



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

July and August 2026



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Wesley Methodist Church - 76 Elm Road, Leigh on Sea,
Essex, SS9 1SJ **Charity Number:** 1130293

Minister in Charge: Revd Stephen Mayo

Tel: 01702 483827

Email: revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Fusion Link: Judy Taylor

Tel: 07504 492470

Email: judy@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Lettings: Alan Severne: Tel 01702 711851

lettings@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Church Council Secretary: Judy Taylor

Tel: 07504 492470

judy@wesleymethodist.org.uk

The Notices: Sue Hockett

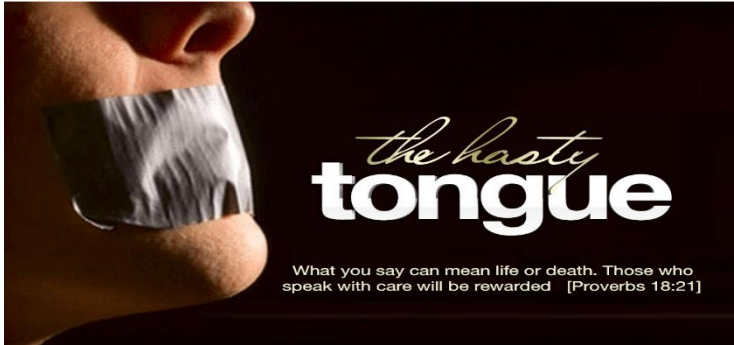
sue.hockettt@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tina Gowers

Tel 07713 179111

tinagowers@sky.com

MINISTER'S LETTER



I have been reminded recently about the power of the tongue. James says in his book, in chapter 3:3-6; ³ *When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.* ⁴ *Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.* ⁵ *Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.* ⁶ *The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.* [NIVUK]

Our tongues can cause a huge amount of damage not only those we come into contact with, but also to the wider church. Small negative, derogative comments can cause huge pain and division even though the tongue is one of the

smallest parts of the body. James refers to the tongue as a ship's rudder or a horse's bit, able to affect a much larger object.

This portion of scripture is usually used to warn us about the damage our tongues can have when we use them unwisely. But what if we were to flip the coin, so to speak, and consider the massive amount of good that can also be achieved with the tongue.

Passing on positivity to others not only benefits them, but also gives us a sense of fulfilment and well-being.

Stopping for a moment when we are about to respond to someone, and the considering the consequences, may enable us to build others and the church up, rather than demolishing!

"Pick your words carefully as it has the power to make the sentence beautiful or ugly....." [Adil Adam Memon]

May God give each of us the wisdom and strength to control our tongues when necessary.

Every blessings,

Revd. Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

FROM THE PEWS

SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES IN 2026

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

Talking Poetry



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

There is no meeting of Talking Poetry in July and August

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:

- September 24th
- November 26th

Janet and Pam.

**Thank
You**

Last month I was able to give £20 to the hospital shop today from the sale of key rings.
Pam Boughton Smith.



A big thank to Janet and John Whiddet for their Open Gardens. It was a great afternoon and all the money raised will go to the church. From all your friends at Wesley.



Church Council would like to thank Sandra Singer for her very kind gift to Wesley in memory of Geoff Hart of a mirror for the car park to access with parking. Everyone who uses the car park will be grateful for the added view when entering our car park.

CLIMATE CHANGE !!!!!

You can make a significant impact on climate change by adopting sustainable practices, advocating for systemic change, and making informed choices in your daily life.

Reduce Energy Consumption: Switch to energy-efficient appliances, use LED light bulbs, and unplug devices when not in use. Consider using a programmable thermostat to optimise heating and cooling.



Ferns Fitness will be taking a break this summer from the 24th of August and will restart our classes on the 5th of October when we welcome new members she is running the Sydney Marathon and we go to Australia to do some pre-training and on the way back to visit her brother in Tokyo who works for Disney so happy travels and we all can't wait to get back to your lovely training and keeping us fit again

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Wesley Methodist Church has supported this Methodist charity for many years. Jane Fulford and the Carol Singers have donated their collections and each year we have an annual collection.

Their theme for this year is **'Everyone's Welcome'**. This refers to the wider family of God and in particular AFC's focus on Foster Care, which is where Action for Children began over 150 years ago. The charity provides collection envelopes which allow us to register for Gift Aid. Please complete the form if you do pay income tax.

Envelopes are available on 19th. July and donations may be made until 16th. August. Eileen Simmons AFC Organiser



Open Garden 13.6.26

Thank you to everyone who helped in so many different ways to make the open garden afternoon a happy event. After a week of high winds, heavy rain, thunder and lightening and hail it was a gloriously sunny day. We raised £275.10 for Wesley Methodist Church Funds.

Well done All

Janet Whiddett.

Rooted in Grace by Dianne Mason published in the “Amethyst Review”

A simple seed, a patch of earth

A little rain a lot of sun,

The gardener’s labor is begun.

We tend the soil, and prune and weed

With patience taught by changing Spring

And watch the blossoms rise and bloom

To hear the joyous robins sing.

But roots go deep and branches reach
Far past the borders of the yard.
And every flower raised with love
Is something wonderful to share.

Today we open up our gates
To welcome neighbours friends and kin
With gratitude for gifts of grace
And quiet joy that dwells within.

For every leaf and petal here
Is evidence of grace above
And every contribution made
Grows in the garden of his love.

So wander through the vibrant beds
And breathe the quiet peaceful air
Your presence helps our Church to thrive
A blooming harvest we can share.

Where does our money Go?

How many times have we asked ourselves this question?

Whilst I can produce church figures on a regular basis, there often isn't any context to the figures.

In 2022/23 our utility bills, for the whole year, was £15,490. But, when our lovely low fixed price contracts expired, we caught up with the rest of the country with high energy bills. This current year is estimated at over £28,397 – almost double in just 3 years!

Other increases have been relatively small in comparison - £3,000 on the circuit assessment, £1200 on insurance, and the church has only carried out essential repairs and maintenance to keep us open and available to outside hirers.

Meanwhile, our regular income appears stagnated. Like the expenses, income has increased slightly in some areas i.e. Café and Lettings (pre-school back this year) however, whilst our offertory figures have fluctuated over the past 3 years, they remain around £25,000.

This may sound a lot but, when the annual assessment is £45,834 next year, and utilities will still be around £28,500 (assuming we don't have a very cold winter) plus all other, normal expenditure, we can't help but run at a deficit.

Last year, we had a deficit of £22,000 and this year is predicted around the same. With only £48,000 in unrestricted reserves (£9K of which was set aside for new innovations), Leigh Wesley could run out of money by the end of December 2028!!!

Scary!

What is the solution?

Raising income and reducing expenditure is obvious but, unfortunately, we cannot always control these. Everyone is feeling the pinch, no one has much money, everything is going up in price. We cannot raise hire prices too much as we will lose the hirers we have (our main source of income), all costs must remain competitive, even in the Café. We can't reduce utility costs unless you want to bring a thick coat and a hot water bottle to church and, if the roof leaks or the boiler breaks, they need to be fixed.

There are many volunteers within Wesley, who give their time and labour to fund raise i.e. Lunches, Afternoon Teas, Book stall, running the Café, running organisations who contribute to church funds etc and all these people are truly appreciated. However, Wesley still needs cash to make ends meet and none of us seem to have anymore to give.

We thank those who can give monetary donations, whether it be on a regular basis or only at the annual Gift

Month drive and I know that, if you had it, you would give more.

To help understand where church money goes, I have tried to separate out our main sources of expenditure and income. Whilst I can produce church figures on a regular basis, they often have no context as items are lumped together.

Hopefully, these figures will show you that, most of our expenditure, is unavoidable.

Wesley Methodist Church

Expenditure	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
	3	4	5
Phone & Broadband	£705	£844	£1,156
Gas	£6,770	£8,428	£19,978
Electric	£6,175	£6,915	£6,819
Water	£1,840	£2,100	£541
Insurance	£5,064	£5,910	£6,069
Communications	£290	£286	£616
Salaries / Payroll	£19,452	£20,868	£22,441
Assessment	£42,830	£42,307	£45,123
Cleaning supplies	£1,993	£1,688	£1,855

Repairs & Maintenance

Damp course	£2,151		
Electrics	£4,014		
Organ & Piano tuner	£507	£523	£360
Lift	£3,999	£1,659	£2,304
Roofing	£840		
Water heaters	£1,769	£744	
Fire Safety		£767	
Boiler Service	£816	£816	£816
Re-Decoration			£3,190
Glass doors			£216
Total	£99,214	£93,855	£111,484

Other Expenditure

inc Charities, Organisations, Café, smaller expenses	£10,554	£8,712	£8,176
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Total Expenditure	£109,768	£102,567	£119,660
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PASTORAL NEWS as at 19.6.26

I went to see **Pam Metcalf** on Friday 12th. June. She was having end of life care and daughter Kate, phoned me on 15th. June to tell me she had died that morning. Pam's last words to me were: "See you in heaven Eileen". May she rest in peace.

I once said Pastoral Care covered every aspect of life. We shall learn further details of funds raised for Wesley Church, but I would like to give massive thanks to **Janet and John Whiddett** for their wonderful Open Garden on Saturday 13th, June. Thanks also to the team of helpers. It was a joyous occasion.

I have spoken to Ann Thompson, **Mike Bucke's** daughter, this morning (Friday 19th. June). Mike has been having end of life care for a few weeks now and improves a little and then becomes worse again. The family are being well supported by Havens' Hospice and the NHS.

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

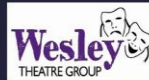
Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

Tel : 01702 472521

email: eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com



WESLEY THEATRE GROUP
PRESENTS



MURDER ON THE OVERNIGHT EXPRESS

A Murder Mystery by Patricia Gay

SAT 18TH JULY

6.30PM

TICKETS: £10



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BY KIND PERMISSION OF LAZY BEE SCRIPTS

Monthly Communion and Time for Prayer

9am 8 July 2026 at Wesley

There is no Communion in August

Please check the September Clarion or the weekly newsheet for September. All being well it should be 9th September but please do check.

Hope to see you there

God Bless

WESLEY METHODIST LEADERSHIP TEAM : February 2026

Rupert Bertie

Gaye Greenway

Ian Lowe

Eileen Simmons

Judy Taylor

Anna Wratislaw

Isobel Wratislaw

Reflective Worship

The date for Reflective Worship is **Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at Wesley between 6.30pm and 7.30pm**

Do hope you can come

God bless

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.

July 2026 Service Dates

Sunday 5th July at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr M Fogg.

Wednesday 8th July at 9.00am – Early Morning
Communion

Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday 12th July at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr A McDowall.

Sunday 19th July at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo.

Communion will be part of this service.

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

Sunday 26th July at 10:30am – United Service at
Highlands

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

August 2026 Service Dates

Sunday 2nd August at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr B Briant.

Wednesday 8th July at 9.00am – Early Morning
Communion

Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday 9th August at 11:00am – Preacher: Miss D Spinks.

Sunday 16th August at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo.

Communion will be part of this service.

Monday 17th August at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory
Worship.

Sunday 23rd August at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Taylor.

There will be no Creative Worship [Inspire] in August.

Sunday 30th. August, 11am- United Service at Belfairs
with Rev. S. Mayo.

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the Sept 2026 Clarion by **Friday 21st August 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.

