



# THE CLARION

**Wesley Methodist Church**

**Magazine Issue: Jan 2023**



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## MINISTER'S LETTER



So, how many of you made New Year resolutions this year?

Over the years I've made many;

- To lose weight
- To do more exercise
- To save money
- To be better at staying in touch with family and friends etc.

But unfortunately, often before I've even reached the end of January, some, if not all of these resolutions, or promises, have gone by the wayside! Over the years I've been rubbish at keeping New Year resolutions, and from what other people tell me, I'm definitely not alone!

Normally in January in the Methodist church, but this can vary, we renew our resolutions or promises to God through

our Covenant Service, and although we may start with good intentions when making our promises to God, often, sadly, they can also fall by the wayside.

But fortunately for us, God *never* fails in His promises to us right from His first covenant with the people of Israel, right through to today.

So, no matter what this future year may hold for us, we can rely on God's promises to be sure and stable.

One of His promises is found in Deuteronomy 31:6; <sup>6</sup> *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.* [NIVUK]

We can trust our God to keep His promises.

And remember; *'We don't know what the future may hold, but we know who holds the future.'* [Ralph Abernathy, adapted]

May you have a blessed New Year,

**Pastor Steve**

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

01702 483827

# **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

## **Dates of Future Meetings**

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

Date of the next Worship Consultation is Wednesday 11 January, 2023, 7.30-8.30pm at Wesley in the Canteen room

Please join do come along and help share ideas and make plans for the worship life at Wesley. If you have any questions please contact Sanya (contact details are on the circuit plan and directory).

## **Mini – Market 1<sup>st</sup> April**

### **For**

## **Christian Hope International**

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April it is hoped to have a mini-market in the sanctuary with a few tables and a display for Christian Hope International. All money to go to the charity we have supported for many years. Please put the date in your diaries

Pam and Jane

## **Talking Poetry**

Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

11<sup>th</sup> January – Robert Browning

25<sup>th</sup> January – Wendal Berry

Please contact Joan Hawkins on email  
[joanh838@icloud.com](mailto:joanh838@icloud.com) for further details'



## **Honouring and Celebrating Wesley's Nineties**

In 2022 four of our congregation were celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup>. birthdays and I discussed with our Minister, Pastor Steve Mayo, the possibility of having a special church service. My own church is Wesley Methodist, Leigh-on-Sea in Essex. We involved their families in the planning and included those who were already over ninety in our church. The decision was taken back in January 2022 and the service took place on 27<sup>th</sup>. November, the first Sunday in Advent.

I did lots of personal touches, which included a hand written card to the ten people involved and talked to their

sons/daughters well in advance and followed up with invitation letters to their families and friends.

Our Minister, Pastor Steve Mayo and I made joint home visits to the four involved and although we know them well an extended visit helped us both to know even more of their life stories. Each of them was invited to choose their favourite hymn and bible passage for the service. Fortunately three chose Psalm 23 and the fourth, 1Corinthians 13 so both bible passages could be in the Order of Service. Each hymn was also sung to their chosen tune. For one hymn we stayed seated and our Music Group sang it to us. Quite superb!

In planning the WELCOME I chose Pope Francis' words of February 2022: "Being old is just as important and beautiful as being young. Let's remember that ....."

The service was joyous and our congregation was bigger than our most optimistic forecast. It was just wonderful to see their grandchildren with their own babies in slings. The children of the ninety year olds were so thrilled and grateful to see their parents honoured and cherished.

Pastor Steve spoke about what was happening in 1932 and also preached on Psalm 23.

We are an inclusive church and recently we have had at least five sets of new people join us. One man comes with his very young son and learning about the special service brought his 94 year old grandmother for her first visit. When

the Prayer Crosses made of olive wood from the Holy Land were distributed to the over nineties, she also received one, which gave me another opportunity to actively involve her great grandson, Hugo. He usually helps take the collection and that day he also gave her a hand held cross.

During the service I talked about the lives of the four who had their 90<sup>th</sup>. birthdays and of their Christian commitment and service to our local community. Not every congregation has a boxing coach! Sometimes we have to wait until funerals to learn about people's life stories.

One of the grandchildren runs her own café and that family provided amazing cakes for the refreshments that followed the service. The buzz of conversation afterwards and the joy of a very crowded church made for a very happy time.

**Eileen Simmons** (Anna Chaplain & Methodist Local Preacher)

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10<sup>th</sup>. December 2022

## **Fern's Fitness**

Fern wishes to thank you for your support in 2022 and wishes you a Happy New Year. Her sessions begin again on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 11am – 12am. See you there. All are welcome to this very friendly group.

## **Date for your diary**

The funeral for little Jean Turner will be on Tuesday, 17th January 2023.

There will be a Burial at 10.15am, Southend Cemetery, Sutton Road, followed by a Thanksgiving Service at 11am here at Wesley.

Following the service Tea and cake will be served.

All are welcome. Keith and Marjorie Charnock

## **Thank You - Toy & Gift**

Thank you for your generous donations at our Toy & Gift service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We provided Leigh North Street school with gifts for 26 children, who have sent the following for you all:

*Thank you so much for all the gifts , I have been able to allocate them to our families this morning and all families will be so grateful. Please pass on my thanks to all the members of the church that donated the gifts- they have made a difference to so many families at this time of year.*

In addition, we had a further 3 pink sacks of toys and gifts which we donated to Southend Council's Toy Drive. Gifts donated to The Toy Drive are distributed to local children's centres, food banks, refuges and children's parties set up by local charities, and are given to vulnerable children and young people who may not have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas. Thank you for your donations.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**



It is with great pleasure Keith and Marjorie Charnock will celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, 19th January 2023, married at St Paul's church, Hindley. Congratulations and best wishes on 60 years of happy marriage. Have a wonderful day. Lots of love from all the family.

## **PASTORAL NEWS**

Annette Jarvis: We had a superb Nativity Service on 11<sup>th</sup>. December and there was a lovely moment during that service when Pastor Steve paid tribute to Annette who is moving house. She is a much loved member of Wesley and we shall miss not seeing her so often. I have spoken to her and she was very touched by the warmth of our feelings. We wish her well in her new home.

It is so good to see Paul and Shirley Baker back in church. They have both been ill in hospital, but are now so much better and very happy to be back with us.

Only recently we were told that Barbara Davison, who was in Adaliah Care Home had died on 1<sup>st</sup>. November. A condolence card from Wesley was sent to her daughter, Christine.

Eileen Simmons Tel : 472521 email:  
[eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com)

## **Thank you**

Pam Broughton-Smith wishes to thank members of the Church Council for her Christmas gift. It is MUCH appreciated

She wishes everyone at Wesley A Happy New Year

**Lunches on Thursdays of the month at  
12.30pm**

**£7**

**Jacket Potato and salad, and Dessert**

Dear all

Miriam Gifford has kindly offered to serve Light Lunches at Wesley on every Thursdays through to March 2023. For catering purposes, we are asking that you book, so food is not wasted. Please let Jane know when you see her or on 01702 714213 by midnight on the Monday of the same week.

God Bless

Miriam and Jane

# **WELSEY 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 Wratishaw 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 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. The dates of the next meetings are as follows:

- Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2023
- Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023
- Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>

## **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 – Local Arrangement

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

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

## **Worship Dates for February 2023**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00 – Covenant Service with Communion. Preacher – Pastor S Mayo /Rev N Hooks.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00 – Preacher – Mr A McDowall

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 09:30 Time for Prayer

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 11:00 – Preacher Mrs S Hockett

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 17:30 Inspire Worship

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 14:00-16:00 – Memory Worship

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00 – Mr B Briant

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 20:00-21:00 - Creative Worship

# Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the February Clarion by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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.

