



# THE CLARION

**Wesley Methodist Church**

**Magazine Issue: December 2023**



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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. 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 by the Messiah. Nevertheless, 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**

### **SOUTHEND FOODBANK.**

Some of my book club friends have asked about our church collections for the foodbank and would I accept items from them to include. I of course agreed and have brought them to Wesley.

Sometimes they give me cash, which we forward.

I asked for a letter I could show my friends and that has happened.

I was talking to the current manager, Natasha Copus and she has sent a letter to us as well.

Bit early to talk of Christmas, but Geoff and I do not send cards to church friends, but are sending an extra donation to the foodbank instead.

Eileen Simmons

Leigh Wesley Methodist Church  
Elm Road  
Leigh-on-Sea  
Essex. SS91NN



12 September 2023

Dear Church,

We wanted to thank you for your support of Southend Foodbank in the past ten years. This year sees us mark 10 years of Southend Foodbank operating. We are thankful that we are here for the people who needs us, but we look forward to the day that we are not needed.

So far this year, we have fulfilled 5153 vouchers issued by our referral partners, which translates to 13230 parcels given to people in Southend and Rochford across our eight location.

Without the support of our community, we wouldn't be able to meet that need.

Thank you for your support and prayer; we need both more than ever!

God Bless you,

Natasha Copus

Project Manager

Email: [natasha@southend.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:natasha@southend.foodbank.org.uk)



Registered Charity in England and Wales 1163160



## **Talking Poetry**

Wednesdays at 2:30pm

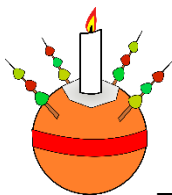


Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – Any Poem

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

## **Christingles**



We will be holding our annual Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 4pm. If you are able to help, we will be meeting at the church to make the Christingles on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm.

There are lots to make so your help would be much appreciated. Thank you.

## **CAROL SINGING**



This year the Carol singing will be on Friday 22nd December. We meet in the Concourse at Wesley ready to leave at 6pm.

We need as many voices as possible to bring the real spirit of Christmas to those living in our community. We may be accompanied by musicians, weather permitting, but anyone may bring an instrument and join in.

Please bring a TORCH so you can read all the verses of the carols from the sheet provided by Action for Children. All monies raised will go to this organization.

Children are required to bring a responsible adult, but families are always welcome – the more the merrier and louder! Please wrap up warm. We are usually out and about for about an hour and a half depending on the weather.

In the days before Friday 22nd December I will leaflet the roads we normally sing in and inform them we are going to be singing again and to listen out for us as we will NOT be knocking on doors this year. Any money we do raise will go to Action for Children.

The evening will end in the usual way with possibly the same quiz, and soup, rolls, mince pies and tea, coffee or squash.

For any more details and to let us know how many people to cater for please contact Jane and Geoff Fulford. fulford.family@btinternet.com

Hoping to see you and hear you.

## **Christmas Postbox**

The Christmas Post-box, which we run to raise funds for Nkanfoa School in Ghana, will be available again this year. 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 16th December and leave a donation in the plate provided in lieu of postage. Cards will then be sorted and distributed from Sunday 17th 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.



Christmas greetings to all at Wesley. I am sorry I won't be with you this year. With love from Margaret Cotgrove.

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS



# Camelot

by Ben Crocker






**FRI 1ST DEC**  
7.30PM  
**SAT 2ND DEC**  
2PM & 6PM  
WESLEY HALL  
ELM ROAD | LEIGH-ON-SEA

**TICKETS: £7**  
**CHILDREN: £5**  
**FAMILY TICKET**  
**(2A & 2C): £20**

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

**BUY ONLINE:**  
[WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK)  
[/WESLEY-THEATRE-GROUP](https://www.facebook.com/wesleytheatre)

BY KIND PERMISSION OF BEN CROCKER PANTOMIMES | BOOKING ESSENTIAL  

## **Christmas Charity Collections**

Over the Christmas period, offertories in some of our Christmas services will be for charity. The offertory at the Carol Service, Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Christmas Morning services will be for Southend Foodbank. The offertory at the Christingle service is traditionally for a children's charity. This year it was chosen by some of our Fusion youth club helpers and will be for UNICEF. Thank you for all you are able to give.

## **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.

December 7<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Cameo House Group Autumn 2023**

This Autumn we will be meeting once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 2-3pm, sometimes a little longer, at Wesley in the concourse for discussion on a topic or on a scripture passage.

## **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 next dates are now for 2024:

Tuesday 23rd Jan 8pm

Tuesday 27th Feb 8pm

Always different

Do come and join us.

(Not on in November as many of those that attend Creative Worship are in the Panto – Do come to that on 1st and 2nd December 2023.)

# WELCOME TO WESLEY

Thursday Lunches at 12.30pm

For the time being we are pausing these  
lunches.

As the warm hub is open there are soups  
available at no cost

Thank you to Miriam and Kate

## **TIME FOR PRAYER**

In December we do not meet but please do come along to any of our Christmas Services or to the warm hub.

We are back on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

We hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Time for Prayer meeting runs from 10.30 am to 11.00 am and will be held in the Sanctuary as before. It will be followed by tea and cake, or hot soup and roll served in the concourse from 11.00 am to 11.30 am.

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



## **December Service Dates 2023**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 11:00 am – Preacher Rev N Hooks. Toy and Gift Service /Communion Service.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00 am – Preacher Pastor S Mayo. Nativity Service including Youth Workers Dedication.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00 am – Preacher Mrs S Hockett. Carol Service.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 5:30pm – Inspire Service

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm - 4pm – Memory Worship

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00 am – United Service at Belfairs.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm – Preacher – Pastor S Mayo. Christingle Service

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 11:15 pm – United Service at Wesley- Preacher- Pastor S Mayo/Rev H Simmons. Communion Service.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 10:30 am – United Service at Wesley- Preacher – Pastor S Mayo.

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December at 11:00 am – United Service at Wesley – Preacher – Pastor S Mayo.

## **January Service Dates 2024**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 am- Preacher – Rev B Gutberlet – Communion Service.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 am – Preacher – Mrs J Taylor

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm – 4pm – Memory Worship

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 10:30 am – Time for Prayer

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 11:00 am – Preacher - Pastor S Mayo

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 5:30 pm – Inspire Service

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 8pm – Creative Worship

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 am – Preacher – Miss S King

# Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the January 2024 Clarion by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

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](mailto:judith60@outlook.com)

**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.

