

THE CLARION

No MATTER
how long the winter,
SPRING
is sure to FOLLOW.


Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: March 2022



Twitter: @leighwesleyMC



Facebook: Leigh Wesley Methodist Church

Wesley Website: www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

Content Page

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Contact Information | 3 |
| Minister's Letter | 4-5 |
| News from the Pews..... | 6-20 |
| Time for Prayer | 21 |
| Wesley Prayer Chain..... | 22 |
| Service Information..... | 23 |
| Editor's information | 24 |

Wesley Methodist Church - 76 Elm Road, Leigh on Sea,
Essex, SS9 1SJ

Minister in Charge: Pastor Stephen Mayo -1 Oakview
Close, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4JN
Tel: (01702) 483827

Email: pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

Fusion Link: Emma Hearn

Tel: 07766 588877

Email: fusionyouth@btinternet.com

Lettings: Alan Severne: Tel 01702 711851

lettings@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Church Council Secretary: Judy Taylor

ccsec@wesleymethodist.org.uk

The Notices: Sue Hockett

notices@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Treasurer: Tina Gowers - 17 The Crest, Leigh on Sea,
SS9 5NJ -Tel 01702 528674

tinagowers@sky.com

MINISTER'S LETTER



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word '*lencten*', which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry.

Traditionally, Lent has been all about giving things up, and over the years people have given up all sorts of things like chocolate, sweets, desserts, and even more recently Facebook and other social media activities! I think giving things up *can* be helpful if it focuses our thoughts and prayers on our preparation for the arrival of Easter.

But I don't believe that Lent should be a time for *just* giving things up, but also for taking things up!

Sometimes, I think when we *really* look at our lives and the time we spend with our Lord, we can often come to the

conclusion that we've been fasting all year since the last Lenten season, or even longer; fasting our prayer life, fasting our daily devotional time, fasting our giving?

So, my prayer for all of us, me included, is that this Lenten season we would take some things up, and really prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

And as we grow in our knowledge and personal relationship with Him, Easter will be a far greater experience for us as we commune and bring ourselves into His presence in this time of preparation and confession.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us; ¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ ***pray continually,*** ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* [NIVUK]

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

March 2022

01702 483827

pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

NOTICE SHEET

Sue Hockett has kindly offered to produce a weekly notice sheet. If you have any information about your group that you would like added to this sheet please contact Sue Hockett.

Mothering Sunday Service on 27th March

We are hoping to invite the parents and children from the Parent and Toddler Group. For that reason, we are inviting you to bring a Teddy Bear or cuddly toy with you and be prepared for something different



If you go down to the church today, you'll be sure of a big surprise!

If you go down to the church today, you'll hardly believe your eyes! ...

LENT COURSE

CHRIST AND THE CHOCOLATERIE

[HILARY BRAND]

Based on the film Chocolat

All Sessions 2pm @ Highlands Methodist Church

9th March 2022 – Week 1 – Giving Up, The Prelude to Change

16th March 2022 – Week 2 – Giving Out, The Power of a Gift

23rd March 2022 – Week 3 – Getting Wise, The Possibility of Change

30th March 2022 – Week 4 – Getting Real, The Power of Acceptance

6th April 2022 – Week 5 – Growing Up, The Process of Change

Don't worry if you can't make all the sessions. Each week stands alone, but seeing the film before the sessions will be very beneficial and puts each week in context.

TALKING POETRY

Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

9th March – Imtiaz Dharker

23rd March – Elizabeth Jennings

please contact Joan Hawkins on email

joanh838@icloud.com for further details'



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.

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

WESLEY FOODBANK COLLECTION



The need for food banks in the UK is higher than ever before. With the increase in food and energy prices we are collecting food at Wesley once again. The collecting point will be moved back into the Sanctuary. If any drivers can volunteer to take the food to Southend Foodbank please contact Gaye Greenway. You may find the following information useful when deciding what to give, but all items will be gratefully received.

BanktheFood is on a mission to make sure food banks get exactly what they need, when they need it. Food banks often struggle with effectively communicating their realtime supply and demand needs to their donors. Social media posts or notices in supermarkets, quickly go out of date or go unnoticed and as a result, food banks can be inundated with one item or have little of another. Regularly updating their real-time needs to their local community, can be a cumbersome admin task, which takes food bank volunteers away from their crucial work of collecting and distributing food. BanktheFood hopes to change this through an

innovative free app which links food banks to donors at the most crucial time; when donors are at the supermarket.

BanktheFood came about as school children at Thorpe Hall School in Southend were inspired by working with Southend Foodbank to design an app which allows people to find out what their nearest foodbank needs when you walk into a supermarket with a foodbank collection point.

BanktheFood is very simple to use - just download the app from your app store and follow the instructions to get started. Once you have followed your local food bank, the app will send you a helpful 'ping' with a reminder of your food banks' needs when you are shopping in your local supermarket. You can then choose exactly what you would like to donate and leave your donation in your food bank's collection box at the end of your shopping trip. Your local food bank will then be alerted via the app of your (anonymous) donation making it easier for your food bank to track and locate items they really need.

Anna Wratishlaw and Gabrielle Greenway

CHARITY INFORMATION



Over the Christmas period, several collections were made:

- The Storehouse received £80.00,
- The Children's' Society received £119.82,
- The Music Man Project received £117.22 and
- Nkanfoa Methodist School received £115.00.

Many thanks to everyone who donated.

CLARIONS NOW AVAILABLE IN CHURCH

As from this month paper copies of The Clarion including the Prayer Diary will be available in the Sanctuary.

If you no longer wish a hand delivered/emailed/posted Clarion please could you let Judy Taylor know. This would be much appreciated and will help to ensure sufficient copies are printed each month.

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

The Leadership Team comprises of:

Pastor Steve Mayo - Chairperson

Anna Wratlaw – Communication/ Deputy Circuit Rep

Eileen Simmons – Pastoral Co-ordinator

Emma Hearn – Youth

Gaye Greenway – Co-ordinating Steward/ Outreach/
Circuit Rep

Ian Lowe – Serving, Inclusion and Justice in the Circuit
Community/ Circuit Rep

Judy Taylor – Safeguarding/ Circuit Rep

Sanya Strachan - Worship and Mission

WEEKLY ENVELOPES FOR WESLEY

Pre-Covid many of you used a weekly envelope system for your giving. During Covid our Treasurer Tina invited the congregation to contribute via Bank standing order and some have transferred to this system, which helps with the budgeting.

With the help of Dave Dobbin of Rochford Methodist Church, Tina can now produce her own weekly envelopes. Please tell me (or advise Tina directly) if you wish to arrange to start or restart using the envelopes.

However you wish to give is, of course, your choice and all contributions are welcomed. Some people have told me they prefer weekly envelopes as, if they do not come one week, they can give in two or more envelopes when they next come to Wesley.

Eileen Simmons 01702 472521
eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

Treasurer Tina Gowers 01702 528674
tinagowers@sky.com
17, The Crest, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 5NJ

GOD IN LOVE UNITES US, AN UPDATE

Many of you will be aware that the Methodist Connexion formed a group of people to come up with a report on same sex marriage, divorce and cohabitation. This group worked on these issues for some years. The report was called 'God in Love Unites Us'. The report was released in 2019. Local church leaders were asked to present this report to their church members.

An open invitation was given for a meeting on 28th January 2020 for my churches to come along and hear the content of this report, and a further date, 10th March 2020, was arranged for a study on the report. Both these events were very poorly attended.

The report then went to district synods to be voted on, especially the aspect of same sex marriage, and whether this should be allowed to be performed in Methodist churches. 29 out of 30 district synods voted to allow same sex marriage in Methodist churches.

This result and the report then went to the Methodist Conference, where again sex same marriage was

supported. This was reported in the national newspapers at the time.

The decision to allow same sex marriages in individual churches was then devolved to each individual church council as per The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This was discussed at the Circuit Meeting and then devolved to local church councils.

Leigh Wesley Methodist Church held an extraordinary church council on Sunday 30th January 2022 where the set procedure was followed and the vote taken.

The Methodist church said there needed to be a strong consensus to achieve a result. This was deemed to be 75% by the church council members. The result of our vote was: 92% for, 8% against.

As a result, Wesley Methodist church will be applying for a wedding licence for same sex marriages.

This has been a long, and thorough process, which has been surrounded by much thought and prayer.

God has brought together people of diverse origins and opinions in this church and we honour that diversity. We believe that our theological diversity is a witness of

Christian unity in a world where difference more usually brings division, and we pray for one another.

Some of you may have concerns about this outcome, and should any of you wish to talk this through with me, I am more than happy to do so.

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve Mayo - February 2022



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

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

*Thank
You*

From the Storehouse

Thank you too for the Christmas gifts and kind donations that came from your church. We were able to support so many families both with presents for the children and with extra Christmas food.

Have a good week. Sam 😊

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 22nd March and 26th April.

It's a
Girl!

Jane and Geoff are delighted to say they are now grandparents of Lilian (Lily) Rose Fulford. Gemma gave birth on Sunday 13th Feb and both she and Richard are very excited.

We would like to thank all those who have shared their congratulations and best wishes with ourselves and with Richard and Gemma.

Geoff and Jane Fulford

WEEKLY PRAYER DIARY

I do not know how many other churches produce a monthly Prayer Diary but I do know that for me it is a daily blessing. Thank you to those of you who write these prayers.

Eileen Simmons

TIME FOR PRAYER

Unfortunately, our monthly Time for Prayer meeting had to be cancelled in February due to unforeseen date clashes.

For this month we would like to try to have it on Thursday 24th March.

The time would be 11am to 11.30am

I do hope this will be convenient for our regulars and it will also provide an opportunity for others 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 March 2022

Sunday 6th March at 11:00 – Preacher: Mr A McDowall

Sunday 13th March at 11:00 – Preacher: LA

Sunday 20th March at 11:00 – Preacher: Rev Dr C Samuel
- Communion service.

Sunday 20th March at 5:30 – Inspire Worship

Sunday 27th March at 11:00 – Preacher: Mrs J Fulford

Creative Worship:

8pm - every 4th Tuesday in the month – All are welcome.

Memory Worship:

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

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

Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the April Clarion by **Friday 18th March 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.

