



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

April 2026



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MINISTER'S LETTER



Easter, that wonderful time of the year when we can remember the sacrifice of Jesus for each of us, and celebrate our risen Saviour all in the same weekend!

I remember a few years back in one of my previous churches, having an Easter egg hunt in the service for the children.

Before the service, and before people arrived, some of the Sunday school teachers hid foil wrapped mini chocolate eggs around the church. When it came to the part of the service where the children took part in the hunt, there was much fun and laughter as the one by one the eggs were found. The service then continued.

Some 3 years or so later, the church was having a spring clean and we used scaffold to reach the high parts of the church to dust etc. Upon looking down at the church, I

noticed quite high up, something shiny on top of one of the pillars, and you've guessed it, it was an Easter egg never found from the Easter egg hunt all those years before. Strangely though, nobody fancied eating it!!!

But this made me think.

How often have we been given the gift of Jesus at Easter and never unwrapped Him?

How many Easter services have we attended and never tasted the glorious riches He has for each of us because we've never unwrapped Him, or maybe never even found Him?

So, what is this gift?

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.'

[John 3:16-17 NIV]

The gift then, is eternal life!

And unlike Easter eggs, the gift of Jesus never goes out of date or perishes; the gift of Jesus lasts forever.

May each one of us unwrap Jesus this Easter and fully experience His love and grace.

Easter blessings,

Revd Steve

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

01702483827

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES IN 2026

Saturday 11TH. April: Craft Table Sale to raise funds for Christian Hope International. Please come along and support.

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 8th April 2026– Dorothy Parker

Wednesday 22nd April 2026 – Gillian Clarke

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



Dear all, Janice and myself would like to thank all members of the Wesley Church Family for the many messages and words of condolences, sympathies and expressions of support including the many cards and flowers we received following the passing of her mother, Margaret, on the 19th February. It has been truly comforting and extremely heart-warming to see just how caring our Wesley Family are at such sad and upsetting times.
Rubert Bertie

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 Wratislaw

Isobel Wratislaw

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.

Sponsorship form is available in the Sanctuary Cafe

From Pam.

Inspire Service

Sunday 26th April 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Inspire is our monthly informal evening service and this month I have invited Matt Bunkall, the Highlands enabler to attend. He is a musician and song writer. I will ask him a few questions about his life as a Christian and he will sing and get us to sing during the service.

At the beginning we have tea and coffee and by about 5.45pm we begin our service.

Hope to see you there.

God bless

Jane Fulford

Pastoral News at 18th March 2026

We congratulate **Keith Charnock** who celebrated his 90th birthday recently. As is our tradition he has been presented With a small hand held wooden cross.

We are sorry to record the death of **Alan Farfort**. A condolence card has been sent to Jenny, his daughter, from all of us.

We are also sad to report the death of **Geoff Hart** on March 17th, one of our long standing members.

Please continue to pray for those in our church family who are ill at this time.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

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



I would like to say a sincere thank you for all the many cards and best wishes I have received on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Also the beautiful wooden cross presented to me by Eileen on behalf of our Wesley Church Family. Your kindness, friendship and love are so important to me.

Every Blessing
Keith Charnock.

6 monthly report of Finances Wesley Methodist Church

Some people have been asking about the state of the church finances and, whilst the balances often look healthy, with increasing costs and maintenance, our funds are declining year on year.

I have attached the 6 monthly report and Alan will provide you of some upcoming costs.

The funds in the “Associations” group are funds that belong to organisations within the church but go through the main church account. We don’t touch these funds but, should the organisation close, the funds become general church funds. We also ask the organisations to regularly look at their finances, and offer a donation towards church funds, especially as they do not pay any hire fees.

The “Charities” group is purely for income raised for other charities i.e. foodbank donations, Christian Aid, Action for Children etc. These funds are reported separately, from church funds, on our end of year accounts.

All other funds are general church funds however, for ease, I separate them into Circuit, General and Property.

“Circuit” group is for offertory, giving and gift aid on this regular giving and, hopefully, covers our Circuit assessment. Unfortunately, it never does and Wesley has to rely on income from other sources, mainly lettings, to cover the assessment. About half the church in our circuit

have to rely on lettings income to pay their assessment so Wesley is not alone in this.

“Property” relates to anything property i.e. repairs and maintenance, cleaning, utility bills etc. and is broken down so you can see the costs incurred for each. I always think it’s nice if the lettings income covers the expenditure but, as you can see, this isn’t the case. Not only does the income from lettings not cover the expenditure but as seen above, we also need it to pay for the circuit assessment. Our hire costs have to remain competitive with the surrounding area, and we do regularly review the fees, and increase where necessary.

The “General” group is basically anything that doesn’t fall into the other categories. Income from the Sanctuary Café, goes into general church use at the end of the year. General church funds also go towards property expenses or circuit assessment if needed.

Thankfully, Wesley does have some reserves in our CFB account. Some of the money shown belongs to some of the organisations which means there is currently only £51K to use. Some of you may say “ONLY” £51K but, if you look at our current deficit, it’s at -£11,500 and there are still essential repairs and maintenance to be done so £51K will not last very long. Every church should keep a reserve of either one year’s assessment or 6 months expenditure. This is in the event of mid-year closure where we still have to pay for the assessment and utility bills etc. Our

assessment for 2026/27 will be £45,834 and 6 months expenditure currently stands at £63,608.

So, as you can see, we really don't have any spare funds and are in need of increased income to cover our outgoings.

Tina Gowers, Church Treasurer.

NB: Additional sheet in clarion relating to this item.

Dear Wesley family,

I am inviting us all to review our church giving. This is a very sensitive topic as all our financial circumstances are different. However, we need to realise that our buildings are very old and expensive to maintain and need constant repair to upkeep safely. We never want to be too dependent on our lettings. As you will see from the March CLARION, there is a short list of significant dates. This includes our Church Anniversary and gift weekend, June 5th to 7th.

Some of you might want to take this opportunity to give. Others may wish to consider, prayerfully, an increase in weekly or monthly giving. Of course some of you may not be in a position to increase your giving. We maintain total privacy in such matters. I simply invite you to consider this question.

Many Blessings,
Eileen Simmons.

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

FROM PAM

I have been able to give another £20 to the hospital shop for the spotlight appeal. Thank you to Ann Husselbee's for knitting the toys for Easter week. Ann has knitted rabbits with a little Easter egg. I will be selling them the week of Easter.

Pam Boughton Smith.

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

Wholeness and Wellbeing Services

These services are held at Benfleet Methodist Church on

Wednesday 22nd April at 7.45 – 8.45pm

Wednesday 24th June at 7.45 - 8.45pm

They are usually quite reflective services.

I take or attend these services and do have spare seats in my car

If you would like to attend, I can take you.

Hope to see you there

God bless

Jane

Monthly Communion and Time for Prayer

The date for April is Wednesday 8th April at 9am

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

Hope to see you there

God Bless You

Jane

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.

April 2026 Service Dates

Maundy Thursday 2nd of April at 7:30pm - 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.

May 2026 Service Dates

Sunday 3rd May at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev Steve Mayo
– Communion Service.

Sunday 10th May at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr C Turner

Wednesday 13th May at 9.00am – Early Morning
Communion Service followed at 9:30am by Time For
Prayer.

Sunday 17th May at 11:00am – Preacher – Mrs I Wratistlaw

Monday 18th May at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 24th May at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs S Strachan

Sunday 24th May at 5:30pm – Creative Worship – Inspire –
All are welcome.

Sunday 31st May at 11:00am – United Service at The
Fishermen's Chapel.

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the May 2026 Clarion by **Friday 17th April 2026**

If you would like to contribute towards the cost of The Clarion, there will be a plate out during the Sanctuary Cafe 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.

