



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

September 2024



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MINISTER'S LETTER



Well, I've come to an end of an era in my Christian journey. By the time you read this letter, I will no longer be Pastor Steve, but Revd. Steve. It has been quite a journey for me since candidating for presbyteral ministry some 4 years ago, a journey which initially, I wasn't keen to undertake, having been through ministerial training some 22 years ago. But this is where we have to recognise that God is in control and knows what is best for us. It's human nature for us to want to take the easiest path through life, and when God sends us down a different path, we often rebel, or think we know better.

As I look back over the last 3 years of ministerial training, I can now see God's wisdom and plan. I have had so many experiences and opportunities to see God and the Methodist church at work, in this country; across the globe in Sri Lanka; things I would have never seen or experienced had I taken the straight path through life. I have also made many relationships with my college cohort and teaching staff, who had become friends. And of course, the practical and theological training at the Queen's Foundation College has been integral to my spiritual journey.

But for all of us, God '*meanders*' our lives like the river in the picture above, so that we can all come into contact with people and experiences God has intended for us, experiences which will help us grow and mature into the people He wants us to be.

Jeremiah 29:11 says; '*For I know the plans I have for you,*' declares the Lord, '*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*' [NIVUK]

My prayer for all of us is that we would be open to God's call upon our lives, even when we cannot see, or understand the reason.

It may seem like an oxymoron when we consider what I have written above, but; *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'* [Proverbs 3:5-6 NIVUK]

I would like to finish this letter by thanking all those who have supported me throughout these past years. Your support has been invaluable and appreciated. Thank you.

Every blessing,

Revd. Steve

Tel: 01702 483827

Email: revdstevemayo@gmail.com

News from the Pews

Dates for your Diary

Pastor Steve's 1st service after becoming a Reverend will be the Sunday 1st September at Wesley. The **Welcome Service** for Revd. Steve Mayo will be on Monday 2nd of September at 7:30pm here at Wesley.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Our Treasurer Tina has not yet sent the money in case there are any more envelopes are to be handed in. Thanks to those who have contributed.

Eileen Simmons

PASTORAL NEWS as at 16.8.24

Adrian Gravatt: It is with deep sadness that I report that Adrian died on 3rd August. His funeral takes place on 29th August with a private, family only, service at the crematorium followed by a service at Wesley at noon.

June Childs came home from hospital on 2nd August and came to church on 11th August in a wheel chair. Her treatment continues.

It was good to have both **Shirley** and **Paul Baker** in church on 11th August.

We are also pleased that **Joan Hawkins** cardioversion procedure in August was successful, although she is having further tests and she is tired and low in energy.

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



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 – 12:00noon 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, are held on Thursday between 2pm-4pm in the Canteen Room, so pencil in these dates for your diary:

September 26th

October 31st

And December 12th

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

MESSAGE FROM BETTY BAMBURY'S DAUGHTER.

I shall continue to raise funds for Action for Children in memory of Betty Bambury. I have recently sent off a cheque for £50 for this worthwhile cause. I will also bring in Catherine Cookson books to be sold on the Sanctuary Cafe table.

Kind regards, Linda Leslie.

Creative Worship 2024/2025

Held on the Fourth Tuesday of most months at 8pm in the church

Always something different, no sermon. Maybe some singing or listening to hymns/songs

Visually some activity or discussion but you can just sit quietly if you want to.

Those who prepare the services, find it a discipline and a joy to think outside the box!

Preparation does take time and pre-September 2024 the numbers attending have been but a few. In a year's time we will re-evaluate this service

Any thoughts gratefully received, even better would be your presence

The current dates for this and the following year are:-

24th September 2024

22nd October

NOT in November and December

28th January 2025

25th February

25th March

NOT in April

27th May

24th June

22nd July

NOT in August.

Hope to see you there at any of the meetings

Communion and a Time of Prayer

After much thought and prayer, it is proposed to offer a Communion and a Time for Prayer on the second Wednesday of most months at 9am. This will be followed at 9.30am by a Time for Prayer as may be requested.

The dates for the year are:

11th September 2024

9th October

13th November

11th December

8th January 2025

12th February

12th March

9th April

14th May

11th June

9th July

No Communion in August

WESLEY 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

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.



September Service Dates 2024

Sunday 1st September at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo - Communion and Baptism Service.

Monday 2nd September at 7:30pm – Circuit Service of Welcome for Rev S Mayo.

Sunday 8th September at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr P Saunders.

Sunday 8th September at 6:30pm – Circuit Service at Canvey.

Wednesday 11th September at 9 am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30 am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday 15th September at 11:am – Preacher: Mrs S Hockett.

Sunday 15th September at 5:30pm – Inspire Service.

Sunday 22nd September at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs I Wratishaw.

Monday 23rd September at 2pm-4pm – Memory Worship.

Tuesday 24th September at 8pm – Creative Worship.

Sunday 29th September at 11:am – United Service at Belfairs.

October Service Dates 2024

Sunday 6th October at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr J Annim.

Wednesday 9th October at 9 am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30 am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday 13th October at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr B Briant – Harvest Festival and Communion Service.

Sunday 20th October at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs E Simmons.

Sunday 20th October at 5:30pm – Inspire Service.

Monday 21st October at 2pm-4pm – Memory Worship.

Tuesday 22nd October at 8pm – Creative Worship.

Sunday 27th October at 11:00am – Preacher Mrs S Strachan.

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.



Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the October 2024 Clarion by **Friday 13th September 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.

