



# THE CLARION

**Wesley Methodist Church**  
**April 2025**



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Essex, SS9 1SJ      **Charity Number:** 1130293

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## **MINISTER'S LETTER**



Easter, that wonderful time of the year when we can remember the sacrifice of Jesus for each of us, and celebrate our risen Saviour all in the same weekend!

I remember a few years back in one of my previous churches, having an Easter egg hunt in the service for the children.

Before the service, and before people arrived, some of the Sunday school teachers hid foil wrapped chocolate eggs around the church. When it came to the part of the service where the children took part in the hunt, there was much fun and laughter as the one by one the eggs were found. The service then continued.

Some 3 years or so later, the church was having a spring clean and we used a scaffold to reach the higher parts of the church to dust etc. Upon looking down at the church, I noticed quite high up, something shiny on top of one of the

pillars, and you've guessed it, it was an Easter egg never found from the Easter egg hunt all those years before. Strangely though, nobody fancied eating it!!!

But this made me think.

How often have we been given the gift of Jesus at Easter and never unwrapped Him?

How many Easter services have we attended and never tasted the glorious riches He has for each of us because we've never unwrapped Him, or maybe never even found Him?

So, what is this gift?

*'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.'*

[John 3:16-17 NIV]

The gift then, is eternal life!

And unlike Easter eggs, the gift of Jesus never goes out of date or perishes; the gift of Jesus lasts forever.

May each one of us unwrap Jesus this Easter and fully experience His love and grace.

Easter blessings,

**Rev. Steve**

01702 483827

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

## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

### **Maundy Thursday at Belfairs.**

This year, Belfairs are hosting the Maundy Thursday gathering for the Leigh churches and also Trinity. Rev Steve and his wife, Dani, will be leading the service and this will incorporate a light sample meal (have your tea before you come) as a part of the reflection for the evening.

In order to make sure adequate food is made available, we ask you to advertise this service within your churches and let us know approximate numbers attending please. If you could let me know by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at the very latest that would be appreciated.

Many thanks for your help.

Mike Spaul  
Senior Church Steward  
Belfairs Methodist Church

### **Save the Date**

Testimony Service of Revd Agnes Sam & Revd Heather Simmons

Sunday 19th May 7:30pm

Rayleigh Methodist Church

## Talking Poetry

Wednesdays at 2:30pm



Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April – John Betjeman

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Any Shakespeare passage or sonnet.

Please contact Joan Hawkins on email

[joanh838@icloud.com](mailto:joanh838@icloud.com) for further details'



Rosie, Gillian, Hilary and Barbara (the Longden girls) would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers following the death of our Mum Margaret Cotgrove. We all have wonderful memories of growing up at Wesley and are proud of the long family

connections with the Church.

Thank you also for those who attended Mum's funeral and celebration of her life, we wish we could have spent time chatting with you all. Mum's lifelong commitment to Wesley was such an important part of her life and although we are none of us members here now, it will always be "our" Church.

Thank you.



## **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 07802 582733



## **Jumble Sale Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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

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

Pam will be at Wesley from 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April to receive any jumble.

Thank you, Pam and Gaye



## **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

## **PASTORAL NEWS as at 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Emma Hearn** is progressing slowly after her serious ankle break and hopes to be back in church soon.

Following further hospitalisation and procedures, we are pleased to see **Joan Hawkins** back in circulation and she says she hopes to enjoy a Summer without further heart problems.

Many congratulations to **Shirley Mavin** on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 7<sup>th</sup> April.

NB: Somewhere in Wesley there is a box of **Our Wesley Stories**. The vestry was tidied up and the box disappeared. Any clues ?

Eileen Simmons      Pastoral Co-ordinator

Tel : 01702 472521    email:

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

## **Save the Date**

Circuit Quiet Day - In the Stillness

Saturday 21st June 10am-2pm

Hadleigh Methodist Church

More details to follow

## **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 had been but a few. We will re-evaluate this service for September 2025 onwards. Any thoughts gratefully received, even better would be your presence.

The following are the dates for 2025

**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.

## **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 07733 173810

Isobel Wratlslaw 557764 mob 07508 164525

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.

## **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:

9<sup>th</sup> April

14<sup>th</sup> May

11<sup>th</sup> June

9<sup>th</sup> July

No Communion in August

## **Prayer & Praise Celebration**

Easter Sunday 20th April 2025 @ 6.30 P.M.

Belfairs Methodist Church (Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4NG)

Led by the 'Worship Band' and others from the circuit.

Come and share with us in the joy of Christ's Resurrection.

We look forward to seeing you there.

## **April 2025 Service Dates**

Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Reverend S Mayo  
– Communion Service.

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

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs. J A Taylor.

Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm - United Service at  
Belfairs.

Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30 am United Service at  
Welsey: - Preach Rev S Mayo.

Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am – Preacher Mrs S  
Stachan - this service will include Communion.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 6:30pm – Circuit Service at Belfairs.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr P Saunders.

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## **May 2025 Service Dates**

Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Reverend S Mayo  
– Communion Service.

Wednesday Wed May 14<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am – Early Morning  
Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For  
Prayer.

Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs. S Hockett

Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher – Mrs I  
Wratislaw.

Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm – Inspire Service- All are  
welcome.

Monday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs E Simmons.

Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm – Creative Worship

# Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the May 2025 Clarion by **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 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.

