



# THE CLARION

**Wesley Methodist Church**

**February 2024**



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## **MINISTER'S LETTER**



I've always been one for a good voucher. After all, why pay more for something when you can get it cheaper!

Over the years I've used many different vouchers to save money on different things, from Groupon Vouchers to Tesco Club Card vouchers. But all these vouchers have something in common; they all have terms and conditions!

And with some of them, you just can't seem to win!

- A restaurant voucher; that can only be used on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent in a leap year!
- Parents go free holiday voucher, as long as both parents are over 100yrs old!

- Children eat free voucher; as long as your child is no taller than 2' 6", but older than 10yrs!

In February we probably think more about love than we do most other months because of Valentine's Day, and we take this opportunity to show our love for our husbands, wives or partners. But how conditional is that love? Is there something that we could do which would stop that person loving us? Probably!

But with God, love is different. His love for us, unlike a voucher or human love, is totally unconditional. Nothing we can do will make God love us any more, and nothing we can do will make God love us any less. Our actions may separate us from God, but not from His love for us.

Scripture tells us of this love. 1 John 3:1 says; *'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!'* [NIV] And Romans 5:8; *'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'*

So, whether you receive a valentine's card or not this year, remember God's amazing love for you; His unconditional love!

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

01702 483827

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

## **News from the Pews**

### **Talking Poetry**



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Any love poem

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Robert Frost

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

## **Creative Worship 2024 Winter**

For Winter these services are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month for just less than an hour beginning at 8pm. The next dates are:

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 8pm

Always different - Do come and join us.

## **AFTERNOON TEA & CAKES FOR 2024**



The Tea and Cake afternoons, held on Thursday between 2pm-4pm in the Canteen Room, will restart in April 2024 so pencil in these dates for your diary:

April 25<sup>th</sup>

May 30<sup>th</sup>

June 27<sup>th</sup>

July 25<sup>th</sup>

August – holiday

September 26<sup>th</sup>

October 31<sup>st</sup>

And December 12<sup>th</sup>

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

## **CIRCUIT PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Colin Turner co-ordinates Circuit Prayer Breakfast on the first Saturday morning of every month at 8.30 am on Zoom. This is an open invitation to all. Please let me know if you wish to join us and I can facilitate this.

Eileen Simmons

Tel: 01702 472521 Email:

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



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## CAROL SINGING

Thank  
You!

Thank you to all those who came Carol Singing on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

We raised **£123.45** for Action for Children

Moreover, we brought delight and a Christmas message to those families and groups who heard us.

Hoping to see you and hear you again THIS year.

Thank you again.

Jane



## **Afternoon tea and cakes throughout 2023**

We would like to thank all our many helpers at the Tea and Cake Afternoons last year and thank you to everyone who came and made these afternoons a place of easy conversation, with time to listen as well as chat. The new dates for 2024 are printed in the Clarion and we look forward to seeing you in April.

Janet & Pam

## **THANK YOU TO LINDA FORBES**

Our special thanks go to Linda Forbes who has helped for many years at Tea & Cake Afternoons, Memory Worship, Coffee Mornings, Bazaars and Jumble Sales. She has given freely of her time caring and serving people at Wesley. Linda is now living at Palmerston Residential Care home and we visit her regularly. While there we try to encourage the staff to bring Linda and other residents to the Tea and Cake Afternoons and Memory Worship services. The staff seem keen to join us and have their own transport, so we hope they may come along sometimes.

Thank you Linda for all your hard work.

Janet & Pam

## **CHRISTMAS CHARITIES 2023**

During the Christmas period collections were made for a range of charities. The young people choose the charity to benefit from the Christingle service and they chose UNICEF.

Pam Boughton Smith has introduced us to the Southend Hospital Charitable Foundation's SPOTLIGHT appeal which is called Surface Guided Radiation Therapy; an innovative treatment which is a massive improvement for patients (leaflet available). Southend is one of the first cancer centres to use this treatment.

We need to thank individuals and teams in our Wesley family, who make the events possible eg. our carol singers and those who lead our services.

Southend Foodbank: £451.68 Carol Service, Midnight  
Communion & Christmas Day

UNICEF: £442.30 Christingle

Action for Children: £123.45 Carol Singing

Nkanfoa : £71.20 Christmas Cards

Spotlight Appeal: £45.10 Pam Boughton Smith

Total: £1133.73

Thank you for your generosity.

Thanks to Emma Hearn, John and team for the Macmillan Coffee Morning on 7<sup>th</sup>. October which raised £345.

Eileen Simmons

## **WELCOME TO WESLEY**

**Thursday Lunches at 12.30pm**

**are back in April 2024**

**Watch this space for details.**

**NB: There are no Lunches in  
February or March**



**Jumble Sale**  
**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

**In aid of Christian Hope International and Wesley Methodist Church.**

Please put this event into your diaries. We need help on the day, with refreshments and sales. Please also start collecting jumble and hang on to those unwanted Christmas presents!

The proceeds from the sale and the outside food stand (provided by Steve Hockett) will go to Christian Hope and other refreshments to Wesley.

We will be able to receive your donations during the week prior to the sale. Watch out for further notices. Contact Pam or Gaye if you have jumble which you need us to collect in April.

Many thanks for your support.

Pam Boughton-Smith and Gaye Greenway

## **PASTORAL NEWS as at 19.1.24**

Audrey Bundy died on New Years Day. We praise the Lord for a life well lived. Audrey was a regular worshipper at Wesley until she became ill last Summer. She was a beautiful soul, so cheerful, loving and giving.

Adrian Gravatt has prostate cancer and has started treatment, but medical investigations continue into the best form of treatment for him. As you know Adrian also has Parkinsons. I enjoyed my Pastoral visit to him this week and he gave me permission to include his news. We keep in close contact.

Keith Charnock continues to make slow progress and is looking forward to getting out and about and returning to Wesley in the not too distant future. Please keep Keith and Marjorie in your thoughts and prayers.

It is lovely to have Joy Milner back to regular worship after her hip replacement.

Janet Whiddett has written a short piece about Linda Forbes elsewhere in the Clarion.

It was good to have Iris Dolby and George worshipping with us on her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday in December. Traditional birthday greetings were sung.

There can never be too much Pastoral care and so many of you do this informally and regularly. Do please let me have

any news for this monthly feature provided the individual concerned gives their permission.

Technically all Pastoral Visitors need to be members of the Methodist Church and are continuously trained; for example, we have done safeguarding training. However, many people who are not Pastoral Visitors offer care, kindness, friendship, phone calls and informal support which is so welcome and just as important.

Do please keep all our Wesley family, whom you know to be unwell, in your thoughts and prayers.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

Tel : 472521

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

## **TIME FOR PRAYER**

Time for Prayer is held on the third Thursday of the month. This month it is on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

The Time for Prayer meeting runs from 10.30 am to 11.00 am and is held in the Sanctuary. It is followed by tea and cake served in the concourse from 11.00 am to 11.30 am.

The dates for 2024 are:

- 15th February
- 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.

## **February Services Dates 2024**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00 am- Preacher – Pastor S Mayo/Rev H Simmons- Covenant/Communion Service.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00 am – Preacher – Mr J Phillips.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30 am – Time for Prayer.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00 am – Preacher - Mrs J Fulford.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 5:30 pm – Inspire Service.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm – 4pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 11:00 am – Preacher – Mrs P Smith.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm – Creative Worship.

**MARCH SERVICE DATES NOT  
AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF PRINTING**



## **LET US PRAY**

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Loving God

I see the news and I am afraid.

Violence is spiralling out of control.

I don't know what to think or feel.

The temptation to fall into

hatred, or

despair

feels very close at hand.

Help me to remember

that nothing in all creation

can separate me from your love

that I know in Jesus.

May your perfect love for me

cast out my fear

and free me to discern

what is mine to do

amidst the chaos of this suffering world.

**Amen**

# Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the March 2024 Clarion by **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 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.

