



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

October 2026



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Seasons of Change and Harvesting Faith

As we enter October, and my second month serving as your pastor. I am grateful to everyone for making me so welcome and part of the church family.

Welcoming a new pastor involves a season of change and transition. Change and transition is not always easy because it involves a loss of what is known and dear and entering a time of uncertainty of something new and unknown. As October unfolds, we are reminded that life, like the seasons, is in constant transition. The cooler air and falling leaves mirror the changes within us, inviting reflection and preparation.

Change and transition are inevitable in life, some of these changes we can have some control over, other situation's we can't control. The one thing that is always constant in life, is God's love and faithfulness that never changes. We are reminded throughout scripture to be encouraged to remain steadfast and attentive to God's work in our lives during times of transition.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

This verse reminds us that change is not random; God ordains every season for a purpose. October calls us to reap what has been sown spiritually: the fruits of prayer, kindness, and faithful service. It's a time to evaluate our hearts, embrace God's guidance, and prepare for the months ahead.

The changing colours of the season remind us that God is always at work, even in times of transition. Leaves may fall, days may grow shorter, and seasons may change—but the faithfulness of God remains constant.

Lamentations 3:22–23 tells us, *“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

These words are especially meaningful as we continue getting to know one another and growing together as a church family. Each new day—and each new season—is an opportunity to trust God more deeply, serve one another faithfully, and welcome His renewing work among us.

My prayer this October is that we will remain rooted in Christ, open to His leading, and thankful for His many blessings. May our church be a place where people experience God’s love, find encouragement, and grow in faith.

October Prayer: *“Lord, as the seasons change, we are thankful for your love and grace, your blessings and faithfulness. Help us to be rooted in you, to trust your timing, to be open to your leading and to reap the harvest of our efforts, and to remain steady in faith. Renew our hearts daily and guide us in every step we take this October. Amen.”*

Thank you again for welcoming me so warmly. I look forward to getting to know you all and for all that God will do among us in the days ahead. May God richly bless you.

Pastor Mark 😊

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Talking Poetry



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Wednesday 14th October – Michael Longley

Wednesday 28th October – A E Housman

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:

- November 26th

Janet and Pam.

Charity News



Homemade Poppies made by Anne [Pam Boughton Smith's sister] will be on sale in October.



A single seed of comfort, a gentle hand of care,

Brings dignity and peace to those in their final hours there.

The Dandelion Project warms a clinical hospital space,

Turning Southend Hospital rooms into a calm, embracing place.

Visit our charity table at the Wesley Church to buy, and help support grieving families when saying their last goodbye.

Charity news We have just given £25 to the Church for books sold in the last two months, thank you Pam Boughton Smith

Southend West Trefoil Guild.

We meet at Wesley Methodist Church on the first Thursday in every month from 4pm-6pm. Are you looking to make new friends? Learn new skills and give back to your community. Whether you have a background in Guiding or are completely new to the movement, The Trefoil Guild welcomed all over 18 years old. If you are interested and would like more information please could Pam Boughton Smith.

WESLEY METHODIST LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rupert Bertie

Gaye Greenway

Ian Lowe

Eileen Simmons

Judy Taylor

Anna Wratislaw

Isobel Wratislaw

September Praise and Play

We had a blast at our September gathering. We made apple stamp paintings and played with fruit themed wooden toys as we thought about (a few of) the 'fruits of the spirit' (Galatians 5:22-23) 😊 🍎 🍌 🍉 🍇



May God's good fruit of love, kindness and peace continue to grow in us all.

Amen 🙏

Don't forget to tell your grandchildren and god children

about Praise and Play 😊

We meet again Friday 2 October at 09:15am 🙏 ❤️ 🙏



PASTORAL NEWS as at 18.9.26

May I start this Pastoral News by thanking the team of Pastoral Visitors for the amazing work they do even when they are unwell themselves. They may not be able to make home visits but do keep in touch by telephone and/or email. Such personal contact is much appreciated by those on the receiving end.

Gwen Hardy had a fall recently and would like to thank our church family for their messages of support and kindness. She is making very steady progress day by day.

John Whiddett has been very unwell recently but is now making a little improvement. He and Janet would like to thank you all who have sent kind supportive messages, etc. Janet did tell me he managed to drive them to the sea front, where they enjoyed an ice cream! There still is, however a long way to go before he is back to his usual level of health and mobility.

Some of our church family who are unwell prefer not to have details in the Clarion and privacy is always respected.

Please continue to pray for those in our church family, who are ill at this time. Also please let me know of all family good news so that it can be shared if you are happy to do so

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

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Harvest

This year, Wesley's Harvest Festival will take place on Sunday 4th October. During the service, we will be collecting donations of tinned and long life food for Southend Foodbank. Your donations for the foodbank are very gratefully received throughout the year, and are particularly pertinent at this time of year as we think of Harvest, and the foodbank hope to work together with local schools, faith groups, organisations and community groups to fill their shelves with donations to help see them through the winter. If you are able to donate, really useful items to donate right now are: tinned chilli or curry, rice pudding, UHT milk, instant mash, breakfast cereal, tea bags, tinned fruit, microwave rice, and jam. As ever, thank you for all you are able to give.

In addition, at our Harvest Festival we will also be holding a retiring collection to support the work of local homeless charity Off The Streets. Off the streets is a homeless charity based in Southend. They believe everyone deserves a place to call home, and their main objective is to get rough sleepers off the streets and into permanent accommodation. They also work together with other agencies to prevent homelessness. They estimate 176 people will benefit from their services each year. More information on their work can be found at www.offthestreetsessex.org.uk - registered charity number 1184331.

ACM OBJECTIVE UPDATES

All the Objectives below were mentioned and written on our Post-It notes at our ACM this year. These are *your* ideas and requests. Isobel and Gaye are responsible for Worship & Mission on the Leadership Team and are committed to providing a monthly update. We really want to see this church moving forward but need your help and support to achieve this!

Buildings

Recycling: As yet no-one has come forward to offer their time or financial help to support our efforts to improve our Recycling within the Church buildings. As a reminder – we need to buy different colour-coded bins for strategic points within the halls. One local retailer sells 3 x 50litre bins for £40 and we need 4 sets as a minimum. We would also like to gather a few like-minded people together to move this Objective forward.

Review the Sound System:

An errant lead has been replaced so this should now be working properly! Several spare leads were also bought in case any other leads follow suit!

Meanwhile, we have a new broadband to increase it's operational range, so if you currently use Wesley's wifi whilst in the building, you will need the new password which can be found on the back of the Router.

Mission

Church Lunches: We have been given a very generous anonymous donation towards the cost of a new oven but would be very happy to receive more!

However, we would love to do the best we can with what we've got and are therefore delighted to announce a 2-course Church Lunch on **Sunday 15th November** following the morning service.

There will be a sign-up sheet available from 25th October for all those who wish to attend.

We would also love to hear from you if you would like to help in the kitchen!

Worship

Housegroups:

Cameo: The next Cameo meeting will be at Wesley at 2pm on Wednesday 21st October

Thursday Call will be at the home of Judy Taylor (please ask for address) on Thursday 15th October at 8pm.

On The Way

This course is now fully available on the Methodist Church website. We are very grateful that Jane Fulford has already obtained the Participant's Handbooks and we are now very keen to get started!

Are you looking to:

- find an open and honest community of travelling companions to connect with
- get a fresh perspective on everyday life
- engage with Scripture, art, music and prayer in new ways
- explore faith in an open way, for the first time or the first time in a long time
- respond to that feeling there might be something more, even if you're not sure what it is yet

If any of the above apply to you then please see Jane, Gaye or Isobel to express your interest.

You don't need to be new to Faith – you may have been journeying for some time. It doesn't matter! Everyone is welcome!

Property and Finance Committee Notice

The Property and Finance Committee asks all groups and individuals using the Church premises, when the glass door at the rear of the building is locked and the fire exit door is closed, on their departure ensure that they close / lock the doors when leaving the building.

There have been several recent incidents where the glass door has been left open. In these cases, the hirers using the Sanctuary were unaware that the door had been left unsecured.

A letter is being sent to all hirers reminding them to check that the premises are empty before they leave, switch off all lights, and ensure that both the rear glass doors and the fire exit doors are closed and locked. This reminder also applies to hirers of the Sanctuary who open the front church doors during their use of the premises.

The Committee greatly appreciates everyone's support in helping to keep the premises secure and ensuring the safety of all users.

Monthly Communion

9.00am 14th October 2026 at Wesley

Revd Heather Simmons will be offering most of our communions on the second Wednesday morning of each month throughout 2026 and part of 2027.

The dates are as follows:- 14th October, 11th November, 9th December.

2027 13th January, 10th February, 10th March, 14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July

Hope to see you there

God Bless You

Cameo Wednesday 21st October at 2pm

Cameo is a home/study/fellowship group that meets once a month on the third Wednesday at Wesley in the quiet room at Wesley. At our October meeting we are thinking about 'Heaven'

Our discussions are always interesting and could be on any topic – secular and even non secular! If you want to join us, please do.

God Bless

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.

Reflective Worship

6.30pm - 7.30pm On Wednesday 28th October 2026

Reflective Worship focuses on quiet, more contemplative and meditative styles of worship, in an informal and relaxed setting.

October 2026 Service Dates

Sunday 4th October at 11:00am – Preacher: Pastor M Waghorn – Harvest Festival.

Sunday 11th October at 11:00am – Preacher: Rev P Moorhouse – Service will include Communion.

Wednesday 14th October at 9.00am – Early Morning Communion
Service followed at 9:30am by Time For Prayer.

Sunday 18th October at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs J Taylor

Monday 19th October at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship. All are welcome.

Sunday 25th October at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs S Strachan.

Sunday 25th October at 5:30pm – Creative Worship – Inspire – All are welcome.

Wednesday 28th October at 6:30pm – Reflective Worship – All are welcome.

November 2026 Service Dates

Sunday 1st November at 11:00am – Preacher: Pastor M Waghorn– this service will the Baptism of Miriam Gifford Granddaughter Lottie.

Sunday 9th November at 10:45 am – Preachers. Mrs J Fulford - Remembrance Service

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

Sunday 15th November at 11:00am – Preacher: Pastor M Waghorn – This service will include the Rededication of Pastor Visitors and Youth Workers and Communion.

Monday 16th November at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship. All are welcome.

Sunday 22rd of November at 11:00am – Preacher: Mrs S Hockett

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

Sunday 29th November at 11:00am – Preacher: Pastor M Waghorn. This is a United Service at Wesley.

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the October 2026 Clarion by **Friday 16th October 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 – judith60@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.

