



# THE CLARION

**Wesley Methodist Church**

**March 2024**



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## MINISTER'S LETTER



The season of Lent is upon us once more, a season which coincides with springtime and the rebirth of nature and new life which we see all around us. In my own garden daffodils have emerged from the soil. The church also desires that each of us grow spiritually and experience a reawakening of our relationship with God during the forty days of Lent, which culminate at Easter.

The purpose of Lent is not to make us feel disheartened or uncomfortable in the way we live out our faith, but it is a call to self-examination and for taking a fresh look at our attitude and behaviour towards others. Unconsciously, if we are not careful, we can little by little become self-centred and lapse into an *'indifference to others,'* as I once heard someone call it. Our Christian belief, doesn't allow us to pass by on the

other side and so ignore the needs and sufferings of those around us.

The nature of Lent is not intended to punish us, but to remind us of our need for God's grace and of our obligation to put others before ourselves.

The problems and tragedies of the world can at times though, appear to overwhelm us, and leave us with a sense of helplessness, but we must never underestimate the power of prayer to affect situations. To know the gift of prayer and its unfailing power is one of the greatest gifts of Lent.

As we embark on our Lenten journey this year, may we be cheerful and of good heart. Let us thank God for this time of grace and for the opportunity to grow spiritually ourselves, while being conscious of others who may need our help.

God wants only what is best for us, and he has given us his only Son as proof of that. Let us keep our gaze firmly fixed on Jesus this Lent, both as a Church and as individuals, as we pray for ourselves, others, and our world.

Every blessing,

**Pastor Steve**

01702 483827 [pastorstevemayo@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevemayo@gmail.com)

## **News from the Pews**

### **Dates for your Diary**

- Church Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 8pm.

### **Help needed!!!**

We are also looking for people to go on a rota to serve coffee at the end of a service. Currently this job is undertaken by our stewarding team, who are already under pressure to complete their normal duties on a regular basis due to the size of the team. Even if you could only offer once a month it would be so helpful and very much appreciated. If you are able to help in this way please contact Gaye Greenway or a Steward.

### **The Clarion - Please Note**

The Clarion is distributed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month by email/post/ and a hard copy is available in the Sanctuary Café/display shelves and from the vestry. If you wish a large print copy to be made available please contact Judy Taylor.



## **BIBLE MONTH JUNE 2024**

### **2024 GENESIS**

As a circuit we are not going to participate in this event this year 2024, but it is being followed in the South Essex Circuit. In preparation for the month, Trinity Church in Basildon is acting as a hub with a full day of training and discussion on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March.

I am going if anyone is interested to join me.

Jane Fulford

### **An open invitation to Memory Worship**

You may well think to yourself – “This is not for me I don’t have dementia”

When Rev Julia and I set up Memory Worship in 2017, we named this service “for people with and without dementia”. Memory Worship is 30 minutes in length with all the elements of a regular church service - hymns, prayers, sermon, the peace and a blessing followed by activities, crafts and lovely cake and company.

The service has a clear structure, it always includes familiar hymns and the sermon has one clear simple message (with the exception of some of Pastor Steve’s Jokes!)

If you still feel “this is not for me” please consider coming along to support someone else? Often a listening ear is the best thing you can offer someone supporting a loved one living with dementia. You could be that support at a time when that person really needed it.

No two people experience dementia in exactly the same way. What may be a help for one person may not be for another. At Memory Worship we try to provide an accepting accessible space where everyone feels held by God. After all, we all have dark days from time to time, but nothing can extinguish God’s light – the light to light our path.

Wesley Memory Worship Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2pm

‘God promises to accept us just as we are’

Julie Peek

## **Creative Worship 2024 Spring**

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

The next date for 2024 is:

Tuesday      23<sup>rd</sup> April      8pm

Always different - Do come and join us.

**NB:** There is no meeting during Holy Week on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March.



## **The Former Manse Garden Land**

Many of you will remember that when the Circuit sold the Manse, a piece of ground was given to Wesley. This land contains a large prunus tree. Originally the idea was to use it as an extra parking space or an area to assist cars passing when entering or leaving the car park. When the land passed to Wesley an agreement was made with our neighbours, to retain the tree to maintain their privacy.

In practice, converting the ground into a useful part of the car park proved complicated and very costly. The former Manse fence prevents a good sight line for cars using it and the level of the ground is lower than the existing driveway by the glass doors. In addition the tree restricts access. The costs quoted for levelling the area and tarmacking it were very expensive.

So we looked at other ideas. Church Council recently decided to work towards a Bronze Eco Church award. This involves a wide range of aspects of the church's building and life. It looks, for example, at our energy use, water use, products that we use, and our recycling. Our land use also comes under scrutiny and we are encouraged to try to manage the land we have to encourage native birds, plants and animals. Obviously we have very little land! This small area is going to be used for this purpose. A mini pond and a damp area have been made, with a log pile for insects.

All the planting and seeding will consist of UK native species. An information board will be placed in the garden to explain what is there. We will be providing bird feeders, and areas to encourage insects and amphibians. The area will be fenced.

Please get involved, donations of bird food would be welcomed. Please see Gaye if you have any native wildflowers in your garden that you would like to donate. But she won't come and dig up all your dandelions for you!!

A progress report will be given as the project continues.

Gabrielle Greenway

## **Talking Poetry**



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Ogden Nash

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Laurie Lee

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

## FERN BOUGHTON-SMITH



All ages 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

## 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>

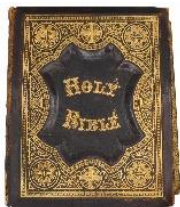
August – holiday

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.

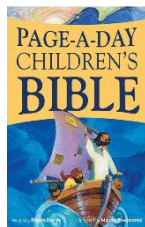


## **WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE**

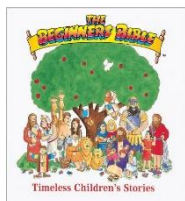


**SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**IS AT WESLEY  
FROM  
10AM TO 4.30PM**



**CONTACT JANE FULFORD FOR A PLACE**



## 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**

## **PASTORAL NEWS as at 16.2.24**

Many congratulations to Dara and Jay Jones on the birth of Avery Elizabeth Jones on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> February.

Hannah Bucke is an Army Chaplain. We are delighted to hear that she now holds the rank of Major. For those of you who do not know Hannah, she is a Methodist Minister and Mike Bucke's youngest daughter.

Thank you all for your kind messages, emails and cards during February whilst I have had Shingles.

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

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

Tel : 01702 472521 email:  
[eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com)



**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

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP  
PRESENTS



# Chase Me Up Farndale Avenue, s'il vous plait

a comedy by  
David McGillivray & Walter Zerin Jr



**FRI 22nd &  
SAT 23rd  
MARCH  
at 7.45PM**

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## **TIME FOR PRAYER**

Time for Prayer is held on the third Thursday of the month. This month it is on 21<sup>st</sup> March.

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 other dates for 2024 are:

- 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.

## **March Services Dates 2024**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 11:00 am – Preacher: Rev P Moorhouse - Communion Service.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00 am – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00 am – Preacher: Miss S Spinks

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

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm – 4pm – Memory Worship.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 11:00am – Time for Prayer

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 11:00 am – Preacher – Local Arrangement.

Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm – Preacher: Rev H Simmons - United Service at The Fisherman's Chapel.

Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am – Preacher: Pastor Steve Mayo – United Service at Wesley.

Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 11:00 am – Preacher: Mrs S Hockett.

Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 6:30pm – Easter Sunday Prayer & Praise Circuit Service at Belfairs.

## **April Service Dates 2024**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev H Simmons-  
Communion Service.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00 am – Time for Prayer.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Taylor.

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

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 2pm-4pm – Memory Worship

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

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev P Perowne.

## Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the April 2024 Clarion by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 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.

