



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

March 2025



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MINISTER'S LETTER



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word '*lencten*', which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry. Traditionally, Lent has been all about giving things up, and over the years people have given up all sorts of things like chocolate, sweets, deserts, and even more recently Facebook and other social media activities! I think giving things up can be helpful if it focuses our thoughts and prayers on our preparation for the arrival of Easter.

But I don't believe that Lent should be a time for just giving things up, but also for taking things up!

Sometimes, I think when we really look at our lives and the time we spend with our Lord, we can often come to the conclusion that we've fasted all year since the last Lenten season, or even longer; fasting our prayer life, fasting our daily devotional time, fasting our tithing?

So, my prayer for all of us, myself included, is that this Lenten season we would take some things up, and really prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus. As we grow in our knowledge and personal relationship with Him, Easter will be a far greater experience for us as we commune and bring ourselves into His presence in this time of preparation and confession.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us; ¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ **pray continually,** ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* [NIVUK]

Every blessing,

Rev. Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Wesley Theatre Group

Would anyone have a teapot they would be willing to lend us for our VE/VJ Afternoon Cream Tea and Entertainment on the 7th June. If so could you please speak to either Gaye/Isobel/Anna/Geoff/Jane or Judy.

Thank you so much and hope to see you there.

News from the Pews

Congratulations! To Phoebe and Spencer on the birth of a son Monty on 30th January, a brother for Clem. A fourth grandchild for Mike and Linda Parry and fifth great grandchild for Joan and Geoff Hawkins. All the family are thrilled and grateful.

Talking Poetry



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 12th March – Roger McGough

Wednesday 26th March – Mary Oliver

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 07802 582733

Date for your Diary

Mothering Sunday – March 30th This year we will be worshipping at Highlands for the Mothering Sunday service and will be contributing to the cost of the flowers. If anyone requires a lift could they please contact a member of the Leadership Team.

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 24th

May 29th

June 26th

July 31st

August – Holiday

September 25th

October 30th

And

Christmas Tea & Cakes

December 11th

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 12th 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 arranged 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 1st to 11th April to receive any jumble.

Thank you, Pam and Gaye

PASTORAL NEWS as at 14th February 2025

Jane Morgan: One of the joys of being Pastoral Co-Ordinator for Wesley is the opportunity of getting to know individual worshippers personally. Jane regularly worships with us and recently in the local free newspaper there was a photograph of her being presented with a Community Champion award. This award recognises community

involvement. Jane helps with Attendance Allowance applications, which attract cash if awarded, and she helps people fill in forms for blue badges. She volunteers for the South Essex Advocacy Service in West Road, Westcliff. She mentions these as useful information for anyone who wishes to apply for them, the forms are a nightmare! She also assists at Story Rhymes weekly at Leigh Library and helps with the Summer Reading Challenge at Westcliff Library. Jane also records for Southend Talking Newspapers. I thought I was busy!!

I saw the photograph of the Award presentation in January 2025 but the Award took place in May 2024! I can also give a personal recommendation for the marmalade she makes and sells for Mencap.

June Childs very recently had a fall and has been in hospital.

Emma Hearn is recovering from her ankle injury. Physiotherapy is being arranged. She has organised the use of a mobility scooter because, as yet, she is not able to bear any weight on the ankle. As with others in our Wesley family who are unwell we keep her and June in our thoughts and prayers.

We welcome **Karen Steed** and her daughters **Imogen** and **Agatha** who have been worshipping regularly with us. The family decided to come to a service after attending the concert before Christmas at Wesley by the band in which Rev. Steve plays. Others have joined us having visited the

Sanctuary Café, attending the Warm Space and from personal contact.

Every week I send Rev Steve a Pastoral Update and he keeps me very well informed of his activities on our behalf. Again I must pay tribute to the fact that anyone in hospital is visited by him. As always we also need to thank and recognise the wonderful work done by the Pastoral Visitors.

Sadly I do have to report the death of one of our members, **Janet Sutcliffe** on 23rd. January 2025.

On a personal note I was not on the December to February preaching plan (after consulting Rev. Moorhouse and Rev. Steve). This has been brilliant for my Pastoral role. However, I am back on the preaching plan, from March and therefore will not be at Wesley services quite so often.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

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

Thorpe Bay Methodist Church

CRACKERJACKS

where you can come to watch your favourite old TV and film clips whilst enjoying a cuppa and some cake.

Crackerjacks is a new inclusive community led initiative. It aims to provide a warm, friendly, relaxed and safe environment where popular TV and film clips can be requested and watched, along with tea and cake followed by, if wished, an easy fun based activity.



This will take place on the **first Monday** of each month from **2pm** to **3.30pm**. All are welcome including guests with or without dementia and their carers. Booking is not required just turn up and enjoy some good company and share some memories.

For more information call the Church office on 01702 589263

- supported by Southend Council
- with the help of their Dementia Network team



Warm Space Winter 2024/5

This 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. It is open from 10.00 to 4.00 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays and started 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 we had a very reliable team of helpers whose valuable contribution helped make the Warm Space a success.

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

PRIDE IN FAITH

Pride in Faith is a community group in Southend for LGBT+ Christians. The group aim to meet monthly and are open to all LGBT+ people who are Christians, want to find out more, or are looking for a way to re-join church. All denominations are welcome.

Dates for Your Diary 2025

Fri 21st March

Wed 16th April

Fri 16th May

Wed 18th June

For more information, including details of where the meetings will be held and meeting times, please email prideinfaithsouthend@gmail.com

There is also a private Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1298923794646255>

So, please do join in the conversation!

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:

12th March

9th April

14th May

11th June

9th July

No Communion in August

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

25th March

NOT in April

27th May

24th June

22nd 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 Wratishlaw 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.

March 2025 Service Dates

Sunday March 2nd at 11:00am – Preacher: Reverend S Mayo –Communion Service

Sunday March 9th at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs. P. Smith

Wednesday Wed 12th March at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday March 16th at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo.

Sunday March 16th at 5:30pm – Inspire Service.

Monday March 17th at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday March 23rd at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J A Taylor.

Tuesday March 25th at 8.00pm – Creative Worship.

Sunday March 30th at 11:00am – United Service at Highlands.

N.B. Start of British Summer Time – **clocks go forward one hour**

April 2025 Service Dates

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

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

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

Maundy Thursday 17th April at 7pm United Service at
Belfairs.

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

Easter Sunday 20th April at 11:30am – Preacher Mrs S
Stachan- this service will include Communion.

Sunday 20th April at 6:30pm – Circuit Service at Belfairs.

Monday 21st April at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 27th April at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr P Saunders.

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the April 2025 Clarion by **Friday 14th March 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

**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.

