



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

April 2024



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MINISTER'S LETTER



Adoption is a wonderful thing. It enables those who aren't able to have children, to share in a special relationship with a child, enabling both parents and child to flourish. For those who already have children and still adopt, it again enables that child to flourish and be part of a loving, sustaining, family unit. Many wonderful relationships and families are created through the process of adoption.

The Bible also talks about adoption, us being adopted into God's family.

Romans 8:14-16 says; *'All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own [children]. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old slavish attitude of fear—you have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say*

with a full heart, “Father, my Father”. The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God. Think what that means. If we are his children we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well!” [J.B. Phillips Translation, in brackets mine]

At the time this part of scripture was written, this had real significance. The pervading Roman culture was very hedonistic; devoted to the pursuit of pleasure. The most important thing in life was to enjoy yourself. Consequently, marriages were often not monogamous, and fathers did not know if they were the father of their children. Therefore, a Roman father would adopt a son to be his heir. So being adopted became more important than being an actual son! Therefore, when the Bible tells us we have been adopted into God’s family, it actually gives us a very high status, as we too become heirs, and inherit all the riches of heaven. So, no matter your upbringing or family set up, you have been adopted and are loved by God. As 1 John 3:1 says; *‘See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!’* [NIVUK]

So, no matter what life throws at us, no matter our personal circumstances, we are children of God, and are dearly loved.

As number 72 in our Singing the Faith hymnbook says;

*Father God, I wonder
how I managed to exist
without the knowledge
of your parenthood
and your loving care.
But now I am your child,
I am adopted in your family,
and I can never be alone
'cause, Father, God,
you're there beside me.*

[Ian Smale]

[CCL No. 15506]

May God richly bless you.

Pastor Steve

01702 483827

pastorstemayo@gmail.com

News from the Pews

Baby News

On International Women's Day Sanya Strachan and her husband, Stephen Jessup-Peacock, welcomed their first child, a boy into the world.

His name is Casey.



Sanya says: “I really look forward to bringing Casey to church soon so that he can meet his Methodist community. Thank you so much for all your prayers - truly, it has meant the world to us”.

Creative Worship 2024 Spring

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

The next dates for 2024 are:

Tuesday 23rd April 8pm

Tuesday 28th May 8pm

Always different

Do come and join us.

Talking Poetry



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 10th April – Seamus Heaney

Wednesday 24th April – Eleanor Farjeon

Please contact Joan Hawkins on email
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 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

PASTORAL NEWS as at 11.3.24

I visited Adrian Gravatt last week and he sends his best wishes to you all and looks forward to the time when he can join us in worship. He is being treated for prostate cancer and Parkinsons Disease. He has carers who visit to do exercises with him to help the Parkinsons.

We send our congratulations to Sanya and Stephen on the birth of their baby boy, Casey born on Friday 8th. March.

Rupert and Janice Bertie tell us that Alexandra gave birth to a baby boy on Monday 4th. March, weighing a healthy but unexpected 7lbs 11oz. The plan was for him to be delivered by Caesarean section on Monday 11th. March but instead he arrived a week earlier than planned. He has been named Elijah James after his dad Darrell whose middle name is Elijah. Both mother and baby were in good health following

the birth and were subsequently discharged from hospital the following day. Rupert and Janice have since had the opportunity to see and cuddle their first grandchild and are still getting used to the idea of being grandparents for which they give thanks to God for this great privilege. Along with Alex and husband Darrell they would like to thank all the Wesley family and friends for all of the wonderful support and best wishes they have received since the birth.

It was lovely to welcome Dara and Jay Jones with their beautiful baby girl Avery in church yesterday.

Do please keep all of 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

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 25th

May 30th

June 27th

July 25th

August – holiday

September 26th

October 31st

And December 12th

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

WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE



SATURDAY 20TH JULY

IS AT WESLEY FROM

10AM TO 4.30PM

CONTACT JANE FULFORD FOR A PLACE

Thanks from Southend foodbank for the £451.68 we gave after CHRISTMAS

We have received a big THANKS from Southend Foodbank for the £451.68 we sent after Christmas. The need for their work continues to grow as the report below, from their Chair of Trustees, shows.

Eileen Simmons

Southend Foodbank

As a charity we continue to be rooted and established upon the teaching and life of Jesus. Our four values of Compassion, Justice, Community and Dignity are built upon Jesus' own way of life. For those who are part of the Foodbank and who are Christians, we see God's Kingdom at work in what we do. We seek to serve those who are hungry, and those who are in need to the best of our ability. We seek to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. We are so grateful for all our staff and volunteers, whether they have faith in Jesus or not. They make it possible to fulfil our goal, to Help Local People in Crisis.

In this past year we have been serving people who are struggling with the national cost of living crisis, and increased fuel bills. Because of the diligence of our staff and volunteers, and the generosity of our community, and the grants that we have been able to secure, we have just been able to keep up with the sharp increase in demand that we have seen. In one year, we have seen access to Southend

Foodbank jump 64.6%. The previous year had seen a step of 43% - and that felt massive at the time.

We have continued to provide 3 days of emergency food across 8 locations, and have provided signposting to additional services, and enabled a member of the Citizens Advice team to be available at 4 of our busiest distribution centres. Our campaigns coordinator has been raising awareness of food poverty in the wider community through news reports, both printed and on radio, as well as through social media. We have successfully appointed new staff in key roles, to enable us to do our best for our local community in and around Southend. I am so grateful to all those who help, from volunteers, to employees, to trustees. There is so much faithful and passionate dedication to Southend Foodbank, and so much hunger to help within our team; it is a privilege to be part of it.

As we move into a new year, the financial indications show that this coming year may see even greater need and greater access to our services. Yet we trust that in all this, we would be a light that shines in our community, a light that brings hope to those who are in crisis.

Tom Vernon

Chair of Trustees



Jumble Sale
Saturday 6th 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

Open Top Bus Service Restarts



For those who are interested, the Open Top Bus Service 68 will be restarting for the Easter Holiday weekend. Further details will be announced later.

TIME FOR PRAYER

Time for Prayer is held on the third Thursday of the month. This month it is on 18th April

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:

- 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.

April Service Dates 2024

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

Sunday 14th April at 11:00am – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo.

Thursday 18th April at 11:00 am – Time for Prayer.

Sunday 21st April at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Taylor.

Sunday 21st April at 5:30pm – Inspire Service.

Monday 22nd April at 2pm-4pm – Memory Worship

Tuesday 23rd April at 8pm – Creative Worship.

Sunday 28th April at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev P Perowne.

May Service Dates 2024

Sunday 5th May at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev C Samuels
Communion Service.

Sunday 12th May at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev B
Gutteridge.

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

Sunday 19th May at 11:00am – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo.

Sunday 19th May at 5:30pm – Inspire Service.

Monday 20th May at 2pm-4pm – Memory Worship

Sunday 26th May at 11:00am - LA.

Tuesday 28th May at 8pm – Creative Worship.

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the May 2024 Clarion by **Friday 19th April 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 – juditht60@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.

