



# THE CLARION

**Wesley Methodist Church**

**May 2026**



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## MINISTER'S LETTER



I often meet people who don't feel that they have anything to offer the church in way of gifts and talents; disheartened people who have very little hope and positivity about their role within God's church. I think its probably human nature to look at others and wish we had their gifts or talents. But God has made us all individuals, all different, all for a purpose and necessary for the smooth working of the church. We are all important cogs in the workings of the church.

1 Corinthians 12:14-22 tells us; <sup>14</sup> *Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part.* <sup>15</sup> *If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body.* <sup>16</sup> *And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body?* <sup>17</sup> *If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything?*

*18 But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. 19 How strange a body would be if it had only one part! 20 Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21 The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." 22 In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.'* [NLT]

So, if you're feeling that you don't have a role or don't seem to fit in anywhere in church, then think again. YOU are important to God and to the smooth working of His church. You are a cog! Vital and important.

Take strength and encouragement from the reading above from 1 Corinthians, and find where you fit in your church. If you're struggling to find that place, then please feel free to contact me and we can have a conversation.

Every blessings,

**Revd. Steve**

[revdstevemayo@gmail.com](mailto:revdstevemayo@gmail.com)

01702 483827

## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

### **SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES IN 2026**

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

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>. August:** Rev. Steve's Farewell Service.

### **Working Party**

We are hoping to get a group of people together for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning, to work on some projects around the church e.g. cupboard sorting, clearing out the weeds from the sideway and car park etc. There will also be some 'sitting down' jobs.

The suggested date is Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May, starting around 9.30a.m. Please see either Gabrielle Greenway or Isobel Wratishlaw if you can volunteer some time in whatever capacity. Thank you.

## **Southend Foodbank Stats Jan-Dec 2025**

Figures released by Southend Foodbank in March have revealed that 17,088 emergency food parcels were provided to people facing hardship across Southend City and Rochford throughout 2025, with over 6000 of these going to children. The foodbank received 7224 referrals and £82,923 was spent buying food.

The foodbank saw a slight reduction in the number of emergency food parcels distributed compared to the previous year, but the figures are still double what they were 4 years ago in 2021. The cost of living crisis is still affecting people who struggle to afford essentials.

If you are able to give, Wesley has donation baskets for the foodbank at the back of the church sanctuary. Thank you.

## **Talking Poetry**



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026– Louis MacNeice

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – Benjamin Zephaniah

Please contact Joan Hawkins on email

[joanh838@icloud.com](mailto: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:

- June 25<sup>th</sup>
- September 24<sup>th</sup>
- November 26<sup>th</sup>

Janet and Pam.

**A huge Thank you** to everyone who donated to the Easter flower collection.



Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated.

Thank you Annette

## **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.



## **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

**Thank you** to everyone who sponsored us for doing the 5k dog walk on line and in cash. We raised just over £500 for Christian Hope International, it was a lovely day and we all enjoyed the walk. Rags had a well-earned lunch and rest when he got home. Also a big thank you to all the walkers.

Pam Boughton Smith



**Open Garden on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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

## **PASTORAL NEWS as at 17<sup>th</sup>. April 2026**

In June **Joan Hawkins** will have been a member at Wesley for seventy years. She is grateful for all the care shown to her by the Wesley Family throughout all that time. When Geoff and I joined Wesley twelve years ago, Joan and Geoff were among the many people who welcomed us so warmly and supported us in settling in.

**Welcome Duty: Linda Lister** makes up the rota for individuals willing to Welcome people coming into the church for services and giving out the Weekly Notice sheets. Currently she has too few people on her list. Do please kindly consider whether you could do this important task. The more people she has available the less frequently you would be needed. If you do not know Linda please ask me to introduce you.

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

**WESLEY METHODIST LEADERSHIP TEAM :**  
**February 2026**

Rupert Bertie

Gaye Greenway

Ian Lowe

Eileen Simmons

Judy Taylor

Anna Wratishaw

Isobel Wratishaw

**Monthly Communion and Time for**  
**Prayer :9am 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at Wesley**

**The date for May is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 9am**

For 2026 the dates are 10th June, and 8th July and no meeting in August

Hope to see you there

God Bless You

## **Wholeness and Wellbeing Services**

These services are held at Benfleet Methodist Church on

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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

## **Reflective Worship**

These are the dates for Reflective Worship in 2026

**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.

## **May 2026 Service Dates**

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

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr C Turner

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

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 11:00am – Preacher – Mrs I Wratishaw

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs S Strachan

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

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

**June 2026 Service Dates were not  
available at the time of printing.**

# Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the June 2026 Clarion by **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 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](mailto:juditht60@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.

