



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

December 2025



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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 home of babies; maybe your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, or 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. And 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. But 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.

And 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 this year.

Revd. Steve Mayo

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Cole Hockett - Congratulations



Cole is studying for a PhD with the University of East London. His research project is entitled 'A Qualitative Study of Autistic Young People through transitional periods from Secondary Education to Further Education and Further Education to Higher Education. He has just passed his first year and is now embarking on his second year of study. Cole is currently looking for Autistic Young People and parents and carers in these situations to help with his research. If you know any young people going through these transitions please contact him on u2111006@uel.ac.uk



Just to say thank you to Judy for sending the Clarion and to our friends at Wesley for Birthday Cards and wishes especially this year as Trevor has been so unwell.

Christmas and New Year Wishes to you all.

Angela and Trevor Dewberry [Hadleigh Methodist Church]



Thank you to Steve Hockett for cutting the grass and removing all the weeds around the church, it makes such a difference.

Pam would like to thank all those who have supported the sale of charity books , which raised £20 that was given to the church.

£20 taken to the hospital shop for Spot light Appeal and £25 give to memory worship for the sale of the knitted



poppies donated by Ann Husselbee.

We also gave this month £30 to out of the loose change boxes to different charities.

Talking Poetry

Wednesdays at 2:30pm



Choose any poem by the given poet or subject:

Wednesday 10th December – Christmas Poem

Please contact Joan Hawkins on email
joanh838@icloud.com for further details

Afternoon Tea & Cakes

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



Christmas Tea & Cakes

December 11th

A big THANK YOU to everyone who came and supported Tea & Cake Afternoon's throughout 2025. Special thanks go to all the many helpers behind the scenes. Putting up tables, laying tables, making refreshments, baking cakes, donating special treats and clearing away afterwards – great team work!



We look forward to seeing you next year and these are the dates for 2026:

- April 30th
- June 25th
- September 24th
- November 26th

The Sanctuary Café is open every Friday and Saturday with delicious cakes and a warm welcome.

We wish you all every happiness and blessing this Christmas.

Janet and Pam.

Looking back to the Remembrance **Poppy Displays**



Thank you to Keith and Viv Threadgold for these photos of The Poppy Display at King's Road URC.





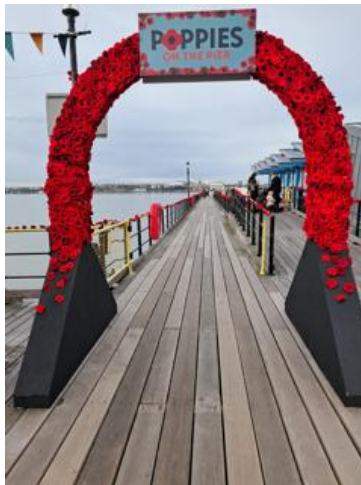
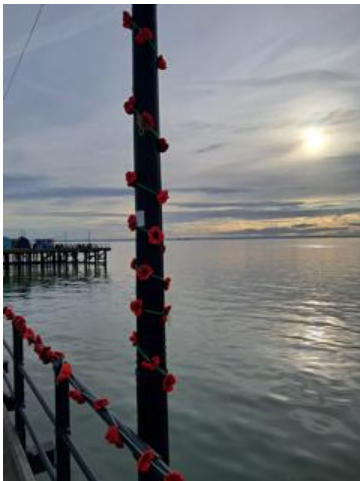
FERN BOUGHTON-SMITH

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.

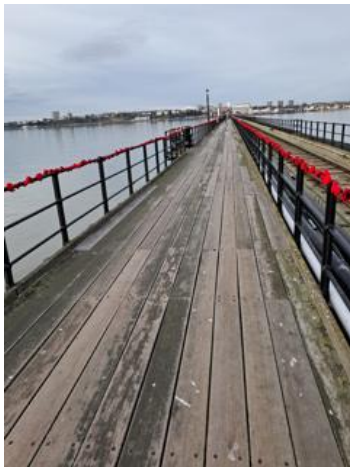
Monday 11:00am – 12:00noon Wesley Hall, Elm Road, Leigh on Sea SS9 1SJ. For further information contact Fern



Fern's fitness would like to wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Fern would welcome newcomers to join the class in January. The first lesson is free so come and try- all ages and abilities are welcome.



Remembrance Poppy Display on the Pier.



Thank you Marjorie and Keith for the photos of 'The Poppies on the Pier'.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Eileen and I wish the Wesley family a very Happy Christmas followed by a Healthy and Prosperous New Year. As in other years we will not be sending cards to individuals, but sending a donation to the Southend Food Bank

Geoff Nash

A Christmas Blessing

May peace and joy this season bring,
With love that warms like early spring.
May family near and friends sincere
Fill your hearts with Christmas cheer.

May happiness light up your way,
Not just for now, but every day.
A blessing sent to all we hold dear -
Merry Christmas and a bright New Year!

PASTORAL NEWS as at 14th November 2025

We are delighted to welcome **Kate Stoneman** and daughter **Ruby** to our Wesley Church family.

This Church family consists of both **Members** and those on the **Community Roll** and Rev. Steve and I make no distinction between them in our work. Some may choose to become Members with all being welcome to make this public commitment. After talking with Rev. Steve, I have had discussions with quite a number of individuals over the past few weeks about becoming members. I deliberately did not ask for an answer but asked each one to consider prayerfully our conversations. For those who wish to take the step of becoming members next year, please talk directly to Rev. Steve or myself, if you want more information.

I was so pleased to hear that **Sanya Strachan** was starting a new venture and here she tells us of how the first **Praise and Play** went:

“We had a great time at our first session, where we thought about baby Jesus being a gift in our lives. We sang, played, prayed and ate yummy cake. We had nine adults, three kiddies, one toddler and two babies with us.

Thank you so much to the amazing volunteers who joined us and to our wonderful Wesley Church community for helping to create such a safe space (and for the yummy cake).

Praise and Play is quarterly, so we are back on Friday 6th. February, 09.15 – 09.45.

If you know any parents, godparents, grandparents, carers, guardians or child minders who would value worship for under-five's in a relaxed and informal environment then please tell them about "Praise and Play".

Quite a few of our Church family have been unwell during November. We keep them in our thoughts and prayers and hope they are making a good recovery.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

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

Christmas Charity Collections

Over the Christmas period, offertories in some of our Christmas services will be for charity. This year, we have chosen to support 1 charity across the services (Christingle, Christmas Eve Holy Communion and Christmas Morning), which will be Southend Foodbank. The foodbank are currently spending around £10,000 a month on food items to cover the shortfall between donations coming in and the need they see in our local community. Thank you for all you are able to give.



CAROL SINGING 2025

Carol Singing this year should be FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER, meeting at Wesley at 6pm.

As explained in the past we no longer knock on doors but once the route is decided I leaflet the street. If I know someone in the street they will Whatsapp families in the street. Any money that is collected we give to Action for Children.

We had a lovely ending to our evening last year as Sharon and Paul Andrews had organized their street and we even had mulled wine.

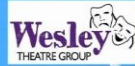
I am happy to organize it again, but we do need more singers and musicians. We also need you to organize your street if close to Wesley.

I need your replies asap so that in the December Clarion I can explain where we may be singing.

God Bless

Jane

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS



FRI 5TH DEC
7.30PM

SAT 6TH DEC
2PM & 6PM

WESLEY HALL
ELM ROAD | LEIGH-ON-SEA

TICKETS: £7
CHILDREN: £5
FAMILY TICKET
(2A & 2C): £20

BOX OFFICE
07813 553080

BY KIND PERMISSION OF
BEN CROCKER PANTOMIMES | BOOKING ESSENTIAL

BUY ONLINE:

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/WESLEY-THEATRE-GROUP



Toy & Gift Service



Sunday 7th December will be our annual Toy and 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, as well as for 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.

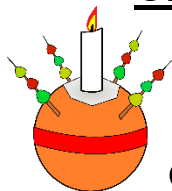
A polite reminder – we do ask that all toys and gifts donated are new and left unwrapped.

Your donations are very much appreciated. Thank you.



Christmas Postbox

The Christmas Postbox 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 postbox in the church sanctuary by Saturday 13th December and leave a donation in the plate provided in lieu of postage, which will be donated to charity. Cards will then be sorted and distributed from Sunday 14th 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.



Christingle

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 21st December. There are lots to make so your help would be much appreciated.

Monthly Communion and Time for Prayer

9am 10th December 2025 at Wesley

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

Reflective Worship

These are the dates for Reflective Worship in 2026

Wednesday 18th February 2026 Wesley between 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Wednesday 27th May 2026 at Wesley between 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd 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.

December 2025 Service Dates

Sunday Dec 7th at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo - Toy and Gift / Communion Service

Wednesday Dec 10th at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday Dec 14th at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs I Wratishlaw – Nativity Service

Monday Dec 15th at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday Dec 21st at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Taylor – Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 24th Dec at 4pm – Preacher: Mrs S Strachan – Christingle Service

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

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

Sunday 28th Dec at 10:30am – US @ Highlands

January 2026 Service Dates

Sunday Jan 4th at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo - Communion Service

Sunday Jan 11th at 11:00am –Preacher: Mrs M Spinks

Monday Jan 12th at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Wednesday Jan 14th at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday Jan 18th at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr M Fogg

Sunday Jan 25th at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Fulford.

Sunday Jan 25th at 5:30pm – Creative Worship – Inspire – All are welcome.

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the Jan 2026 Clarion by **Friday 19th December 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

**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.

