



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

December 2024



Twitter: @leighwesleyMC



Facebook: Leigh Wesley Methodist Church

Wesley Website: www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

Content Page

Contact Information	3
Minister's Letter	4-6
News from the Pews.....	7-17
Creative Worship.....	18
Midweek Communion and Time for Prayer	19
Wesley Prayer Chain	20
Sunday Worship information	21-22
Christmas Prayer.....	23
Editor's information	24

Wesley Methodist Church - 76 Elm Road, Leigh on Sea,
Essex, SS9 1SJ **Charity Number:** 1130293

Minister in Charge: Revd Stephen Mayo -1 Oakview
Close, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4JN
Tel: (01702) 483827
Email: revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Fusion Link: Emma Hearn
Tel: 07766 588877
Email: fusionyouth@btinternet.com

Lettings: Alan Severne: Tel 01702 711851
lettings@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Church Council Secretary: Judy Taylor
Tel: 07504492470
judy@wesleymethodist.org.uk

The Notices: Sue Hockett
notices@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Treasurer: Tina Gowers - 17 The Crest, Leigh on Sea,
SS9 5NJ -Tel 07713 179111
tinagowers@sky.com

Organist – Rory Windass Tel: 07825728351
Rory.windass@googlemail.com

MINISTER'S LETTER



Once again at this time of year we turn our thoughts to the birth of Jesus; but all too often the wonder of this awesome event is obscured by the trappings of Christmas – holidays, presents, food, television, etc. But it is worth having a much closer look at the wonder of God coming to earth as a baby. Think of any photos you may have around your house of babies; maybe your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, or even babies your friends and families may have had?

When we consider the ‘life’ of a baby, what are the characteristics of babyhood? Total dependence for warmth, food and love; languageless; everything is ‘new’; inability to move where you want to; nappies, teething etc. When we think about such things we start to marvel that the eternal Son of God would submit Himself to the state of babyhood. Christian author Philip Yancey once said; *“The God who roared, who could order armies and empires about like*

pawns on a chessboard, this God emerged in Palestine as a baby who could not speak or eat solid food or control his bladder, and depended on a teenage couple for shelter food and love.”

- *You, Jesus, were willing to lay aside everything – your glory, your position, your power – for our sake.*
- *You were obedient to your Father in coming to earth.*
- *And in coming to earth as a helpless baby, not only were you trusting yourself to a young, inexperienced couple, but you were making yourself vulnerable to the attack of the devil through Herod. And yet, you trusted your Father to keep you safe.*

The Bible says; ‘For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.’ [Isaiah 9:6 KJV]

Given this wonderful description, readers of the Old Testament could be forgiven for expecting a glorious, triumphant entry into the world for the Messiah. However, Jesus chose the way of obscurity, of humility and servanthood; yet those who seek Him will find Him to be the glorious Messiah described in Isaiah chapter 9.

What a wonderful example to us today is the incarnation of God, setting forth the pattern that Jesus would grow up to present to us; a pattern for living, a pattern of gentleness, humility and love.

What a challenge for us as Christians!

As this season unfolds for another year, may we not only give physical gifts to others, but also gifts of our own gentleness, humility and love, as we follow the example of the baby in the manger.

May you be richly blessed as you celebrate the birth of Christ.

Revd Steve Mayo

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

News from the Pews

Talking Poetry



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 4th December – Derek Walcott

Wednesday 18th December – Any Christmas Poem

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

Fern's Fitness would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year and classes start back on Monday 6th January 2025.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jonathan and Jenny Charnock on the birth of their precious second son **GEORGE HENRY** born 5th November at 08.54am weighing 9lbs2ozs.



Beautiful brother for Oscar who is so thrilled and excited. Third Grandson for Neil and Annette, third Great Grandson for Keith and Marjorie. We are all very proud and delighted. Another RNLI crew member for the future. With our love.

AFTERNOON TEA & CAKES FOR 2024

The Tea and Cake afternoons, are held on Thursday between 2pm-4pm in the Canteen Room, so pencil in this final date for the year in your diary:

December 12th

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

Here are some thoughts for Christmas



- There's no better time than Christmas to reflect on the past year and remember all the fond memories of the people you've shared it with. Merry Christmas.
- Christmas is like candy; it slowly melts in your mouth sweetening every taste bud, making you wish it could last forever.
- Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality.
- The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.
- A good conscience is a continual Christmas.
- Christmas, my child, is love in action.
- Christmas is the day that holds time together.
- The Christmas spirit – love – changes hearts and lives.

- This is the message of Christmas: We are never alone.

PASTORAL NEWS as at 15.11.24

Margaret Cotgrove, who lives in Westerley, was rushed into hospital recently and was fitted with a pacemaker. I had hoped to see her earlier this week when Revd. Steve and I visited Westerley, but Margaret had a hospital appointment on that day so we missed her.

June Childs is still having chemotherapy but can now use a walker and get out more independently.

Keith and Marjorie Charnock have lovely news which is reported elsewhere in the Clarion.

It was good to see **Revd. Hannah Bucke** in church on Remembrance Sunday.

Do please keep in your thoughts and prayers anyone in our Wesley family who is unwell.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

Tel : 01702 472521 email:
eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

CAROL SINGING



This year the Carol singing will be on **Friday 20th December.** We meet in the Concourse, **ready to leave at 6pm.**

We need as many voices as possible to bring the real spirit of Christmas to those living in our community. We may be accompanied by musicians, weather permitting, but anyone may bring an instrument and join in.

Please bring a TORCH so you can read all the verses of the carols from the sheet provided by Action for Children. All monies raised will go to this organization.

Children are required to bring a responsible adult, but families are always welcome – the more the merrier and louder! Please wrap up warm.

The evening will end in the usual way with possibly the same quiz, but not the same soup, rolls, mince pies and tea, coffee or squash.

For any more details, contact Jane and Geoff Fulford:
fulford.family@btinternet.com



Jumble Sale

Saturday 12th April 2025

We will be having our wonderful Jumble sale again next year. Please could you start gathering jumble and store at home until near the time. Collection can be arranged with prior notice.

We would like to appeal for volunteers, either setting up/on the day/packing down/taking rubbish to the tip.

There will be a brief meeting for helpers after the morning service on Sunday 24th November 2024, just to do some general planning.

Thank you, Pam and Gaye

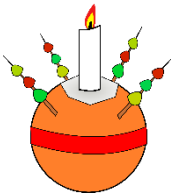
It was lovely to see Carmen from Christian Hope International at a recent service and listen to her inspirational talk.



Carmen was able to take 8 bags of blankets and two loose change boxes back with them. Big thank to Viv and Julie for coordinating the blanket project. The Book Table in the concourse still continues to contribute its takings to helping the sanctuary café. We have given this year to the hospital charity spotlight £50 from selling the teddies. When the amount raised gets to £10 I take it to the hospital charity shop and they put it in a separate envelope for the spotlight appeal.

Thank you for all your support, Pam Boughton Smith

Christingles



We will be holding our annual Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 4pm. If you are able to help, we will be meeting at the church to make the Christingles after the carol service on Sunday 22nd December. There are lots to make so your help would be much appreciated. Thank you.

Toy & Gift service



Sunday 1st December will be our annual Toy & Gift service, where we will be collecting donations of toys and gifts to distribute to local children and families who are struggling this Christmas. This year we are collecting for children in need of support at Leigh North Street school, with ages ranging from 4-11. Donations for younger or older children, and anything over and above the gifts needed by the school will be donated to Southend Toy Drive. This is run by Southend Council who liaise with local agencies and services to provide presents to families in need of support, ensuring that children in Southend have a Christmas present to open this year.

What can you donate?

New toys for babies, children and young people up to the age of 17 (if batteries are needed for toys, please include them); vouchers for toys or days out; selection packs; pens, pencils and colouring books; toiletry sets.

A polite reminder – we do ask that all toys and gifts donated are new and left unwrapped.

Your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you.



Christmas Postbox

The Christmas Post-box, which we run to raise funds for Nkanfoa School in Ghana, will be available again this year. If you would like to send Christmas cards to anyone in the church family through this scheme, please drop them in the post-box in the church sanctuary by Saturday 14th December and leave a donation in the plate provided in lieu of postage. Cards will then be sorted and distributed from Sunday 15th December. Please could we ask that cards are for regular attenders and those who live locally. For those who prefer to send a card to the whole church family, there will be a table in the church to display these. Thank you.

Christmas Charity Collections

Over the Christmas period, offertories in some of our Christmas services will be for charity. The offertory at Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Christmas Morning services will be for Southend Foodbank. At the Christingle service the offertory is traditionally for a children's charity, and this year will be for the UNICEF Gaza Appeal. Thank you for all you are able to give.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

I have had a letter of thanks from Action for Children for our donation of £112 for the collection taken on Action for Children Sunday. As some of us completed Gift Aid forms the final total will be higher.

Eileen Simmons

Warm Space winter 2024/5

This coming winter we are again running the Warm Space at Wesley as energy bills continue to rise and the cost of living still impacts on household budgets. We will again be looking for volunteers to help out.

Last winter we had a very reliable team of helpers whose valuable contribution helped make the Warm Space a success.

It is intended to be open from 10.00 to 4.00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays again starting from Tuesday 5th November. We have some reliable volunteers but more are always welcome to help ease people's commitment. If you can help either on a regular or occasional basis, please let me know by email fulford.family@btinternet.com or phone 01702714213

Last winter it was also open as a community hub as people dropped in for a chat, warmth and a tea or coffee. Everyone is welcome whether staying for 15 minutes or a couple of hours.

We do need to make sure that we promote the Warm Space through posters, flyers, newspapers and website so that everyone – not just church members - are aware that we are here for the whole community. If you know a person or family that would benefit, please let them know.

Thank you

Geoff Fulford

WESLEY BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

For many years Keith Charnock has faithfully completed the Book of Remembrance at the back of the church but is no longer able to do so. We thank him for all his committed service. Please see me if you are interested in taking on this much needed task.

Eileen Simmons

CHRISTMAS CARDS

May Geoff and I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. As in previous years, we do not send Christmas Cards, but instead make a donation to the Southend Foodbank.

Eileen Simmons

Creative Worship 2024/2025

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

We are NOT meeting in November and December

The following are the dates for 2025

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, we are offering a mid-week Communion on the second Wednesday of most months at 9am. This will be followed at 9.30am by a Time for Prayer featuring private or group prayer as may be requested.

The final date for this year is:

11th December

And in 2025:

8th January 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 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.



December 2024 Service Dates

Sunday 1st Dec at 11:00am – Preacher: Reverend. S Mayo – Toy and Gift Service with Communion.

Sunday 8th Dec at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr J Ammin.

Sunday 8th Dec at 5.00pm – Circuit Service at Belfairs.

Wednesday 11th Dec at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday 15th Dec at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs I Wratilaw – Nativity Service.

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

Monday 16th Dec at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 22nd Dec at 11:00 am – Preacher: Mrs J A Taylor – Carol Service.

There is no Creative Worship Service this month.

Christmas Eve 24th Dec at 4.00pm – Preacher: Mrs D Mayo – Christingle Service.

Christmas Eve 24th Dec at 11:15pm – Preacher: Rev S Mayo - Midnight Communion.

Christmas Day 25th Dec at 10:30am – Preacher: Mrs J Fulford.

Sunday 29th Dec at 11.00am – Preacher: Mrs J Fulford.

January 2025 Service Dates

Sunday Jan 5th at 11:00am – Preacher: Reverend S Mayo
– Service will include Communion.

Wednesday Jan 8th at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion
Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday Jan 12th at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs A Briant.

Sunday Jan 19th at 11:00am – Preacher: Reverend S Mayo.

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

Monday Jan 20th at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday Jan 26th at 11:00am – Preacher: Miss D Spinks.

Tuesday Jan 28th at 8.00pm – Creative Worship.



Christmas *Prayers* and **Blessings**

Lord, thank you for this blessed Christmas season. Fill us with your grace and peace, and may your blessings of joy overflow in our lives. Shower us with your love, and may we extend love and blessings towards those around us.

Amen.

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the January 2025 Clarion by **Friday 13th December 2024**.

If you would like to contribute towards the 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.

