



THE CLARION

Wesley Methodist Church

September 2026



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September Thought.

A New Beginning — God Goes Before us - One Body, One Mission

This September marks the beginning of a new chapter in what God is already doing. For me as your new pastor, I have mixed emotions of excitement, fear, uncertainty, and expectation. There is a lot for me to learn, lots of new people for me to get to know, and new ways of doing things. God never promises that everything will be easy. However, God does promise that He will go before us.

Deuteronomy 31:8

“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

In 1 Corinthians 3:6–7, Paul uses a farming analogy to show how Christians work together but it’s God who brings the growth.

“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.”

As your new pastor I hope that I can bring new gifts, fresh vision, different experiences, and a new season of ministry. But the church does not ultimately depend upon my strength, personality, or ability. It belongs to Christ. My calling is to be faithful—to preach and teach God’s word, to love and shepherd, encourage and lead God’s people, and to follow the guidance of The Holy Spirit.

Equally, all of us as the church are called to pray, serve, support, and walk together in unity. There may be things we do differently, there may be changes and challenges that we will need to face together. But instead of focusing on what is changing, let us focus on what never changes: our Lord, His Word, and our mission to make Christ known.

The arrival of a new pastor is not simply about receiving a new leader. It is an opportunity for the whole church to recommit ourselves to God.

In this new chapter;
Let us pray for wisdom and strength.
Let us encourage each other rather than criticise.
Let us serve rather than simply observe.
Let us give grace as we learn to walk together.

“Lord, unite us, guide us, and use us. Help us to work together and to follow faithfully. May everything we do point people to Jesus.

May this church become a place where people encounter Jesus, families find hope, broken hearts find healing, and the presence of God is unmistakable.”

I look forward with excitement and anticipation of working with you and getting to know you all in the coming months and seeing what God has planned for us 😊

God Bless

Mark



Hi, I am Mark, the new Lay Pastor for Belfairs, Wesley and Highlands Methodist churches.

For the past 23 years I have been a minister in The Salvation Army leading churches in England, including 7 years in Shoeburyness, Belfast and Dublin.

I am originally from Canvey Island and I'm looking forward to moving back to the area where I grew up. I am happily single and I have a pastor's heart with a desire to show the love of Jesus through the way I live my life.

Outside of work, I love to travel and experience and learn from other cultures. Going on Mission trips to various countries has made me the person I am today and helped to appreciate the most important things in life.

FROM THE PEWS

SOME SIGNIFICANT DATES IN 2026

Pastor Mark's Welcome Service is at Belfairs on Sunday 6th September 2026 at 4pm

Harvest Festival will be on the Sunday 4th October led by Pastor Mark Waghorn.

Talking Poetry



Wednesdays at 2:30pm

Wednesday 23rd September 2026 – W.B. Yeats

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.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN COLLECTION

Our Treasurer, Tina Gowers (who is amazing) has informed me that we raised £275.64 for the Charity. The Gift Aid slips completed will increase the amount by £37.50. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Eileen Simmons AFC Secretary

Charity Money

The money that I have collected from the books and my little table in the Church I have given, as well as a £5 donation to Christian Hope International as they are desperate for money to keep the clinic going. One of their projects only cost £10 a week to keep the nurse, so we have sent them £60 a one off to help them out this month, Tina has kindly dealt with all of this. Thank you.

Pam Boughton Smith.

Fern fitness we would like to wish Fern all the best as she is running the Sydney marathon in Australia while she is away. We will still be doing the Keep fit class so come and join us if you would like to throughout the summer as we have a temporary teacher joining us. Thank you to Fern for arranging this. Pam Boughton Smith.

WESLEY METHODIST LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rupert Bertie

Gaye Greenway

Ian Lowe

Eileen Simmons

Judy Taylor

Anna Wratislaw

Isobel Wratislaw

PASTORAL NEWS as at 21.8.26

WELCOME TO PASTOR MARK

‘ In August the son and daughter of **Tony and Marian Rumble**, (Mike & Sue) visited Leigh-on-Sea to scatter their parents’ ashes by the pier. The boat was skippered by Keith and Marjorie Charnock’s grandson Thomas. They attended worship at Wesley on Sunday 9th. August and gave a generous donation to Wesley in their name and thanked Wesley for being a source of love, support and fellowship to their parents over the years.’ (Jane Fulford) I remember Marian so well from our early days at Wesley; her Christianity shone out from her.

On 16th. August **Luke Morris** was welcomed as a MEMBER of Wesley Methodist Church.

I visited **Mike Bucke** recently and it was a joy to see him. While I was there Hannah came to see him, which was a bonus for me.

I have chatted to Sarah Smith, **Margaret Buckey’s** daughter and she told me that her mother has been home now for a couple of weeks having had excellent treatment in Southend Hospital after a fall. I phoned Margaret and had a good chat. She sends her love to you all. She is always interested in our Wesley news and so much looks forward to her Clarion.

I had reason to make quite a few phone calls recently to our Wesley family. Some were to landlines and went

unanswered with no opportunity to leave a message. If you no longer use a landline please let me know your mobile for my lists.

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

PRAISE AND PLAY

Playful worship for under 5s

First Friday of the month

09:15am–09:45am

Followed by refreshments in the cafe

no sessions in January

in May it's the second Friday of the month



At Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ
www.wesleymethodist.org.uk



ACM Objectives.

At our ACM this year, everyone worked very hard to look at ways we, as a church community, could be moving forward. Together we came up with a number of ideas under the headings 'Buildings', 'Worship' and 'Mission'. We have looked long and hard at the ideas, focusing on what we could do and what we need, and we have brought before you a couple of ideas under each heading - some of which have already been achieved. We intend to keep you updated each month via the Clarion, working our way through the lists. Our September aims are detailed below. Please read *all* of it – it shows what we need both financially and through us as a church working together. Any thoughts

or contributions would be gratefully received by Isobel or Gaye.

Reality Check – Buildings

- One Objective mentioned under this category was **the need for more organised recycling.**

Recycling is a crucial element of our mission to demonstrate that we are environmentally friendly and worthy of our Eco-Church bronze award. We can improve on what we currently achieve.

Two things are needed which would make a big difference:

1. The finance to buy different colour-coded bins for strategic points within the halls (such as in the Concourse and Wesley Hall).
To give you an idea, one local retailer sells 3 x 50litre bins with red, green and yellow lids for £40. We would need 4 sets as a minimum.
If you feel that this is something you would like to contribute to, please see Isobel Wratishlaw or Gaye Greenway, or post into the Vestry in a clearly marked envelope.
2. If you buy into this vision, we invite you to become part of a team to organise and improve our recycling. If you would like to be a part of this – in a small or bigger way, please see Isobel or Gabrielle.

- Another Objective was to **Review the Sound System**. This is currently underway.

Reality Check – Worship

- One Objective arising from the ACM table was **to advertise our housegroups more fully**, so here is a brief synopsis and details of the two currently running:

Cameo:

The next meeting is at **Wesley at 2pm on Wed 16th Sept** and will finish anytime between 3pm and 3.30pm

The topic is to share: -

'A happening, an event or simply a moment that has made you think this Summer'

It could be a couple of things, maybe linked to God and faith, maybe not.

All are welcome, numbers vary between four and nine members. Cameo meets regularly on the third Wednesday of each month

Thursday Call:

Thursday Call house group continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month, in the homes of members (it is always possible to facilitate joining by zoom for those not able to attend in person). Each session is led by a different member, alternating the style and theme. The next session

is at **8pm on Thursday 17th September** – please see Gaye or Isobel for the address details.

Both groups would welcome new members – this can often add refreshing new insight – and if you would like to come to either but are hampered by a logistical difficulty (for example needing transport or baby/child sitting) please see Jane Fulford or Isobel Wratishlaw as there are always ways round these problems.

- There was also a request for a **course to help people on their journey of faith.**

On The Way is a new course produced by the Methodist Church which has been specifically designed to meet this need nationally. It is promoted as being ‘for people who want space to explore the Christian faith, connect it with everyday life, and ask honest questions together.’ It is ‘coming soon’ according to the Methodist Website. As soon as it is, we’ll be advertising the dates etc and looking for those interested in connecting as participants and/or as part of the delivery team.

Watch this Space!!

Reality Check – Mission

There are several Objectives here, which we will work through as we are able.

- We are delighted that over the Summer our **Kids Corner** has had a new carpet, new signage and some additional toys.

This was an idea immediately acted upon following the ACM by Sanya Strachan and Jon Threadgold. Meanwhile we are extremely grateful for the constant tidying and cleaning of the area by Pam Boughton-Smith – a testament to its constant usage!

- We would dearly love to start offering **Church lunches** periodically and are hoping to host one at the end of October/beginning November, so please look out for dates.

Anyone who has had to cook anything in the kitchen recently will be aware of the poor performances of the ovens. We desperately need new ones and a microwave (combi or otherwise). This obviously has financial implications but would mean we could offer far more in the hospitality area going forward. To give you some idea, the cost of a replacement oven would be under £200. Again, if you feel you would like to contribute financially to this, anonymously or otherwise, please either pop your contribution (well-labelled) into the Vestry or see Isobel or Gaye. Additionally, you are also invited to become part of the catering team. Anyone interested, please see Gaye or Isobel.

- Another Objective was to be more involved in **Southend Inclusive Churches**.

Wesley have been very involved this year. We made a donation towards sponsorship of the Southend Pride event and we helped out at all the Inclusive Churches events. This

included providing refreshments at the Banner Making evening and helping to run the stand at Southend Pride. Luke carried the Southend Inclusive Churches Flag at the March and four others from Wesley marched at the front of the Parade.

We set up the Prayer stations at the Rainbow Service on 26th July at Southend City Baptist church. We host the next meeting in November and will be fundraising for next year's events.

So, this is our 'Starter for 10' to coin a phrase. Please do get involved as and where you can. Our list of Objectives can always be added to but it's always great to tick things off and show we have completed some of the existing ones at least.

Monthly Communion and Time for Prayer **at Wesley**

The date for Sept is Wednesday 9th September at 9am

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

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.

September 2026 Service Dates

Sunday 6th September at 11:00am – Preacher: Pastor M Waghorn/Rev H Simmons – Service will include communion.

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

Sunday 13th September at 11:00am – Preacher: Mr P Saunders.

Sunday 20th September at 11:00am – Preacher Mr M Fogg.

Monday 21st September at 2.00pm-4.00pm – Memory Worship.

Sunday 27th September at 10:30am – Preacher: Mr J Phillips

Sunday 27th September at 5:30pm – Creative Worship – Inspire – All are welcome.

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.

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

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

Editor's information

Please could I have all items for the October 2026 Clarion by **Friday 18th September 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.

