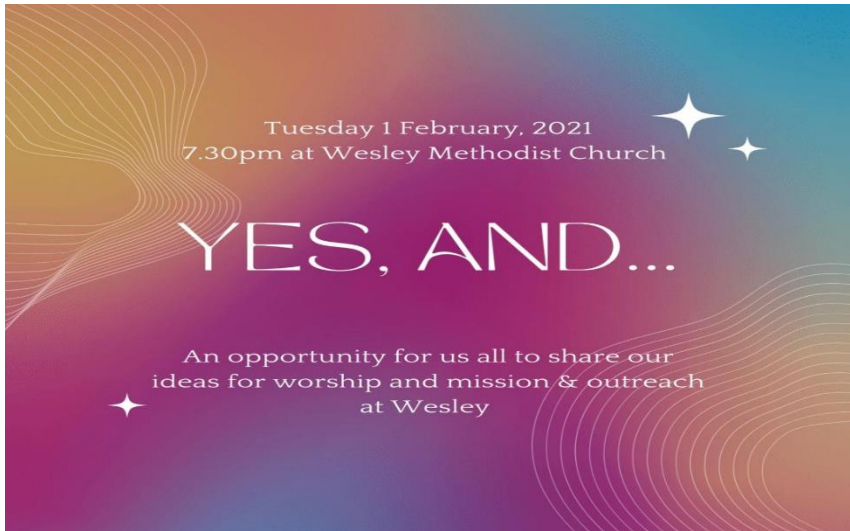
This is an Exercise class for the over 50s usually on Mondays from 11am to 12 noon in Wesley Hall. It is a very friendly group, and the exercises are adapted for any ability and no ability. There is a small fee of £5.

Recommended by Pam and Linda

Hope to see you there.



Linda and Peter Lister would like to announce the birth of their first grandchild Oscar, on the 7th December 2021, weighing 8lb 4oz, son for Lizzie and Kay. Many thanks to all who sent good wishes and prayers.



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.

**Lunches in January, Thursday's
6th, 13th, and 27th at 12.30pm**

£7

**Jacket Potato and salad, and
Dessert**

Dear all

Miriam Gifford has kindly offered to serve Light Lunches at Wesley on three Thursdays in January. Please do read the menu and come along. For catering purposes, we are asking that you book, so food is not wasted. Please sign 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

Looking forward to seeing you

WELCOME TO WESLEY

Lunches in January at 12.30pm

£7

Jacket Potato and salad, and Dessert



Thursday 6th January

Chilli

Thursday 13th January

Chicken Curry

Thursday 27th January

Bolognese

Each week there will be Tuna, Cheese or Beans

Dessert

Cake and

Cream

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

Please pay cash on the day. Thank you.

PASTORAL NEWS

LONELINESS IN OLD AGE



Loneliness is a major issue and I believe Anna Chaplains act as a positive force helping to counteract some of the damaging effects of it. More than thirty years ago we had three family widows staying with us for a holiday. One of them said how good it was to have someone to talk to over breakfast. I confess at that stage I had not previously considered just how lonely it can be to live alone after the death of a spouse. Of the three only one is still alive and at ninety-seven she tells us she is not lonely at all, as she now lives with a niece. Another niece lives nearby and also a grandniece with husband and a baby, so she has lots of company and visits out. She is alone during the day, when her niece is at work, but happily reads and watches TV and looks forward to sharing a meal and company in the evenings.

I believe loneliness has grown and has been made much worse during COVID, as many of the social groups that functioned well pre-COVID have not been able to meet in the same way. It is good that currently more groups are opening up. Today I spent four hours supporting one such

group and the benefits of belonging are huge and very evident.

As an Anna Chaplain prevented from visiting my care home I turned to a local Age Concern group, who needed Telephone Befrienders. It has surprised me just how meaningful and valuable it is. I am told that my calls are “the highlight of my week” and “I really look forward to talking to you”. Some of the people I phone have had to shield, because of their medical conditions and it has been isolating and extremely difficult for them. I see the need personally to continue telephone befriending for the very elderly, who may still be housebound.

I still am able to do one to one home visits whilst these are permitted. The winter months with long evenings can be so lonely for older people on their own. This applies to those who may have loving, supportive families, who may visit every week, but the elderly individual still spends a majority of their days alone. I just love listening to their stories. Relatives give me great feedback. One lady I visit told me my visits give her a good reason to bake shortcakes! Such one-to-one visits are even more needed for those without families able to visit or indeed are without any family.

A recent Times article reported a study done by Sheffield University’s department of psychology concluded that lonely people make more visits to their doctor and confirmed that loneliness is particularly prevalent in older people.

It will be good when we as Anna Chaplains are able to open up social groups more fully for older people where they can

meet, chat and contribute their skills eg. knit and natter and a vast range of other activities. I always enjoy reading about what other Anna Chaplains do and exchanging ideas. I constantly learn from other Anna Chaplains, which is such a blessing.

I have always enjoyed meeting people of all ages and on a local neighbourhood walk we may meet fifteen to twenty people. Since COVID I have deliberately said “Hello” to all and many respond so positively I wonder how lonely they may be.

Eileen Simmons, Anna Chaplain

26.11.2021

TALKING POETRY



September to December 2022 pm Wednesday at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

12th Jan 2022- Daisy Goodwin

26th Jan 2022 – Phillip Larkin

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

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 dates are 23rd November in 2021 and 25th January.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are looking for people who feel that they could carry on the amazing work the Concert Group undertook in arranging and supporting concerts here at Wesley. This is a wonderful project which we would really like to continue this year, but we need your help!

If anyone is interested, please talk to a member of the Leadership Team.

Rest in Peace



Our thoughts and prayer go to the Baxter family on the passing of Jack Baxter on Saturday. Funeral arrangements will be announced when they are received from the family.

CAROL SINGING

This year the Carol singing was on Friday 17th December. There were not so many of us, Ashley, Anna Isobel, Linda H., June, Miriam, and me! but the singing was wonderful. One Father and a four-year-old daughter in Redcliff got a special rendition of We wish you a Merry Christmas all the verses led by Ashley – that's what Christmas is about. We were not knocking on doors, but I had leafletted the houses before to say we would be about. We raised £65 on the evening and thanks to donations from individuals from Wesley and from the mug in the sanctuary we donated £150 to Action for Children.

Thank you for Ashley and all of you wonderful singers.

Jane

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



TIME FOR PRAYER

The Time for Prayer meeting is intended to provide a quiet ambience for both communal and private prayer with a focus on general, healing, and personal matters. We are therefore considering whether it might be better to hold future meetings on a weekday to avoid the current busyness of the Sanctuary on Saturdays. Your thoughts on this proposal or other ideas would be welcomed. Please contact Jane Fulford. (Email: fulford.family@btinternet.com)

In view of the above, and the present uncertainty surrounding future Covid guidance, we have decided that the Time for Prayer group will not meet in January. The date and time of the next meeting will be advised in the February Clarion.

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

Worship Dates for Feb 2022

Sunday 6th Feb at 11 o clock – Preacher: Rev Hooks.
Covenant and Communion service.

Sunday 13th Feb at 11 o clock – Preacher: Mrs S Strachan

Sunday 20th Feb at 11 o clock – Preacher: Mrs E Simmons

Sunday 20th Feb at 5:30pm – Inspire Creative Worship

Sunday 27th Feb at 11 o clock – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo

8pm - Creative Workshop — every 4th Tuesday in the
month – All are welcome

Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the February Clarion by **Friday 14th January 2022**

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.

