

THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: April 2022



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MINISTER'S LETTER



Easter, that wonderful time of the year when we can remember the sacrifice of Jesus for each of us, and celebrate our risen Saviour all in the same weekend!

I remember a few years back in one of my previous churches, having an Easter egg hunt in the service for the children.

Before the service, and before people arrived, some of the Sunday school teachers hid foil wrapped chocolate eggs around the church. When it came to the part of the service where the children took part in the hunt, there was much fun and laughter as the one by one the eggs were found. The service then continued.

Some 3 years or so later, the church was having a spring clean and we used scaffold to reach the high parts of the church to dust etc. Upon looking down at the church, I noticed quite high up, something shiny on top of one of the pillars, and you've guessed it, it was an Easter egg never

found from the Easter egg hunt all those years before. Strangely though, nobody fancied eating it!!!

But this made me think.

How often have we been given the gift of Jesus at Easter and never unwrapped Him?

How many Easter services have we attended and never tasted the glorious riches He has for each of us because we've never unwrapped Him, or maybe never even found Him?

So, what is this gift?

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.'
[John 3:16-17 NIV]

The gift then, is eternal life!

And unlike Easter eggs, the gift of Jesus never goes out of date or perishes; the gift of Jesus lasts forever.

May each one of us unwrap Jesus this Easter and fully experience His love and grace.

Easter blessings,

Pastor Steve

April 2022

01702 483827

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Janet and John Whiddett have moved to a bungalow 59
Briarwood Drive, Leigh on Sea, SS94LB, Telephone
01702-521041

TALKING POETRY

Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

6th April – Roger McGough

20th April – James Fenton

please contact Joan Hawkins on email

joanh838@icloud.com for further details'



**The next Leadership Team meeting will be on
Monday 25th April at 7pm**

Financial Report

1st September 2021 to 28th February 2022

The past couple of years have been a bit tricky, with covid but, since September we have been able to worship regularly, and our outside hirers have been able to meet regularly too. We have lost a couple of hirers but have managed to gain some too and, because of this, the income from hiring the premises has, so far, paid for all the property outgoings i.e. utilities, cleaning, minor repairs and maintenance.

Many people are now making their weekly offering via monthly Bank Standing Order and this helps greatly with budgeting. However, the income doesn't meet our circuit assessment which will increase from September as we welcome a new Presbyter into the circuit. The circuit have been understaffed for a few years and, whilst having another person to take Pastoral oversight has its financial implications, it will help tremendously with the workload of the circuit.

As at the end of February 2022

Internal organisations	£8,165.33
Charities	£625.25 – Hope International
Circuit	-£2,161.44 – difference of £3,860 between assessment v giving
General	£3,552.40
Property	-£54.66 – but £10K transferred to our CFB account for interest.
Total Current account	£10,126.88

Reserves / CFB	£48,421.73
Innovations / CFB	£7,387.90
Total Funds Held	£65,936.51

Whilst these figures look good, there are some major property repairs that need carrying out and some of the reserves money will be used to pay the assessment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan for his help every Tuesday in counting the money and walking me safely to the Post Office.

If you have any questions, regarding the church finances, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tina Gowers
Treasurer



Reflection on “Calling” by Judith Taylor.

Over the last few months, I have been reflecting on what gifts I have to offer to God, Wesley and the local community. Recently I have been involved in leading the Inspire service and found, much to my surprise, that the services seemed to be well received by the people who attended. This led me on to think about how I could develop myself to reach the needs of others to join in this act of worship.

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase. – Martin Luther King, Jr.”

Looking back at my journey of faith it has been rooted in Methodism and the tradition form of worship. And yet here I am looking to hone my skills in a very different type of worship. It became clear that I needed to understand more about the various styles of worship and how to marry up the traditional with the modern.

Church Council supported my nomination to start training as a Worship Leader to support my desire to gain a better understanding of worship, the contents of different styles of worship, and what God really had in mind for me. I am so grateful for the support I have already received from members of the congregation and for the prayers that have been offered of support and encouragement, and to those who have agreed to support me throughout my training by answering my questions and talking to me about their faith journey.

A “Calling” is not initial how I perceived my wish for greater understanding and commitment to serving God, more as a desire to support the mission and nature of the Inspire service to reach out into the congregation and community.

On reading a definition of “ Calling”: strong urge towards a particular way of life or career; a vocation. "those who have a special calling to minister to others' needs"

And then “Vocation” a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation.

In order to make sure that this was indeed a “calling” I waited patiently, to make sure that that the idea of training had strong roots in my heart and mind. The training to become a Worship Leader is time consuming and requires the support of both a tutor and mentor, and therefore I had to discern if this was the path that God wanted me to take and not just because I enjoyed finding ways to bring worship to Wesley in different styles.

My journey has just begun and already I realise how much I don’t know and don’t even think about worship, which is going to take me on a road of discovery I certainly wasn’t expecting. It my hope that this will bring me closer to God, and an understanding of best how to serve his kingdom.

“⁸Then I heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" ⁹He said," *Isaiah Chapter 6 v8-9*

I would like to thank Jane for being my tutor and Sanya for being my mentor, it is my hope that I will be a diligent and eager student, and I will provide chocolate or cake, or both, when needed.

I would welcome any thoughts people would like to share with me on this reflection.

Yours in Christ.

Judy

FAMILY NEWS



We give thanks for the safe arrival Indie Leigh Whiddett on 20th February 2022. A daughter for Adam and Kayleigh, sister for Harley and 2nd Granddaughter for Janet and John Whiddett.

PLATINUM JUBILEE LUNCH SUNDAY **5TH JUNE 12.30 UNTIL 3PM**



COST £8.00 PER PERSON OR £20.00 FOR A FAMILY.

If you interested in this event please add your name and contact number to the list at the back of the Church. Or telephone June Childs on 01702 711891. Thank you.

Wesley Theatre Group Presents



PREPARE TO MEET THY TOMB

A COMEDY THRILLER BY NORMAN ROBBINS

On: Friday 22th and Saturday 23rd April at 7:30pm

Tickets: £7

Box Office: 01702 480968

Buy Online: www.ticketsource.co.uk/wesley-theatre-group

Wesley Hall | Elm Road | Leigh-on-Sea

WELCOME TO WESLEY

Lunches at 12.30pm

£7

Jacket Potato and salad, and Dessert



1st Thursday

Chilli

2nd Thursday

Chicken Curry

4th Thursday

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.

Looking forward to seeing you

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

WRITING COMPETITION

MWiB is holding a writing competition 2022 on the theme “A letter to My Younger Self” Judges will be looking for a good piece of writing written within the context of and consistent with the Christian faith without being “preachy”

The entry details are :

- o The competition is open to any British Methodist woman
- o It should not be published anywhere else
- o 1,000 words
- o An original piece of work
- o Effective literary style
- o Gives a good message

The three judges are :

- o Georgina Clarke, writer of historical fiction Lizzie Hardwicke novels
- o Judy Ford, author of Bernie Fazackerly novels
- o Anne Browse, former President of MWiB

Closing date for entries – midnight on Saturday 16th April

Entries to be submitted to writing.mwib@gmail.com

There will be prizes

Winning entries will be posted to the MWiB website, and publicised through MWiB’s social media platforms

PASTORAL NEWS as at 16.3.22

Best wishes from us all to Janet & John Whiddett and Emma & John Hearn in their new homes.

Many congratulations to Wesley member David Norman, who has had the freedom of the Borough bestowed on him by Southend council. This is a tremendous honour, and requires the unanimous decision of the whole council, and is awarded to exceptional individuals, who have rendered eminent service on behalf of their community.

We are delighted that David remains a member of Wesley. He currently worships with his wife in a different church

Eileen Simmons

01702 472521 eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

EASTER FLOWERS

We will be having real flowers for our Easter Services this year, and if anyone would like to make a donation please could they see a member of the Leadership Team or Annette Charnock. Thank you.

Christian Hope International Coffee Morning and Sponsored Walk of 2022

Together the Coffee Morning with a few stalls, Pam's family and friends who walked MANY miles, and our Leigh community have raised:-



AN AMAZING £1,300

Thank you to all those who helped, walked, and donated. See you next year

Pam and family

Many Thanks go to Pam for the inspiration and hard work she continually does on behalf of others. Thanks again Pam.

AFTERNOON TEA AND CAKES FOR

2022

We shall be starting the Tea and Cake afternoons at the end of April, so pencil in these dates for your dairy.

All on Thursday Afternoons 2pm-4pm in the Canteen Room.

April 28th

May 26th

June 30th

July 28th

August 25th

September 29th

October 27th



Looking forward to seeing you there, With love Janet, Pam and Linda

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 dates are 26th April and 24th May.

Prayer Lunch
Sunday 3 April, 2022
12:30-1.30pm

An opportunity to talk about the mission and outreach work taking place in Wesley.
Please bring your own lunch.



Wesley  **Methodist** Church

CUPBOARD SORTING DAY

If you store items in a cupboard at Wesley you are invited to a Cupboard Sorting Day on Sat 9th April at 11:00am, this is a day for a clear out and to see if we can free up space for cupboards to be reallocated.

OPEN TOP BUS SERVICE



For those who are interested, the Open Top Bus Service 68 will restart on Saturday April 2nd. The service operates on weekends and bank holidays until 25th September.

A daily service will operate during school holidays from: 2nd to 18th April, 28th May to 5th June and from 16th July to 4th September.

Buses will initially run hourly; leaving Leigh (Old Post Office) from 09.30 until 17.30 and returning from Southend Pier from 10.00 until 18.00. A more frequent half hourly service will run during the school holidays. Fuller details and times are displayed at bus stops on the route.



NEW FLASH

The inter-church Sunrise Service is going ahead this year on Sunday 17th April at 8am on Bell Wharf .

TIME FOR PRAYER

The monthly Time for Prayer meetings will be held on a Thursday in April and May but we have decided to revert to a Saturday date once again in June. The start time will then be 9.30am, in order to allow for a period of quiet contemplation prior to the opening of the Saturday Café. We hope that this will be convenient for everyone.

The dates and times for the next three meetings will therefore be:

- Thursday April 28th - 11.00 am
- Thursday May 26th - 11.00 am
- Saturday June 18th - 9.30 am

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

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 Wratlslaw 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

Worship Dates for April 2022

Sunday 3rd April at 11:00 - Preachers: Pastor S Mayo and Rev P Moorhouse – Communion service.

Sunday 10th April at 11:00 – Preacher: Mrs E Simmons

Good Friday 15th April at 11:00am -Preacher: Rev C Newman – United service.

Easter Sunday 17th April at 11:00am

Preacher: Mrs J Fulford.

Sunday 24th April at 11:00am Preacher: Mrs S Strachan

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

Memory Worship:

2pm - 4pm on the 3rd Monday of the month

Worship Dates for May 2022

Sunday 1st May at 11:00 – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo

Sunday 8th May at 11:00 – Preacher: Mrs K McCullough

Sunday 15th May at 11:00- Preacher: Pastor S Turner – Communion service.

Sunday 15th May at 5:30pm – Inspire Worship

Sunday 22nd at 11:00-Preacher: Mrs S Hockett

Sunday 29th May at 11:00-Preacher: US@ Belfairs

Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the May Clarion by **Friday 15th April 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.

