



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: October 2023



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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
judy@wesleymethodist.org.uk

The Notices: Sue Hockett
notices@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Treasurer: Tina Gowers - 17 The Crest, Leigh on Sea,
SS9 5NJ -Tel 07713 179111
tinagowers@sky.com

Organist – Rory Windass
Tel: 07825728351

MINISTER'S LETTER



Autumn is now upon us and we thank God for giving us a good summer this year (albeit a little late!), for the warmth of the sun and the beautiful blue skies; and we celebrate all these wonderful gifts from God through our Harvest Festivals which we celebrate in our churches at this time of year; decorating them with produce and provisions from God himself.

But rapidly advancing upon us is the 'busy season' when it is so easy to get stressed with shopping for Christmas, then there's tidying the garden and preparing it for next spring etc. and we forget that God gave us a season for everything, not just seasons of varying weather, but seasons of life.

We will all experience times of joy and happiness, but also times of hardship, perhaps an illness affecting ourselves or someone in our family. We might feel angry with God for something which goes wrong or when someone dies, particularly at a young age. People ask "Why has God done

this?” Please be assured God does not single out anyone to hurt, annoy or embarrass them. Things go wrong in our bodies. Sometimes we know why, but often we don’t, and the medical profession can’t always give us the answer. If you are reading this and are feeling that life’s not good just now, remember that Jesus came to give us God’s promise that eventually we will have eternal life with him if we believe; an eternity where *‘there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.’* [Revelation 21:4, NIV]

Being Christian though, is not *just* about having reassuring, comfortable thoughts about the next life, it’s also about today.

Life is hard and believing is not an insurance policy or a promise that life will be easy and plain sailing. But we are promised that when difficult times come, God is with us. Isaiah 43:1-3a says;

But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, he who formed you: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.’ [NIV, adapted]

So, remember, no matter what happens over this next season, and beyond, God *is* with us, and walks alongside us.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve
01702 483827
pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Dates for your Diary

Property and Finance Meeting – Mon 2nd October 7:30pm
Macmillan Coffee Morning -Sat 7th October 10am-1pm
Harvest Festival -Sunday 8th October at 11am
Santa's Charity Event – Sat 9th December 10am-3pm

Harvest 8th October

We are planning to have a Harvest Lunch following the service on Sunday 8th October. This will be a ploughman's and a signup sheet will be available soon for you to choose your preference for cheese or ham. Obviously if you have any other dietary requirements. Please let me know. Cost will be £8 each or £20 for a family. Please see June Childs or Gaye Greenway. Thank you



Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival at Wesley will take place during the morning service on Sunday 8th October at 11am. During the service, we will be collecting donations of tinned and longlife food for Southend Foodbank. Harvest is an important season for the foodbank: a time when schools, churches and organisations collect extra food to donate but also the time of year when referrals to the foodbank increase as household budgets become squeezed, by colder and darker days. We know budgets are tighter this year than ever before, so it's so important that our community comes together to make sure everyone gets enough to eat.

This year, the foodbank is running a "Let's Make a Meal" campaign. This involves picking 2 or 3 items to collect together, to make a meal. Examples include:

Breakfast: Cereal, UHT milk, jam

Dinner: Tinned meat meal, tinned potatoes, tinned vegetables

5 a day: Tinned soup, tinned fruit, baked beans

Something sweet: Tinned custard, tinned rice pudding, fruit juice

Inclusive: Halal, gluten-free, vegan

Together these will help to make sure the foodbank can give balanced food boxes, using only canned and long-life food. Could you consider getting together with friends and family to "Make a Meal" together? Every donation is very gratefully received and will make a big difference. Thank you.



SCARECROWS

Also as part of our Harvest celebrations we would like individuals or groups to make a scarecrow to decorate the balconies. They can be any size but the bigger the better. We will need them at the latest on Saturday 7th October.

Talking Poetry



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 11th October – Dorothy Parker

Wednesday 25th October – Raymond Carver

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

Cameo House group Autumn 2023

In the autumn we will be meeting once a month on the 3rd Wednesday from 2-3pm, sometimes a little longer, at Wesley in the concourse for discussion on a topic or on a scripture passage.

The dates for this Autumn are:

Wednesday 18th October

Wednesday 15th November

PASTORAL NEWS as at 15.9.2023

Annette Jarvis and Joy Milner keep in touch and Annette asked to send her best wishes to her old friends at Wesley. I personally miss Annette a lot.

Joy Milner was admitted to hospital on 12th September for a new hip. Lovely text from her yesterday telling me she is getting on well with her physio,- promoted to crutches and going up and down a few stairs. We wish her well for a full recovery

Linda Forbes was readmitted to hospital again and was pleased to see Pastor Steve when he visited

We keep these individuals in our thoughts and prayers.

I am always wanting to learn of any Pastoral news, which covers all aspects of our lives and if two or three people tell me the same piece of news that is still welcomed and so much better than not knowing at all.

Do appreciate that the information in this report is only the current position as at the date recorded.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

Tel : 472521 email:

eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

GREENBELT 2023

At the Communion Service on the morning of Sunday 27th August, I asked Lazarus, a refugee who has officially received asylum in this country, what he has enjoyed most during the weekend. His reply gave me joy and sadness. He simply said, **'the kindness of the people'** not an event, not a speaker, not a performer but **'the kindness of the people.'** This meant the kindness of about fifteen thousand people in one community for three to four days. That really does sum up **GREENBELT**. Here people try to accommodate others by listening, encouraging, and laughing, they debate issues not people and try to come up with solutions. The sadness came as I realized possibly it was the only place, he felt welcome and safe.

So, in short, what did I do at **GREENBELT** this year – well Friday turned out to be a political day. It began with John Bell from the Iona Community explaining that the image of Jesus as ‘gentle, meek and mild’ does Him a disservice. For three years of his Life Jesus challenged the authorities, the communities, and his own disciples. In this age then we should challenge those around us to care for others. Pondering this I felt the need to go to one of my favourite places, The Tiny Tea Tent for tea and a flapjack, where I saw **‘the kindness of the people.’**

Gordon Brown, former prime minister, was next – a packed out tent listened to him on challenging the government on poverty in this country. Amazing speaker – no notes, humorous illustrations, but hard-hitting facts too. The one that seems to have stayed in my brain was that there are over **FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND FAMILIES** without the means to cook. He was arguing that poverty is a moral issue, and he lives in **HOPE** of all peoples, charities and political parties creating a coalition to end poverty in the UK. His first act would be to begin a comprehensive review of Universal Credit. Next was Tim Farron MP Liberal Democrat passionately speaking about why he is still in politics especially at constituency level. I was so encouraged that I then went to the Christian Aid Tent and completed a letter to Anna Firth about the lack of funds for the poor in this country.

Saturday was really all about worship; a Christian Aid morning prayer – peaceful and challenging, then a wander to the prayer space for quiet prayer. Followed by a noisy,

happy, joyous hour with FISCHY MUSIC. Here I can be a child again, joining in the songs, getting the actions wrong but thoroughly enjoying myself towards the back of the tent trying not to be too obvious. Unfortunately, I'd forgotten I had my "where's Wally" red and white striped T shirt on! So, if you watch Songs of Praise with Kate Botley on Sunday 17th September you may or may not spot me but here again, I witnessed the **'the kindness of the people.'** Then to a talk by John Bell near the TINY TEA TENT – all good but left quickly for a Catholic mass at the other end of the festival ground. A roast pork burger for my evening meal and listening to the Gospel group – The Spirituals in the worship tent. Slept well at the hotel.

On Sunday I was up early to secure a spot to be able to see the main stage and gather all our friends, about eighteen of us this year, along with the other fifteen thousand to listen to a service prepared by FISCHY MUSIC and David and Carrie Grant with the theme of Thanks, Sharing and Giving with a HI-5 of Peace

God makes peace within us. **Let's claim it.** God makes peace between us. **Let's share it.**

Afterwards an Iona talk, about doing worship well and being part of worship. Lastly, but not least, our own Fisherman's Chapel choir leading gospel songs in the worship tent. A joyous event/worship showing **'the kindness of the people.'** **Join me/us next year?**

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Our July Action for Children collection came to £250.35. Thank you for your support.

Eileen Simmons

Creative Worship 2023 Autumn

For the Autumn and Winter these services are on the 4th Tuesday of each month for just less than an hour beginning at 8pm.

The dates are:

Tuesday 24th Oct 8pm

Tuesday 28th Nov 8pm

And in 2024:

Tuesday 23rd Jan 8pm

Tuesday 27th Feb 8pm

Always different

Do come and join us.

AFTERNOON TEA & CAKES FOR 2023

The Tea and Cake afternoons have restarted, so pencil in these dates for your diary.

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

October 26th

And December 7th

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



FERN BOUGHTON-SMITH

“Fern’s Fitness”

Any age are welcome to come and explore different types of exercise for fun, fitness or friendship.

It does not matter what your fitness level is , the exercises will be tailored to you! Why not come and try! –

The 1st session is free! £7.00 a session after that.

Monday 11:00am – 12:00pm

Wesley Hall, Elm Road, Leigh on Sea
SS91SJ



For further information contact Fern on 07802582733

WELCOME TO WESLEY

Thursday Lunches at 12:30pm

£7 Donation

Jacket Potato and salad, and Dessert

October 2023

Please book by phoning Jane on 01702
714213 for catering purposes

Please pay cash on the day. Thank you.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Please note there will be no lunches on
Thursday 12th October.

TIME FOR PRAYER

After much careful thought our monthly Time for Prayer meeting was moved to the third Thursday of the month from September. Time for Prayer now runs from 10.30 am to 11.00 am and is held in the Sanctuary as before. It is followed by tea and cake served in the concourse from 11.00 am to 11.30 am.

To give everyone the opportunity to get used to the new arrangements and to give time for it to “settle in”, we will review how it is working next summer. Any necessary changes can then be decided for September 2024 onwards.

So, the remaining dates for 2023 are as follows:

- 19th October
- 16th November
- December – no meeting

The dates for 2024 will be:

- 18th January
- 15th February (provisional)
- 21st March
- 18th April
- 16th May
- 20th June
- 18th July
- August – no meeting

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.

Gaye 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, or have any other general enquiries, please speak to a member of the Leadership Team.



October Worship Dates

Sunday 1st October at 11:00 - Preacher – Rev P Perowne – Communion Service.

Sunday 8th October 11:00 - Preacher Mrs J Fulford – Harvest Festival.

Sunday 15th October at 11:00 – Preacher Mrs E Simmons

Sunday 15th October at 17:30 - Inspire Worship.

Monday 16th October at 14:00- 16:00 – Memory Worship.

Thursday 19th October at 10:30am – 11:00am- Time for Prayer.

Sunday 22nd October at 11:00 – Preacher Mrs S Hockett

Tuesday 24th October at 20:00 - 21:00 - Creative Worship

Sunday 29th October at 11:00 – United Service at Belfairs

November Worship Dates

Sunday 5th November at 11:00 - Preacher – Rev H Simmons – Communion Service.

Sunday 12th November at 10:45 - Preacher Mrs S Hockett – Remembrance Sunday

Thursday 16th November at 10:30am to 11:00am – Time for Prayer

Sunday 19th November at 11:00 – Preacher Mrs S Strachan

Sunday 19th November at 17:30 - Inspire Worship.

Monday 20th November at 14:00- 16:00 – Memory Worship.

Sunday 26th November at 11:00 – Preacher - LA

Tuesday 28th November at 20:00 - 21:00 - Creative Worship

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the November Clarion by **Friday 20th October 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 – judith60@outlook.com

**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.

