



# **THE CLARION**

**Wesley Methodist Church**

**February 2025**



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## MINISTER'S LETTER



I've always been one for a good voucher. After all, why pay more for something when you can get it cheaper!

Over the years I've used many different vouchers to save money on different things, from Groupon Vouchers to Tesco Club Card vouchers. But all these vouchers have something in common; they all have terms and conditions!

And with some of them, you just can't seem to win!

- A restaurant voucher; that can only be used on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent in a leap year!
- Parents go free holiday voucher, as long as both parents are over 100yrs old!
- Children eat free voucher; as long as your child is no taller than 2' 6", but older than 10yrs!

In February we probably think more about love than we do most other months because of Valentine's Day, and we take this opportunity to show our love for our husbands, wives or partners. But how conditional is that love? Is there something that we could do which would stop that person loving us? Probably!

But with God, love is different. His love for us, unlike a voucher or human love, is totally unconditional. Nothing we can do will make God love us anymore, and nothing we can do will make God love us any less. Our actions may separate us from God, but not from His love for us.

Scripture tells us of this love. 1 John 3:1 says; *‘See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!’* [NIV] And Romans 5:8; *‘But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.’*

So, whether you receive a valentine’s card or not this year, remember God’s amazing love for you; His unconditional love!

Every blessing,

Revd. Steve

01702 483827

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

## **News from the Pews**

### **CAROL SINGING**



Thank you to all those who came Carol Singing on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

**We raised £123.45pm for Action for Children** Moreover, we brought delight and a Christmas message to those families and groups who heard us.

Hoping to see you and hear you again THIS year. Thank you again. Jane.



## **Afternoon Tea and Cakes**

A big Thank You to everyone who helped in any way at the Afternoon Tea & Cakes during 2024.

As we head towards Spring 2025 we look forward to longer days and lighter evenings when we begin our Afternoon Teas at the end of April .

This year there will be a smaller selection of home-made cakes plus a selection of cakes and biscuits from the shops. The welcome for you to join us remains the same.

Janet Whiddett

## **Talking Poetry**



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Any love poem.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Elizabeth Bishop

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

## **PASTORAL NEWS as at 17.1.2025**

**David Cox** has had an eye operation and is making a steady recovery.

**John Whiddett** had a bad fall recently and his face was dramatically bruised. He is now looking more his usual self.

**Emma Hearn** has fallen and broken her ankle in three places. She has had surgery, including plates either side and is now in a cast. She has brilliant support from John.

I go to see **Pam Metcalf** every month and at 95 she still makes me shortbread to have with my coffee! This week, she was recovering from a chest infection, but we enjoyed our usual chat.

The funerals of **Margaret Cotgrove** and **Shirley Baker** were opportunities for us to celebrate lives well lived.

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

## **CHRISTMAS CHARITIES 2024**

During the Christmas period collections were made for a range of charities. The young people decided the charity to benefit from the Christingle service and they chose:

**UNICEF GAZA** which raised **£ 396.31**

**SOUTHEND FOOD BANK\*** **£ 295.92**

(Christmas Eve & Day)

**ACTION FOR CHILDREN** **£ 117.86**

(Carol Singing)

**NKANFOA** **£ 65.00**

(Post Box)

Tina's total to date (7<sup>th</sup> January) **£ 875.09**



**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**HIGH STREET, GREAT WAKERING**

**WINTER  
FRIENDS AND FAMILY FUN**



Saturday  
22nd  
February  
At 2 pm

**Refreshments  
included**

Adults  
£5  
Children  
£2.50

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

Telephone to book a place

Anita (07375 402677) or Terry (07786 916566)

## FROM SOUTHEND FOODBANK

### **\*Dear Congregation at Leigh Wesley Methodist Church**

We wanted to wish you all a wonderful 2025 from all at Southend Foodbank, We wanted to thank you for your generous donation over the Christmas period and your unwavering support in the 11 years that the foodbank has been serving Southend. We receive numerous donations during the year and without your support, we wouldn't be able to help people put food on their tables.

In 2024, we provided 14725 food parcels, which was enough to feed 9040 adults and 5685 children. Thank you for sowing into this work. Please continue to pray for us and support us in any way you can.

Can we encourage you with this verse from Galatians 6:9 – we also have to encourage ourselves with it too! : **And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.**

God bless, Natasha Copus (Project Manager – Southend Foodbank)

## **Afternoon Tea & Cakes for 2025**



Tea & Cake Afternoons are held monthly on Thursdays between 2pm-4pm in Room 3, so please book in these dates for your diary.

April 24<sup>th</sup>

May 29<sup>th</sup>

June 26<sup>th</sup>

July 31<sup>st</sup>

August – Holiday

September 25<sup>th</sup>

October 30<sup>th</sup>

And

Christmas Tea & Cakes

December 11<sup>th</sup>

This year there will be a smaller selection of homemade cakes, plus a selection of cakes & biscuits from the shops. The welcome for you to join us remains the same.

Janet, Pam and Julie

## **Jumble Sale**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Thank you, Pam and Gaye

**ALS School for the Disabled in Uganda.**

### **Letter from Carmen**

Dear Pam

Thank you for your email and your enthusiasm for supporting the ALS.

As you know we are relocating the office, so rather than delay any longer I have copied below the article from the July magazine from which you can use as much or as little as you see fit. I have also copied the facebook post about the attack on the livestock which may be of interest.

I hope the information below is sufficient.

It was nearly 4 years ago when we first visited this school, home to 13 children with varying needs. It was a sad affair, very little support and a lot of hard work.

We thank God for the generosity of those CHI supporters who now sponsor the children, or make a regular contribution to the School.

When we visited this year we found Edward and Louise quite burnt out, volunteer burnout is a very real thing, and after all these years of struggle it really came as no surprise.

After much prayer and long and difficult discussions with Patrick it was felt that the best way forward would be to provide some help. Patrick identified a lovely lady, Maria, to help with the cooking, cleaning and care of the youngsters, on a daily basis, for the princely sum of £70 a month!

These children, with their various medical conditions, are particularly vulnerable to infections and disease so regular medical check-ups are important. Some suffer from epilepsy and their medication is vital but is often missed for lack of funds. These youngsters have a tough life, some drag themselves over mud floors as they cannot walk, use long drop toilets when they can barely stand, and feed themselves when they have no control over the jerkiness of their limbs. With help some of these obstacles can be overcome.

Food has become very expensive in Uganda, as it has in the UK, providing the food needed to keep the children healthy, whilst keeping to a manageable budget is a huge challenge. Fortunately Edward and the more able children can grow some crops in the school garden.

Mattresses and bed linen had definitely reached the end of their life! We mentioned this on our blog while in Uganda and on our return it was a blessing to receive a donation for complete sets of new mattresses and bedding for each child, and you can see from their faces that this was very much welcomed.

Your support will enable continued assistance to these children, giving them comfort, food and the necessary medication. ALS is a safe place, where they learn of God's love for each of them, where they feel cared for and where they can trust those around them.

Your regular donation, however small, would enable the support for ALS to continue, and keep these gorgeous faces smiling!

### **19th November**

Disastrous news has just come in from ALS School for the Disabled in Uganda.

Last night a group of wild dogs gained access to the school grounds and killed 8 goats, 6 sheep and ate 13 piglets. Praise God that this attack happened at night when

all the children were inside in bed or this could have been even worse news. Two people in the area were also attacked by the dogs, one being pronounced dead at the hospital.

We received some very disturbing photos which we will not put on here, but needless to say this has caused much upset among the children who love and care for these animals, and most likely were woken by this horrendous attack.

The livestock are bred to raise much needed funds for the school and so this is a huge setback.

Please join us in praying for the children and adults who have been seriously upset by this event that they might find strength and support from the Lord.

## **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 open from 10.00 to 4.00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and started from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

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## **Creative Worship 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.

The following are the dates for 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.

## **Communion and a Time of Prayer 2025**

All are welcome to 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 including private and group prayer as may be requested.

The dates for the year are:

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 Wratislaw 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.

## **February 2025 Service Dates**

Sunday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Reverend S Mayo – Covenant Service and Communion.

Sunday Feb 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs. P. Smith

Wednesday Wed 12<sup>th</sup> February at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Loc. Arrangement

Sunday Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm – Inspire Service.

Monday Feb 17<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev. A . Sam

Tuesday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm – Creative Worship.

**March service dates were not available at the time of printing.**

# Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the March 2025 Clarion by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

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](mailto:juditht60@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.

