



# **THE CLARION**

**Wesley Methodist Church**

**October 2024**



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## **MINISTER'S LETTER**



Autumn is now upon us and we thank God for giving us a good summer this year; for the warmth of the sun and the beautiful blue skies; and we celebrate all these wonderful gifts from God through our Harvest Festivals which we celebrate in our churches at this time of year; decorating them with produce and provisions from God himself.

But rapidly advancing upon us is the 'busy season' when it is so easy to get stressed with shopping for Christmas, tidying the garden and preparing it for next spring etc. and we forget that God gave us a season for everything, not just seasons of varying weather, but seasons of life.

We will all experience times of hardship, perhaps an illness ourselves or someone in our family or a friend. We might feel angry with God for something which goes wrong or when someone we love dies. People ask "Why has God done this?" Please be assured God does not single out

anyone to hurt, annoy or embarrass. Things go wrong in our bodies. Sometimes we know why, but often we don't and the medical profession can't always give us the answer. If you are reading this and are feeling that life's not good just now, remember that Jesus was born to save us all from sin and gave us God's promise of eventually having eternal life with him if we believe; an eternity where *'there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.'* [Revelation 21:4, NIV]

Life is hard and believing is not an insurance policy or a promise that life will be easy and plain sailing, but it is a promise that, through the Holy Spirit, we can cope and can receive the peace that passes all understanding. We have been given life to enjoy in all its fullness and that has nothing to do with money or possessions. God knows what we need. So, whatever you are planning to do this coming season, include Jesus in your plans and receive his peace.

Blessings,

Revd. Steve

01702 483827

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

## News from the Pews



### Talking Poetry

Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October – John Keats

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Stevie Smith

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

## PASTORAL NEWS as at 13.9.24

It is such a joy to have **June Childs** back in church worshipping regularly with us all. She continues with her chemotherapy treatment. Unfortunately, as at today, she has got another infection needing a visit to the hospital

**Jonathan Threadgold and Mez** (Meredith) are getting married on 19<sup>th</sup> October and we all wish them well. We are delighted for them both and send our congratulations (cue -music!)

I still see **Pam Metcalf** over in Thorpe Bay and she is well; as she says 'a day at a time'. All being well she will be 95 in December.

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

### **ACTION FOR CHILDREN CHARITY COLLECTION**

The total raised was £112 and Tina has forwarded this amount to the charity. However, some of us completed the tear off gift aid slips and these have also been sent and so the full total will increase. Many thanks for your donations. Eileen Simmons



### **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 – 12:00noon Wesley Hall, Elm Road, Leigh on Sea SS91SJ. For further information contact Fern on 07802582733

### **The CONNEXION Magazine – Summer 2024**

I have put copies in the Concourse display area. I received a batch a few days ago. Do please help yourself. There are excellent articles about a range of church outreach etc.

I particularly enjoyed reading about the work done in a very deprived area in Hull, EcoChurch, having fun, food and friendship for people with dementia, warm spaces, etc.

Eileen Simmons

## **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:

October 31<sup>st</sup>

And December 12<sup>th</sup>

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

## **Harvest Festival - Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

This year, Wesley's Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October. During the service, we will be **collecting donations of tinned and long life food for Southend Foodbank**. Your donations for the foodbank are very gratefully received throughout the year, and are particularly pertinent at this time of year as we think of Harvest, and the foodbank tries to keep up with the need from our local community. In order to meet demand, Southend Foodbank is spending roughly £10,000 a month on food to top up donations; three and a half tonnes of food are currently being given out a week. We know that things are tough for many people right now, but if you are able to make a donation it will make a world of difference, and contribute to a meal for a local person in need. The Foodbank's Harvest 2024 campaign, "Let's Make a Meal!", highlights the need for working together -



with everyone doing their small part to make a big difference. If you are able to donate, really useful items to donate right now are: UHT milk, tinned chilli and curry, tinned vegetables (peas, sweetcorn, carrots), long life puddings (rice pudding, custard, jam). As ever, thank you for all you are able to give.

In addition, at our Harvest Festival we will also be **holding a retiring collection to support the work of local homeless charity Off The Streets**. Off The Streets currently run a temporary night shelter to support rough sleepers in Southend, and will soon be opening a new permanent night shelter after converting a former hotel. The new shelter will support an estimated 176 rough sleepers every year to move from the streets to permanent accommodation, and the new shelter will include provision for couples and disabled homeless people. More information on their work can be found at <https://www.offthestreetsessex.org.uk/> - registered charity number 1184331.

## **Christmas Choir Callout**

Dear Reader,

Do you enjoy singing, socialising and scoffing pizza?

Wesley Music Group is seeking to expand its choral and instrumental membership for Christmas 2024. We are looking for adults and children who simply enjoy singing, playing or listening to music, no matter your experience, ability or knowledge.

**This is your chance to get involved and be part of one of the most vital parts of worship – music!**

The plan is to perform familiar carols and hymns, including children's carols, and some secular pieces for the following services:

- Outdoor Carol Singing
- Christmas Carol Service
- Christingle Service
- Christmas Day Service
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Rehearsal and services dates tbc and will be communicated in due course. I would love to hear from you if you are interested, know anyone who is, or generally wish to know more.

To top it off, yes, there will be pizza at rehearsals!

Yours,

Rory Windass -Organist, Wesley Methodist Church

## **WESLEY CHURCH FUNDS**

Please see our treasurer's details on page 3 of the CLARION. You may wish to make a one off donation and this can be done by bank transfer. These are the details needed:

Account Name: Leigh Wesley Methodist Church

Sort Code: 09-01-52

Acc. No: 15898702

Please always let Tina know that you have done so.

## **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:-

22<sup>nd</sup> October

**NOT in November and December**

28<sup>th</sup> January 2025

25<sup>th</sup> February

25<sup>th</sup> March

**NOT in April**

27<sup>th</sup> May

24<sup>th</sup> June

22<sup>nd</sup> July

**NOT in August.**

Hope to see you there at any of the meetings

### **Midweek Communion / Time for 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:

9<sup>th</sup> October

13<sup>th</sup> November

11<sup>th</sup> December

8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

12<sup>th</sup> February

12<sup>th</sup> March

9<sup>th</sup> April

14<sup>th</sup> May

11<sup>th</sup> June

9<sup>th</sup> 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 Wratishlaw 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.



## **October Service Dates 2024**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr J Annim.

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

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

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs E Simmons. Christian Hope International.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30pm – Inspire Service.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 2pm-4pm – Memory Worship.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 8pm – Creative Worship.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 11:00am – Preacher Mrs S Strachan.

## **November Service Dates 2024**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev'd S Mayo – Communion Service and Pastor Visitor Rededication.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10:45 am – Remembrance Sunday - Preacher: Mrs J Fulford.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 9am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs P Smith

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

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

**There is no Creative Worship Service this month.**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Taylor

# Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the November 2024 Clarion by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 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.

