



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

June 2026



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MINISTER'S LETTER



Our Potential to Become Nuts!

As I've walked through parks and driven along our tree-lined streets this month, I've been struck again by the beauty of the horse chestnut trees. Their tall candles of white and pink blossom stand proudly, almost like little celebrations of new life. But as lovely as the flowers are, they are not the end of the story. In time, those blossoms fade, fall, and quietly give way to something very different - the small, green, spiky cases that will eventually become the conkers children love to gather in autumn.

This is a gentle reminder that God's work in us is always moving forward. The blossom is beautiful, but it is not the final purpose of the tree. The conker - the seed full of potential, capable of growing into a whole new tree - is the true fulfilment of what the blossom began.

In the same way, Jesus calls us not simply to admire the early signs of faith in our lives, but to grow into the fullness of who we are meant to be in Him. The Apostle Paul writes;

'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'

[Ephesians 2:10 NIVUK]

There is a purpose planted within each of us - a Christ-shaped potential that the Holy Spirit patiently nurtures.

Growth, of course, is rarely tidy. The blossom must fall before the conker can form. There are seasons in our discipleship when something that once felt bright and flourishing comes to an end. A role changes. A ministry pauses. A familiar pattern of life shifts. It can feel like loss, but often it is simply God making space for the next stage of growth.

And just as the conker develops slowly inside its protective casing, so much of God's work in us happens quietly, beneath the surface. We may not always see the progress, but Jesus is faithful. He continues to shape us, strengthen us, and prepare us for the good we are called to do.

So this month, I invite you to reflect:

- ✚ Where might God be inviting you to grow beyond the blossom stage - to step into something deeper, braver, or more fruitful?
- ✚ What gifts or passions has God planted in you that are ready to mature?
- ✚ Where might the Spirit be nudging you to trust the slow, hidden work of grace?

As a church, we too are like the horse chestnut - called not only to be beautiful in bloom, but to bear seeds of hope, kindness, justice, and love in our community.

Every act of service, every prayer offered, every welcome extended is a sign that Jesus' life is taking root among us.

May we continue to grow into our full potential in Him, becoming people who carry the life of Jesus into the world - just as the humble conker carries the promise of a whole new tree.

Every Blessing,

Revd. Steve

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

01702 483827

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES IN 2026

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 10th June 2026– Edward Thomas

Wednesday 24th June 2026 – Summer poem

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:

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

Janet and Pam.

CLIMATE CHANGE !!!!!!
WATCH IN THE NEXT CLARION FOR
TIPS TO HELP.

Thank
You

Last month I was able to give £30 for the Church or Café from the book sales. Thank you for your support in supplying the books for us to sell.

Pam Boughton Smith.

'Hello from not so sunny Wiltshire

Just to say that Dave and I moved house on 15 May, and it was so stressful that we are not planning to move ever again.

Anyway Salisbury is very nice and the surrounding area looks lovely so that I am looking forward to exploring it on foot sometime soon

I went to the lovely Methodist Church in Salisbury this morning and received a warm welcome. For those who remember them, I met Chris and Margaret Jones and we all agreed what a nice friendly church you have at Wesley. I already miss you all but hope to visit once we have got properly settled

Keep up all your wonderful work and if any one is traveling this way, it would be great to see you in Wiltshire 👍 '

Lots of love

From Helen Boyd.

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

PASTORAL NEWS as at 15.5. 2026

We welcome recent regular attenders **Luke Morris** and **Andrea Bollella** into our Wesley Family.

David Cox has been very unwell in hospital, but is now at home being cared for by his daughter Louise.

If you become unwell please ask a member of your family or a carer to inform a member of the Prayer Chain. Their contact numbers are always available in the Clarion.

Is all your information (address & contact telephone number) up to date on my lists? Some individuals have stopped using a land line and only use a mobile. Please be assured that because of GDPR regulations only a very small group of four of us has access to my lists. Do please let me know of any changes. 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

Monthly Communion and Time for Prayer :9am 10th June 2026 at Wesley

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

Hope to see you there

God Bless You

WESLEY METHODIST LEADERSHIP TEAM : February 2026

Rupert Bertie

Gaye Greenway

Ian Lowe

Eileen Simmons

Judy Taylor

Anna Wratishaw

Isobel Wratishaw

Wholeness and Wellbeing Services

These services are held at Benfleet Methodist Church on

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

Reflective Worship

These are the dates for Reflective Worship in 2026

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.

June 2026 Service Dates

Sunday 7th June at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev S Mayo,
Church Anniversary and Communion.

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

Sunday 14th June at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr C Turner

Monday 15th June at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 21st June at 11:00am – Preacher: Deacon M
Spinks.

Sunday 28th June at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Fulford.
This is a United Service.

Sunday 28th June at 5:30pm – Creative Worship – Inspire –
All are welcome.

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.

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the July 2026 Clarion by **Friday 17th June 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.

