



# **THE CLARION**

**Wesley Methodist Church**

**October 2025**



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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 suffering an illness ourselves or someone in our family. We might feel angry with God for something which goes wrong, or when someone dies, particularly at a young age. People ask "Why

has God done this?” Please be assured God does not single out anyone to hurt, annoy or embarrass them. 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 8<sup>th</sup> October – Lemn Sissay

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Maya Angelou

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 SS9 1SJ. For further information contact Fern

## **Update on The Warm Hub at Welsey**

Wesley Church Council would like to express their gratitude to the Warm Hub team for all the time, a friendly ear and the welcoming face of Wesley, they have given over the years, it has been very much appreciated by all. Many people have found friendship and a place to feel safe and warm.

A special thanks goes to Geoff Fulford who is stepping down this year as the Warm Hub Co-ordinator, we thank him for his diligence and commitment to overseeing the running of the Warm Hub and ensuring everyone's safety and providing a warm and friendly environment for all.

We would like to ask if there is anyone who would consider taking over the role as Co-ordinator of the Warm Hub, thus enabling us to carry on providing this much appreciated service. We have a loyal team of helpers who would be willing to support a new co-ordinator.

Please contact one of the Leadership Team for more information.

## **News from Pam**

The sale of the charity new books and the new goods sold in church, raised £24 for Wesley and £20 was given to the hospital charity shop for the spotlight appeal.

Thank you for your ongoing support. -Pam BS

## **Know any good school assembly songs?**



**PRAISE AND PLAY**  
Playful worship for under 5s

**Fridays (once a quarter)**  
7 November 2025, 6 February 2026,  
8 May 2026 , 7 August 2026  
09.15am-09.45am  
Followed by refreshments in the cafe

At Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road,  
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ  
[www.wesleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.wesleymethodist.org.uk)

The new worship service for under 5s, 'Praise and Play' is looking for volunteers.

Could you help by setting up and packing up the worship space with play mats and toys?

Do know any school assembly songs to help teach babies and crawlers about Jesus?

If so please contact Sanya Strachan (contact details are on the circuit directory).

*All volunteers will need an up to date DBS certificate and completed the Foundation Safeguarding Course - both of which MUST be for The Methodist Church.*



## **Harvest**

This year, Wesley's Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 5<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. If you are able to donate, really useful items to donate right now are: tinned tomatoes, instant mash, tinned mixed veg, tinned rice pudding, tinned fruit, 1kg bags of rice, plus strong carrier bags. 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 shelter 7 nights a week to support rough sleepers in Southend. Having opened at the start of March, they have helped 10 people into accommodation and 3 people find jobs. More information on their work can be found at <https://www.offthestreetsessex.org.uk/> - registered charity number 1184331.

## **Greenbelt 2025 - Hope in the Making**

### **For me Greenbelt is HOPE**

#### **Thursday**

An easy journey with Bob and Anne Briant. Greenbelt campers were getting organised, carting their tents etc from their cars to the campsite – a way bit off in the distance We were just getting our wrist bands and programmes - all very easy. Then a bite to eat at the Campsite Hub and of course a cup of tea. Refreshed and already pondering which events to go to for three whole days – onward to the Hotel. Meeting friends in the lobby, totally unplanned, lovely room and then a swim, evening meal and rest.

#### **Friday**

Hotel breakfast – fried bread – thank you, and off to Greenbelt. Talks, worship and workshops had already begun. People wanting to listen, learn, be involved, babies in carts and slings, toddlers running free on the grass, many mobility scooters; O so much freedom for all ages. A community, respectful, calm, safe, smiling in the sunshine all intentionally seeking 'something'

### *What are you seeking?*

My first talk, in the Shelter tent, was with Miranda Threlfall-Holmes exploring the text in Ezekiel 37 and the Valley of the Dry Bones. She began explaining that there were just over 150 comments on HOPE in the Bible but not many on making hope. For this talk she had chosen the phrase ‘our bones are dry, and we are hope less’ For the first 35 chapters of Ezekiel the people are in exile, and their country lies wrecked, everything lacks hope. Ezekiel through vivid visions is challenged by God to speak out about all that they did wrong – to prophesy – a calling out, especially to their leaders, to turn to God. One vision is of the Valley of the Dry bones with the valley referring to Psalm 23. The bones do listen; they stand together like a community having lived through a trauma and are now becoming hopeful. By coming together, telling our stories – sometimes wrestling with them we can become more hopeful.

Miranda then gave us an activity to do. There were probably about a 100 people in the TENT called SHELTER. We were to create a Haiku (a Japanese poem of 3 lines and 17 syllables) In small groups we were to create/choose a first

line of 5 syllables and write it on one 'post it' note, a second line of 7 syllables and put it on a second 'post it' of a different colour and finally the third line of 5 syllables on the third coloured 'post it'. Once done we placed them on the 3 edges of the small, raised stage at the front of the TENT. One of the group then chose another 1 line from the edge of the stage to take back to the group. I offer you 2 examples

*Valley of Dry Bones*

*Put breath in you, you shall live*

*We have a future*

---

*Mortal, can bones live?*

*Thus says the Lord to the bones*

*Join with HOPE we live*

Wonderful, I was back at Greenbelt learning and being involved in Worship.

Next onto Remembrance for Peace with Wild Goose (part of the Iona Community) and CND. A short talk and then over to the gathered group to come up with ideas for

Remembrance services: Poppies – red, white, black and purple; friendship bracelets, world map and candles on areas of conflict and the importance of personal stories. As I am taking the Remembrance Sunday at Wesley this year you may get one or all of these.

Still with Wild Goose a panel of 4 people in their twenties and thirties discussing ‘The Church I never knew I was looking for?’. Their attendance and love of their church was encouraging.

With my brain needing a rest, ‘Grace Notes’ was next. A jazz ensemble offering gentle movement and music to reflect the scriptures - wonderful. Continuing the relaxed mediation theme I took a walk through a labyrinth on the grass.

Getting on for 5pm so to the Tiny Tea Tent. Fill up my flask and survey the eateries – a roast pork burger will do. Sat listening to the ‘Xcerts’ – a little loud and not really my music. Then, a slow walk to the car and back to the hotel.

## Saturday

Back with Miranda Threlfall-Holmes exploring Exodus chapter 5 – bricks made without straw. This needs quite a lot of explanation, so I am going to offer this for the November Clarion. The second half she led us through corporately composing a Psalm – really inclusive – maybe I will try this in a service

In the pagoda tent I sat listening to the actor Adjoa Andoh, best known as *Bridgerton's* Lady Danbury. Adoja is a Christian and has had a very interesting journey into acting. She is a member of the Church of England and here are just a couple of quotes I hope I have got correct: - 'God meets us where we are' and God is better than a fag!' We need to remember that every day is a miracle, and we are all capable of being a light for those around us. So very hopeful

Next to a service by the Magdalene Community Church – a church that is always outside regardless of the weather, with all ages especially young children and families. Glad it was sunny but most of us were in the shade. It was a joy to watch the toddlers and the relaxed manner of the parents.

Leaders' voices had to be loud (with no microphones) so, they were not always clear, but no matter, the message of God's love was clear.

Then a trip to the Tiny Tea Tent followed by a talk by Charlotte Gale about setting up a 'new' church in a former bookshop in Coventry Cathedral, being self-sufficient, inclusive, small and varied. Again, this was encouraging that people were coming to faith in our modern busy world.

Another trip to the Tiny Tea tent for dinner, listening to the wonderful 'The Longest Johns' singing folk sea shanties – a joyous fun time for me – jigging about, clapping and having a feel-good time for about an hour before beginning to think about the hotel and some well-earned sleep.

## **Sunday**

Communion for all, sat at the main stage with about 15,000 people believing and worshipping together in sunshine. The communion is all about inclusivity and this year was no different. We were led by Ezra Solanky – a 10-year-old Greenbelter, and an 82-year-old, Rev Sue Parfitt. She was one of the first women to be ordained as a priest in the

church of England and is possibly about to be charged with terrorism for supporting the banned Palestinian group. Other supportive organizations were Two:23, Symphony Collective and St Columba's Church, Oxford.

We began with a traditional hymn of 'Great is thy faithfulness' and then to a not so well-known John Bell song 'Christ's is the world in which we move' with a lovely refrain:

*To the lost, Christ shows His face*

*To the unloved, He gives His embrace*

*To those who cry in pain or disgrace,*

*Christ, makes, with His friends, a touching place*

After prayers and readings, we were in groups of 10-12 to offer each other communion of bread and wine - Ribena – intergenerational, friends and strangers – silence, peace, joy and fun.

There is always a collection and this year it was 50% to Greenbelt to organise next year and 50% is to go to the relief and restoration projects in Gaza through the charity Christian Aid. Although I did not get to a tent/stage called the 'No Fly Zone', this was where discussions on the Holy



Land took place. An art installation, the 'Gaza Lighthouse' stood shining a light for the Holy Land and the Palestinians throughout the festival.

After the communion I went to a talk by Ruth Harvey at Wild Goose entitled Hope in every Breath. This was very informative and scriptural but in discussion and feedback the most memorable comment was that there is more good than badness inside us and that brings HOPE. This was encouraging us to make as many acts of kindness as we could as this offers others HOPE.

The weekend was coming to an end and I had not even been to the 'Hope and Anchor' – a tent organised by the Methodists. Dropped in, chatted to old friends and then to the bookshop tent. Yes, it is a good resource and of course had to buy some books.

Loaded up I began reluctantly to wander very slowly to the car. Definitely going back next year. *Anyone want to join me?*

God Bless

Jane Fulford

## Thank you



I give a big thank you to everyone who donated towards my walk across London Bridges on 13 September

I was touched by the depth of feeling, and the generosity, of all those who gave and walked.

I enjoyed the day, weather was mostly kind, protesters near Westminster were given a wide berth, and Tower Bridge opened

twice to let through a barge.

All Cancer is horrible, but progress in delaying Pancreatic Cancer is slower than in other cancer research

It is often hard to detect until it is too late.

This was a very worthwhile cause and day

Thanks again

Helen

PS At time of writing I have raised £700



## **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.

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 and Pam

## **PASTORAL NEWS as at 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Both **Janet and John Whiddett** are having further medical tests and are looking forward to feeling better soon.

We are pleased to hear that **Joan Hawkins** has now had her pacemaker fitted and tells me she is “jogging along” with increasing strength. After a cardiac ablation in October she should feel even stronger and be almost back to her old self.

**Maureen Chambers** would like to thank members of the congregation for all their concern and the help she has been offered whilst she has been hobbling around on crutches recently. She is pleased to report that 13<sup>th</sup> October is the date for her hip replacement, which should solve the problem

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers those in our Wesley family who are currently unwell.

Eileen Simmons      Pastoral Co-ordinator

Tel : 01702 472521   email:

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

## **Updates to Alternative Worship**

Thank you for your feedback on alternative worship, provided through the questionnaire and discussions held in August. Having evaluated the comments, so far the following proposals have been agreed by Church Council – others will be discussed in due course.

- Memory Worship, Midweek Communion and Time for Prayer will all be staying the same.
- Inspire will be moving to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month (from October).
- Praise & Play – we will be starting a worship service for under 5s once a quarter.
- Creative Worship will have a name change to Reflective Worship, and will be held once a quarter at an earlier time of 6.30pm.

We will be looking to review these changes next summer.

For details of dates and times for all of these services, please see the leaflets available in the church, porch and concourse.

Thank you.

## **Midweek Communion & Time for Prayer**

Every second Wednesday of the month for the last year we have held a communion at 9.00 am followed by a Time for Prayer at 9.30. We intend to continue this for another year. All are welcome

The dates are for this year, 8th Oct, 12th Nov , 10th Dec

For 2026 the dates are 14th Jan, 11th Feb, 11th March, 8th April, 13th May, 10th June, 8th July.

Hope to see you - God Bless You

## **Prayer at Wesley**

As Christians we pray, and sometimes non-church people ask us to pray for them. At Wesley we have a prayer board in the concourse area and a prayer table in the sanctuary. At both names or situations can be written and will be prayed for.

These invitations to request prayer do not seem to be as used as frequently as they once were. If you have any suggestions as to make them more visible or more available, please do tell me.

The vestry prayer book used in Sunday morning services and occasionally at other times began decades ago when we had a Saturday morning prayer meeting. Anyone who attended the meeting could offer or write names of people who had requested prayer or situations in need of prayer.

When it was suggested that this prayer book be used for the Prayer of Intercessions on Sundays two books emerged. One that remained private for the prayer group and one for all to hear when used on Sunday mornings. It is VERY IMPORTANT that those people in the book know their names will be read out. It is also helpful to know when names can be removed, as the list can simply become too long.

I do write the vestry prayer book, but anyone can offer names to myself or any member can put names or issues into the book providing the individual who is mentioned knows and agrees that they will be publicly prayed for on a Sunday morning.

For private prayer we do offer this after communion on the second Wednesday of the month. I personally am prepared to pray with anyone in our sanctuary, quietly over by the prayer table. If names are on the prayer table (tree/basket) or on the board in the concourse they will be prayed for.

Jane Fulford

**Prayer is so important  
God to enfold you,  
Christ to uphold you,  
Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight,  
so may God grace you,  
heal and embrace you,  
lead you through darkness  
into light. (John L Bell STF 648)**

## **Reflective Worship**

Although our monthly Creative Worship is not taking place anymore, it was suggested we could still offer a reflective worship that focuses on a quiet, more contemplative style of worship.

This type of service will therefore be offered on:

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Wesley between 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 Wesley between 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at Wesley between 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 at Wesley between 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Do hope you can come

God bless

Jane Fulford



## **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.

## **October 2025 Service Dates**

Sunday Oct 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev P Moorhouse  
- Harvest Festival/ Communion Service.

Wednesday Oct 8<sup>th</sup> at 9.00am – Early Morning  
Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For  
Prayer.

Sunday Oct 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am –Preacher: Deacon S  
McDowell.

Sunday Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher – Mrs J A Taylor.

Monday Oct 20<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday Oct 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs D Mayo.

Sunday Oct 26<sup>th</sup> At 5:30pm- Inspire Service – All are  
welcome

## **November 2025 Service Dates**

Sunday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo-  
PVD/ Communion Service.

Sunday Nov 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:45am –Preacher: Mrs J Fulford –  
Remembrance Sunday.

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

Sunday Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr C Turner

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

Sunday Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Fulford

Sunday Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm- Inspire Service – All are  
welcome

Sunday Nov 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am – Preacher: S Mayo – United  
Service.

# Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the Nov 2025 Clarion by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 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 – [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.

