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THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

March 2026



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MINISTER'S LETTER



As we step into March, we find ourselves journeying through the season of Lent; a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. The longer days and early signs of spring remind us that God is always at work bringing new life out of what can seem barren and still.

Lent invites us to walk with Jesus toward the cross. In Luke's Gospel, we are reminded of Jesus' steadfast determination as he '*set his face toward Jerusalem*' (Luke 9:51). His journey was not one of ease, but of obedience and love. In our own lives, we too are called to faithfulness, in prayer, in service, and in acts of compassion.

The Methodist tradition has always emphasized practical discipleship. John Wesley encouraged early Methodists to practice works of piety (prayer, fasting, reading of the Bible) and works of mercy (feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, standing with the poor). Lent is a meaningful opportunity to renew both.

March also brings Mothering Sunday, a day when we give thanks for the love and nurture we have received from our mothers, from those who have cared for us, and from the church family that we are part of. It can be a joyful day, but also a tender one. Let us hold one another gently in prayer. As we move closer to Holy Week and Easter, may we allow God to search our hearts and renew our spirits.

The promise before us is not only the cross, but the empty tomb. Even in seasons of uncertainty, we are people of resurrection hope.

Every blessing,

Revd Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

SOUTHEND FOODBANK.

We have received a CERTIFICATE of THANKS from Southend Foodbank in recognition of our gift of £632 07 from our Christmas collections and telling us that over the last year we gave

287.68 kilos of food.

Many thanks for your kindness.

Eileen Simmons.

SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES IN 2026

Saturday 11TH. April: Craft Table Sale to raise funds for Christian Hope International.

Tuesday 26th. May: Pastoral Visitors Meeting at 11am.

Weekend of 5th.-7th. June: Church Anniversary Weekend. Rev Steve will be in the Sanctuary Café/ (Vestry if privacy is needed) to receive GIFTS for Wesley on Friday 5th. June. The Church Anniversary and General Church Meeting takes place on Sunday 7th. June.

Sunday 16th. August: Rev. Steve's Farewell Service.

Talking Poetry



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject

Wednesday 11th March – Juan Ramon Jimenez translated by Robert Bly.

Wednesday 25th March 2026 – Noel Coward.

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

Afternoon Tea & Cakes



Tea & Cake Afternoons are held 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

PASTORAL NEWS as at 20th. February 2026

Maureen Hall, who used to be a member at Wesley has recently died. The Funeral arrangements are as follows:

11am. Thursday 5th. March at Old park Meadow Natural Burial Ground, Coppice Lane, North End, Dunmow CM6 3PL. If you intend to attend (numbers needed for catering) or watch the service on zoom, then please contact me for further details.

Information please: Would you please kindly send me any information you have about our Church Family. Sometimes individuals assume that I know when I do not. We all have a responsibility to care for each other, but if I know then I can send a card/email/make a phone call/arrange a visit as well as your action.

Some of our family prefer their privacy, which we respect, and do not want a Clarion entry so please include in your prayers any one currently suffering.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

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

WESLEY METHODIST LEADERSHIP TEAM : February 2026

Rev. Steve Mayo chairs our Leadership Team meetings.

Two new members were elected and welcomed to the Leadership Team during the Church Council meeting held on 11th. February 2026:

Rupert Bertie

Gaye Greenway

Ian Lowe

Eileen Simmons

Judy Taylor

Anna Wratishaw

Isobel Wratishaw

Southend Band

Southend Band 'Brilliant Brass' an evening of melodious music on Saturday March 14th at 7pm. Entry to this event is **free**, please register by:

Phone : 01702-5526668

Email: info@southendband.com

Online: buytickets.at/The Southend Band/2067589

Pictures from Fusion Youth Club



Pictures of youth club members showing their creative side, with the help of Steve Hockett.



Wholehearted Monthly

Wholehearted is organised by the Methodist church each month and I attended in February. It is usually the second Tuesday evening of each month on zoom. In February the Oxford economist and bestselling author, Kate Raworth was the guest speaker. It is a different person each month

Kate is the author of *Doughnut Economics*: the 'doughnut' is her creative metaphor for a world economy that gives everyone what they need to survive and flourish, while resisting the greed that destroys the planet.



After the interview with Kate, we were offered five breakout spaces where we could explore what her ideas might look like in practice for us:

- **Africa: My home. My future.** Agnes and Kunashe will be discussing their time at the All African Youth Congress with Nigel Cowgill, Global

Communities Officer. What might this theme mean for the church in Africa and here in Britain, and how might we live out our faith and discipleship in cross-cultural contexts?

- **Doughnut Evangelism?** Is the model of shortfalls and overshoots, foundations and ceilings a useful one for our approach to faith-sharing? We'll explore together what a safe zone of inclusive, non-coercive, but still intentional evangelism might look like.
- **The Justice Seekers' Lounge:** Building a just economy with All We Can and the Joint Public Issues Team.
- **More than helping: Confronting injustice through a discipling church.** How might churches seek justice in a way that promotes their spiritual, missional and numerical growth?
- **Pioneering amongst people and communities struggling financially.** The new churches team ask how we might discover church at the economic margins.

I attended the breakout room entitled **Doughnut Evangelism?** It was interesting because instead of talking about 'growth' in numbers in an economic sense we began to talk about communities and allowing new people to flourish and evolve at their own spiritual pace

towards encountering and knowing God. We need to want to evangelise and we need to be patient.

Not sure what the topic is in March but will let you know through the weekly Newssheet. The link is the same each month so please do join using [this link](#)

[All-in-one virtual event platform | Zoom Webinars & Events](#)

NEWS FROM PAM.

We have given £20 to the Church this month from the books The other item of news is about a dog walk the 'Fern fitness ladies' are taking part in.



This is a Dog World Walk on the 6th of April Bank Holiday Monday, from the White shelter on the seafront to adventure Island and back which is a 5K we will be walking with our dogs Rags, Piper and Bella.

Open Garden on Saturday 13th June 2026

AT

59 Briarwood Drive,

Leigh-on-Sea

Essex SS9 4LB

2pm-4:30pm



Refreshments and Cakes

Donations for Wesley Methodist Church.

Hoping the sun will shine.

Janet and John Whiddett

Monthly Communion and Time for Prayer

The date for March is Wednesday 11th at Wesley - 9am with Norman Hooks

For 2026 the dates are 8th April 13th May 10th June, and 8th July.

Hope to see you there

God Bless You

Reflective Worship

These are the dates for Reflective Worship in 2026

**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.

March 2026 Service Dates

Sunday March 1st at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo-
Communion Service.

Sunday March 8th at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs D Mayo.

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

Sunday [Mothering Sunday] March 15th at 11:00am –
Preacher – Mrs J Fulford.

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

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

Sunday March 22nd at 11:00am – Preacher: D. Spinks.

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

Sunday March 29th at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo-
United Service.

April 2026 Service Dates

Maundy Thursday 2nd of April at 5:30pm - United Service at The Fisherman's Chapel.

Good Friday 3rd of April at 10:30am – United Service with be led by Rev Steve Mayo at Wesley.

Easter Sunday 5th April at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev Steve Mayo – Communion Service.

Easter Sunday 5th April at 6:30pm – Circuit Service at Belfairs.

Wednesday 8th April at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday 12th April at 11:00am – Preacher – Mrs A Briant.

Monday 20th April at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 19th April at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr M Fogg

Sunday 26th April at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Taylor.

Sunday 26th April at 5:30pm – Creative Worship – Inspire – All are welcome.

Forty Days (*English Sonnet*)

The barren path winds through the desert air,
where silence weighs like stone upon the chest;
each step a stripping down, a naked prayer,
each breath a plea for mercy, peace, and rest.
The tempter's voice is sweet as ripened grain,
yet bitter as the ash upon my head;
I walk through hunger, thirst, and hidden pain,
to find the place where all my pride has bled.
And there, within the hollow of my need,
a seed is sown by hands I cannot see;
it waits in darkness, watered by my creed,
to break the soil and set the captive free.
So Lent becomes not loss, but tender birth—
a dying that remakes the wounded earth.

Editor's information

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

