



# THE CLARION

## Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: December 2022



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# Content Page

Contact Information .....	<b>3</b>
Minister's Letter .....	<b>4-6</b>
News from the Pews.....	<b>7-19</b>
Wesley Prayer Chain.....	<b>20</b>
Time for Prayer .....	<b>21</b>
Sunday Worship information .....	<b>22-23</b>
Editor's information .....	<b>24</b>

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## MINISTER'S LETTER



Once again at this time of year we turn our thoughts to the birth of Jesus; but all too often the wonder of this awesome event is obscured by the trappings of Christmas – holidays, presents, food, television, etc. But it is worth having a much closer look at the wonder of God coming to earth as a baby. Think of any photos you may have around your house of babies; maybe your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, or even babies your friends and families may have had?

When we consider the ‘life’ of a baby, what are the characteristics of babyhood? Total dependence for warmth, food and love; languageless; everything is ‘new’; inability to move where you want to; nappies, teething etc. When we think about such things we start to marvel that the eternal Son of God would submit Himself to the state of babyhood.

Christian author Philip Yancey once said; *“The God who roared, who could order armies and empires about like pawns on a chessboard, this God emerged in Palestine as a baby who could not speak or eat solid food or control his bladder, and depended on a teenage couple for shelter food and love.”*

- *You, Jesus, were willing to lay aside everything – your glory, your position, your power – for our sake.*
- *You were obedient to your Father in coming to earth.*
- *And in coming to earth as a helpless baby, not only were you trusting yourself to a young, inexperienced couple, but you were making yourself vulnerable to the attack of the devil through Herod. And yet you trusted your Father to keep you safe.*

*The Bible says; ‘For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.’ [Isaiah 9:6 KJV]*

Given this wonderful description, readers of the Old Testament could be forgiven for expecting a glorious, triumphant entry into the world for the Messiah. But Jesus chose the way of obscurity, of humility and servanthood; yet those who seek Him, will find Him to be the glorious Messiah described in Isaiah chapter 9.

What a wonderful example to us today is the incarnation of God, setting forth the pattern that Jesus would grow up to present to us; a pattern for living, a pattern of gentleness, humility and love.

And what a challenge for us as Christians!

As this season unfolds for another year, may we not only give physical gifts to others, but also gifts of our own gentleness, humility and love, as we follow the example of the baby in the manger.

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

**Pastor Steve**

01702 483827

[pastorstevemayo@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevemayo@gmail.com)

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Margaret Cotgrove is pleased to announce the birth for her first great granddaughter, Harper Grace, born to her grandson Michael and Emily Isaacs on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Also a first granddaughter for Margaret's daughter Rosie Martin (nee Longden).

## **Craft, Vintage, and second-hand Fair**



Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022

THANK YOU to so many people, we raised £584.90p  
Special thanks to Café, Pam for the outside stall and to  
Mim for Lunches.



It is with much sadness to tell you that little Jean Turner passed away, peacefully in hospital, on Wednesday 9th November.

Jean loved Wesley Church and was an active member, until recent years, when her health and personal circumstances changed.

She will be remembered for the devotion and caring she gave to so many friends in our area.

Jean was a lovely lady, gentle soul, and devoted Christian. A life of love well spent, rest in peace Jean and the love of God.

At the time of writing we do not have a date for the funeral, which will be confirmed by the Solicitor.

Marjorie and Keith Charnock.

**Congratulations!**

We are delighted to announce the marriage of Ian Charnock and Emma Herron who are getting married on 29<sup>th</sup> December in Maldon.

Our love and very best wishes go to them both. We wish them a long and happy future together. from Annette and Neil Charnock and family.



## **Dates of Future Meetings**

Date of the next Leadership Team Meeting is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Date of the next Worship Consultation is Wednesday 11 January, 2023

Date of next Church Council Meeting is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023

## **Talking Poetry**

Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:



30<sup>th</sup> November – Samuel Taylor Coleridge

14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Poem

Please contact Joan Hawkins on email

[joanh838@icloud.com](mailto:joanh838@icloud.com) for further details'

## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**



Thank you for your support both in making and eating cake at our Macmillan Coffee Morning last month!

We raised £334.22!

Emma & John Hearn

## **Afternoon Tea & Cakes**



A Big Thank You to everyone who helped in any way at the Afternoon Tea & Cakes this year. It was lovely to see so many people sharing friendship and laughter over a cuppa and a slice of cake. We hope to be back next year.

Janet, Pam and Linda.



## **Carol Singing**

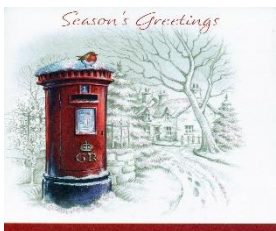
This year we are meeting at 6pm on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at Wesley with warm clothing and torches. I will leaflet the houses on our route, so they know we are coming. We do need plenty of people to be heard so please invite all your friends to come along with you.

We are usually out for about an hour and a half depending on the weather. Any monies collected will go to Action for Children. If you wish to donate to Action for Children do, please contribute. If you wish to give me a donation, I will make sure it is donated.

SEE YOU THERE.

God Bless

Jane and Geoff



## **Christmas Post-box**

After many years of running this activity, Jane and Geoff Fulford have now hung up their postbags. A huge thank you to them both for all the time and effort they have put into sorting and delivering the cards over the years.

The Leadership Team will be continuing the Christmas Post-box, which we run to raise funds for Nkanfoa School in Ghana. If you would like to send Christmas cards to anyone in the church family through this scheme, please drop them in the post-box in the church sanctuary by Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December and leave a donation in the plate provided. Cards will then be sorted and distributed from Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Please could we ask that cards are for regular attenders and those who live locally.

For those who prefer to send a card to the whole church family, there will be a table in the church to display these.

Thank you.

## **Toy & Gift Donations**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December will be our annual Toy & Gift service, where we collect donations of toys and gifts which are distributed to local children and families for Christmas. This year we will be collecting for Leigh North Street

school. We are currently working with the school to establish rough numbers and ages of children who would benefit from a gift, and will provide an age guide for donations in future weekly notice sheets. Anything we receive over and above the gifts needed by the school will be donated to Southend Storehouse, who support families in Southend. A polite reminder –we do ask that all toys and gifts donated are new and left unwrapped. Your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you.



## **Nativity–Foodbank Donations**

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December will be our Nativity service. This year, we will also be using this as an opportunity to collect donations of tinned and long life food for Southend Foodbank. Southend Foodbank is run by The Trussell Trust, whose UK foodbanks gave out 1.3million emergency food parcels between April and September this year. Almost half a million of these were for children. The need is already great, but The Trussell Trust are expecting this winter to be the hardest yet for foodbanks and the people they support. For this reason the Leadership Team felt it was important to add a foodbank collection to the Nativity service, and all donations will be very gratefully received. Items currently most needed by Southend Foodbank include jam, UHT milk, tinned fruit, tinned chilli/curry/meatballs, tinned carrots, hotdogs and sweet treats such as chocolate bars. Strong re-usable carrier bags are also always appreciated. Thank you.



## **Advent Ribbons**

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival or coming, is a chance for us to slow down and take time to prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas.

It is an opportunity for us to reflect quietly on what Jesus' coming to earth really means for us, in contrast with the headlong rush towards Christmas Day, parties, presents and turkey we experience in the world outside the church.

Traditionally, the colour purple, symbolising penitence and preparation, is used by churches at advent.

At the back of the church, from the beginning of December, there will be a basket of purple ribbons and prayer cards. We would like to encourage you to take one and wear the ribbon round your wrist over the next four weeks, stick it to your computer or pin it to a notice board or somewhere else where you will see it every day.

Use it as a reminder to slow down to prepare for Christmas with expectant waiting, rather than speeding up to get through the list of things you need to do.

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS



# MISSING MISS CHRISTMAS

BY GEOFF FULFORD



**FRI 2ND DEC**  
**7.30PM**

**SAT 3RD DEC**  
**4.30PM**

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH  
ELM ROAD | LEIGH-ON-SEA



Recommended age: 6+

**BOX OFFICE**  
**01702 480968**

**BUY ONLINE:**

[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK)  
[/WESLEY-THEATRE-GROUP](http://WWW.WESLEY-THEATRE-GROUP)

**TICKETS: £6.50**  
**CHILDREN: £5**  
**FAMILY TICKET**  
**(2A & 2C): £20**



## **December Prayer Diary 2022**



### **Taken from the Methodist Church website**

I hope you find comfort and challenge from the monthly prayer diary. As you see from above the December prayer diary was taken from the There is Room

[Methodist.org.uk/ThereIsRoom](http://Methodist.org.uk/ThereIsRoom)

As a New Year begins, I have spaces for every month for 2023 so please offer before I ask you. It can be similar to what is usually offered or completely different. Thank you in anticipation of your offer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

God Bless

Jane

### **CONNEXION MAGAZINE**

Please help yourself to the Autumn 2022 edition of CONNEXION which is displayed in the concourse.

## **PASTORAL NEWS as at 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Adrian Gravatt has been diagnosed with Parkinsons disease. He has started medication and we keep him in our thoughts and prayers

Jean Turner died on 9<sup>th</sup> November at 93 years old: a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and a much loved member of our Wesley family. Quite recently she came with one of her carers to Janet's afternoon tea and cakes, which was very special. I would like to pay tribute to the loving pastoral care and support given to Jean over many years by Keith and Marjorie Charnock.

Eileen Simmons

Tel : 472521      email:

[eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com)

## **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Geoff and I do not send Church Christmas cards, but give extra money to Charity. This year it will go to the Southend Foodbank as the need for their services is growing.

Meanwhile may we wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy 2023

Eileen Simmons & Geoff Nash



## **SOUTHEND FOOD BANK**

Thank you to all who contributed items at the Harvest Festival service. **294.2 kg** of food was delivered to the Southend Foodbank. Sarah, the Manager, received it and was delighted that so much had been donated by Wesley and wanted you to know that it would be going to the most deserving families. Bless you for your generosity.

There are collection baskets at the back of the church - please be as generous as you are able during the next few weeks. We hope to deliver in mid-December ready for the Christmas distribution.

Eileen Simmons & Geoff Nash

PS. Volunteers to join the team that takes the donations are invited. There is a rota. Let me know and I will pass your details on. Eileen.



## **WESLEY CAROL SERVICE**

**11am. 18<sup>th</sup> December**

I am taking this Service and if you wish to choose a carol please contact me as soon as possible as I do tend to work well ahead with my preparation.

Eileen Simmons.

## **CHRISTMAS CHARITIES 2022**

At the Church Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> October we discussed the choice of Charities for the Christmas Collections.

Anna and the young people will choose the Charity to be supported by the Christingle Service. The Charity nominated is 'The Sunshine Baby Bank'.

<https://sunshinebabybank.org.uk/>

The Charity 'Trustlinks' was chosen for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Trustlinks is South East Essex's local independent Charity for Mental Health and Wellbeing support.

**Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Rd, Leigh**



**Santa's Grotto  
Saturday  
17th December  
10am to 3pm**

**Please note Santa will be taking a break between 12pm and 1pm**

**Admission £4 per child  
includes gift**

**Cafe will be open serving drinks and  
cakes throughout Santa's visit**

**Christmas Crafts and Movie to watch  
whilst waiting for Santa**

**No booking required**

**All proceeds for the Santa Visit will go to The Carli Lansley Foundation**



Carli Lansley Foundation

Helping young women locally

Registered Charity No. 108800

# **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 Wratislaw 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 monthly Time for Prayer meeting is now held on the third Saturday of each month (unless otherwise advised).

The start time is 09.30, 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 and that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

There is no meeting in December owing to the busyness of the season.

The date and time of the next meeting will therefore be:

- **Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 - 9.30 am**

## **Worship Dates for November 2022**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 11:00 - Advent Sunday -

Preacher – Pastor S Mayo/E Simmons

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 20:00-21:00 – Creative

Worship

## **Worship Dates for December 2022**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00 – Toy and Gift Service

Preacher Rev. N Hooks -service will include communion.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00 – Nativity Service

Preacher Pastor S Mayo –United Service at Wesley

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00 - Carol Service

Preacher – E Simmons

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 14:00-16:00 - Memory Worship

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 18:00 – Street Carol Singing

starting at Wesley

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 16:00 Christingle Service

Preacher – Steve Mayo

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 23:15 Christmas Eve Service

Preachers – Steve Mayo and Rev. N Hooks

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30 Christmas Day Service

Preacher – Mrs J Fulford

## **Worship Dates for January 2023**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January at 11:00 – United Service at Wesley.

Preacher – Pastor S Mayo

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 – Preacher – Rev B Gutberlet  
service will include communion.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 – Preacher Mrs S Strachan

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 17:30 Inspire Worship

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 14:00-16:00 – Memory Worship

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 09:30 – Time for Prayer

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 11:00 am – Local Arrangement

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 20:00-21:00- Creative Worship

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 am – United Service at  
Highlands.

# Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the January Clarion by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 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](mailto:ukspud@talktalk.net)

**Wesley Methodist  
Southend and Leigh**



**Church is a member of  
Circuit**

[www.southendandleigh.org](http://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.

