

FEBRUARY

THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

February 2026



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MINISTER'S LETTER



At this time of year, for some of us, the deadline for self-assessment tax has come, and gone! Whilst on the Martin Lewis website, [MoneySavingExpert.com] I noticed an article about what HMRC says are some of the most bizarre excuses for late tax returns that they have received over the past decade.

They are:

1. I was up a mountain in Wales, and could not find a post box or get an internet signal.
2. My dog ate my post. (again)
3. My hamster ate my post.
4. I've been cruising round the world in my yacht, and only pick up the post when I'm on dry land.
5. My mother-in-law is a witch and put a curse on me.

We are assured in the article that none of these excuses were upheld by HMRC as legitimate!

But what excuses do we sometimes make when it comes to what we should be doing for Jesus?

✚ How often we read our Bibles?

- ✚ How often we pray?
- ✚ How often we serve Jesus?
- ✚ How often we show God's love to others?

But making excuses is no new thing! Many biblical characters made excuses when it came to serving God. Moses is a fine example.

His excuses were;

- ✚ Doubts about his ability to lead.
- ✚ His thoughts of unworthiness.
- ✚ His presumed lack of authority.
- ✚ His fear of what people would say
- ✚ and his physical weakness.

But in the end Moses allowed God to use him, he came through for God, but *more* importantly, God came through for Moses.

I wonder what God could do through *us* this year if we would only allow Him?

John 12:26 says; *'If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honour and reward anyone who serves me.'* [The Message]

May we all pray verse 4 of hymn 353 from Hymns and Psalms:

*Master, speak: and make me ready,
When thy voice is truly heard,*

*With obedience glad and steady
Still to follow every word.
I am listening, Lord, for thee;
Master, speak! O speak to me!*

Every blessing,

Revd. Steve

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Flower fund request



As you are probably aware, we have been using artificial flowers for the church displays for quite a few years now and they have worked very well however some of them are needing to be replaced.

If anyone would like to donate any money towards the flower fund in order to do this I would be very grateful.
Please let either myself or Marjorie know.
Thank you



Thanking Margaret Buckey for her kind contribution towards to cost of printing the Clarion every month.

Save the Date:

Saturday April 11th 2026 10 am – 2pm
Craft Sale in aid of Christian Hope
International



Thank you to all those who came
Carol Singing on Friday 19th
December 2025.

We raised £75.08p 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 probably
on Friday 18th December 2026. Please book the date and
please venture a discussion with me about how we can
have even more of an impact.

Thank you again.

Jane

Talking Poetry

Wednesdays at 2:30pm



Choose any poem by the given poet or
subject

Wednesday 11th February 2026 – Richard Wilbur

Wednesday 25th February 2026 – Shel Silverstein

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

PASTORAL NEWS as at 16th January 2026

Mike Bucke is our oldest member of Wesley Church, He is much loved and respected. Recently we were delivering his CLARION and his daughter Sarah invited me in to see him. He was delighted to see me and that day looked so well – I had been visiting him monthly, but he had not been well enough to see me since the Autumn. We wish him HAPPY BIRTHDAY for 12th February

We hope that **Joy Milner** had a lovely 90th birthday on 24th January.

Lots of our Church Family have had coughs, colds and seasonal ailments. We wish them all better.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

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

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES 2025

Our Treasurer, Tina Gowers has kindly provided me with the following details:

Our Christmas carollers raised **£ 74.48** for Action for Children.

The total going to the Southend Foodbank was **£ 627.07** made up of the following:

Post Box: £ 30.50

Donation: £ 15.00

Christmas Day Collection: £ 144.12

Christmas Eve Service: £ 80.40

Christingle: £ 357.05

Thank you for your generosity.

Eileen Simmons.

Charity Giving News

I have given £20 this month to the hospital shop for Spotlight and £20 for sale of books to the Church.

Also could I ask if anybody has any pink bags or food bags? I would like to have them for the Church as we are back to bags again. Collection is a Tuesday.

Thank you Pam BS.

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.

We look forward to seeing you in 2026 on the following dates:

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

Janet and Pam.



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

Monthly Communion and Time for Prayer: 9am 11th Feb 2026 at Wesley

For 2026 the remaining planned dates are 11th March, 8th April, 13th May, 10th June, and 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.

February 2026 Service Dates

Sunday Feb 1st at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr P Saunders

Sunday Feb 8th at 11:00am –Preacher: Mrs S Strachan

Wednesday Feb 11that 9.00am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday Feb 15th at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo – Covenant Service including Communion.

Monday Feb 16th at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Wednesday 18th Feb at 6:30pm – Reflective Worship.

Sunday Feb 22nd at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Taylor.

Sunday Feb 22nd at 5:30pm – Creative Worship – Inspire – All are welcome.

March 2026 Service Dates

Wednesday March 11th at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Monday March 16th at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday March 22nd at 5:30pm – Creative Worship – Inspire – All are welcome.

**SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE
INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILBLE AT
THE TIME OF PRINTING.**

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the March 2026 Clarion by **Friday 20th February 2026**

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.

