

# The **CLARION**

Wesley **Methodist** Church



REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS AT WESLEY  
Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ

SUNDAY SERVICES	9. 00am	Holy Communion - second Sunday in the month
	11. 00am	Morning Worship - Communion as advised
	11. 00am	The Zone on Sunday
MONDAY	10. 00am	Wesley Art Group
	8. 00pm	Wesley Theatre Group
WEDNESDAY	9. 00am	Midweek Informal Communion on the 3rd Wednesday in the month
	10.00 - 11.30am	Parent and Toddler (School terms)
	6.00 - 9. 00pm	St. John Ambulance
THURSDAY	6.00 - 7.30pm	Fusion Kids (School Terms Yrs 1-6)
	6.00 - 7.30pm	Fusion Youth (School Terms Yr 6 plus)
FRIDAY	2. 00pm	Table Tennis 60+ (School Terms)

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Wesley Pre-School      Jody French      07581 150978

Daily Coffee Mornings.

The church concourse is open every morning between 10am and 12 noon for our coffee mornings. Everyone is welcome and you can buy a tea or coffee and a slice of cake and meet your friends, or even make some new ones.

On some days there is someone on duty as a listening ear to offer help and support, so if you need some advice they will be able to point you in the right direction, or just simply listen to what you have to say.

The Traidcraft Stall is open 10am till 12 through the week and on Sunday, giving you the opportunity to buy fairly traded goods.

FORTNIGHTLY MEETING

Talking Poetry      alternate Wednesdays at 2. 30pm.

OTHER MEETINGS

Housegroup Meetings      as advised

Minister: Rev. Julia Monaghan  
1 Oakview Close, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. SS9 4JN. Tel: (01702) 483827  
Email: revjuliamonaghan@gmail.com

**Ministerial Co-Worker: Anne Lane** Tel 01268 565644  
Email: annelane8@btinternet.com

**Children and Youth Worker: Jonathan Logan** Tel 07852 905742

**Mission Enabler for Older People: Julie Peek** Tel 01702 479804

**Administrator:** Paul McDowell. Tel 01702 711851

**Wesley Website:** [www.wesleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.wesleymethodist.org.uk)

Twitter: @leighwesleyMC Facebook: Leigh Wesley Methodist Church



## MINISTER'S LETTER



# JOSEPH

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## Man of Faith

I have just come down from the manse loft after retrieving the Nativity Set and two thoughts occur to me. The first is, what a tip it is up there and how Sam and I need to get our act together and do some sorting out. The second is, that Joseph needs a polish, clean and his paint touched up – he's looking a bit care worn!

Two of the Gospel writers, Matthew and Luke, relay the story of Jesus' birth. Matthew, a Jew, writing for Jewish converts points to Jesus as Messiah and King, the fulfillment of God's promises through the old testament, from Abraham to David. While Luke, the doctor and gentile, emphasises that the good news is for all people everywhere, for every race and nation. In pulling his story together, Matthew writes from Joseph's stand point, while Luke concentrates on the experience of Mary.

As this Christmas, the bible readings set by the wider church are from Matthew's gospel, I thought it would be good to take a few moments to ponder 'care worn' Joseph and consider what a man of faith he was.

So here is Joseph, chosen by God to be head of this Holy Family. He belongs to the 'House of David' and, in Jewish law, any adoptive son legally belongs to his adoptive father's line of descent. He is an ordinary man, working with his hands as a carpenter. He is described in scripture as a '*man of honour*,' (Matthew 1: ), a quality borne out by his compassionate response to Mary on hearing the news of her pregnancy. He chooses to quietly dismiss her, rather than have her face being stoned, as was the law, outlined in Deuteronomy 22. Having got his head around the pregnancy, he is told in a dream that Mary has conceived by the Holy Spirit; that she will give birth to a son; and '*you*,' will call him Jesus, meaning *God saves*. No wonder our Joseph is looking a bit care worn.

Let's take a moment to think about the impact of this on Joseph. In light of the full gospel message, we are able to relate to God through Jesus, our friend, shepherd, suffering servant and King. Joseph, however, had no such experience. For him, God was Yahweh, Adonai, El –Shaddai, the Lord; so holy he couldn't be named. Hence when Moses encountered him, as a vision of holiness in Exodus, his instinct was to fall on his knees and cover his face. His initial reaction was, 'not me, I'm not worthy, no one will believe me.'

It seems to me that Joseph by contrast, accepts. He doesn't understand, but he believes in God's power. It's as simple as that. He believes that almighty God has chosen him to be the husband of Mary; and father to her son. Both his and Moses' responses to God can be food for thought for us today.

We can pray for a deeper understanding of the holiness of God, so that we can spiritually fall on our knees, like Moses in wonder at who God is. But at the same time, if we believe like Joseph and surrender to God, there is no limit to what God can achieve in our own very ordinary lives.

**Prayer**

God of all hope and all joy,  
Open our hearts in welcome,  
That Your Son Jesus Christ at his coming  
May find in us a dwelling prepared for himself;  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God now and forever.  
*(New Zealand Prayer Book)*

Wishing you all the joy and wonder of the Christ child.

**Rev Julia November 2016**



**Rock-a-bye baby  
Asleep with the ox,  
When the wind blows  
Our world will rock,  
When our faith breaks  
And we start to fall,  
Remember the baby;  
Saviour of all.**

**By Janet Whiddett**

Wesley Methodist Church  
**SERVICE OF  
CELEBRATION,  
THANKSGIVING  
&  
DEDICATION**

SATURDAY



JANUARY

AT 3PM

Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road,  
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ

**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO OUR SERVICE OF DEDICATION**

As we come to give thanks for the completion of the building redevelopment project Rev Dr Lord Leslie Griffiths will be our preacher and Rev Dr David Chapman, District Chair will lead the rededication. We hope that as many of you as possible will stay afterwards for hospitality and good conversation.

We have much to be thankful for.

Rev Julia Monaghan

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Jonathan Charnock and Jenny Deadman on their Engagement on the 10th November. We send our love and best wishes to you both, and wish you every happiness for the future.

### **Baptism**

The Baptism of Sophia Rose Pouyioukkas is to take place on Christmas Eve 24.12.2016. We send our love and every blessing to parents; Danielle and Miltiades and their families and friends.

## **WESLEY NOTICES FOR THE MONTH AHEAD**

**Come and See Coffee Morning** 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 10am-12noon

Come and look round the newly refurbished building at Leigh Wesley Methodist Church and hear what we are doing. We look forward to seeing you!

Rev Julia

**Parent and Toddler** will close on Wednesday 14th December for the Christmas holidays and resume on Wednesday, 11th January 2017.

**Table Tennis** will close on Friday 16th December and resume on Friday 13th January 2017.

### **Christmas cards at Wesley**

As in previous years, the Christmas card collection box will be in the concourse from the beginning of December. Before you post your cards, please make sure that you have clearly addressed. You can make a donation for postage to Paul in the office, a member of the Leadership Team or to Jane or Geoff Fulford.

Cards will be available for collection after the morning service on Sunday 18th Dec. Any uncollected cards will be delivered. Volunteers to deliver uncollected cards will be greatly appreciated.

As usual, any money collected will go towards the very valuable work that Ian and Diana Bosman do in Ghana.

### **Carol singing**

This year, the carol singing will take place on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. Meet in the concourse, **ready to leave at 6.00 p.m.**

We need as many voices as possible to bring the genuine spirit of Christmas to the residents of Leigh, accompanied by Paul on the accordion and anyone else who would like to bring an instrument.

Please bring a torch (to read the words!) Children are required to bring a responsible adult, but families are, as always, very welcome – the more the merrier! Please make sure you wrap up warm!

As in previous years, all monies raised will go to Action for Children.

The evening will conclude with what is sometimes generously referred to as a quiz; plus soup, rolls, mince pies and coffee or squash.

For details, contact Geoff or Jane Fulford.

### **LEIGH CHURCHES TOGETHER NOTICES**

#### **New Testament Greek Classes at St Clements with Fr Clive**

Fr Clive is offering New Testament Greek lessons. He says, "The New Testament was originally written in Greek. To be able to understand the scriptures more deeply, learning and reading the New Testament in Greek has great spiritual advantage, and you don't have to rely on the translation of others." Classes are free with donations always welcome.

**Taster Session - Saturday January 7th at 2pm.**

**Classes start Saturday January 21st 11am.** Fortnightly on Saturdays

#### **Southend Foodbank**

Southend Foodbank are collecting treats that can be given out to Foodbank guests over the Christmas period. If you can help, that would be great! Christmas treats arriving in Christmas week are too late to make it into food parcels, so if you'd like to spread some cheer this year, please donate now. Example items can be found by the donation bin in the concourse.

Thank you





## The message for our homebased congregations in Leigh

Christmas Greetings to our homebased congregations spanning across the 3 Leigh churches. If you are unable to leave your home this Christmas to join the festivities in our church buildings, this message is directly for you. How are you? Have you put your Christmas tree up yet and are you looking forward to the coming of Jesus with a hopeful heart? Well to spur you on your way, here are a few verses of Psalm 96, the inspirational *'song of praise,'* set for Christmas Eve, along with a few of my thoughts on these verses. So make a coffee, find a mince pie and know this is directly for you.

### **Psalm 96: 10-13**

**10.** *Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!*

*The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.*

*He will judge the peoples with equity."*

**11.** *Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;*

*let the sea roar, and all that fills it;*

**12.** *let the field exult, and everything in it.*

*Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy*

**13.** *before the Lord; for he is coming,*

*for he is coming to judge the earth.*

*He will judge the world with righteousness,*

*and the peoples with his truth.*

This beautiful enthronement psalm sings a new song to the God above all gods, calling all who hear it, to declare God's glory and proclaim God's salvation. The psalmist who sings this song, calls upon Israel's history and remembers the Song

of Miriam, as she danced with tambourines celebrating the deliverance from death to new life, after crossing the Red Sea.

The psalmist goes on to evoke creation, reminding us that as we sing this song, we do so in a chorus that includes the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that fills it, the trees of the forest, as well as all the families of the earth. The overwhelming good news in verse 10, is that the stability of the world is a done deal - "*it shall never be moved,*" says the psalmist. The Lord of this psalm is the Lord of all, so there can be no more warring among the nations about whose truth or rightness shall reign on earth.

I also note that the verbs in this psalm are often in the future tense. The world *will* never be moved; he *is coming* to Judge the people with equity. When this happens all the trees of the field "*will sing* for joy". It's like the good news of salvation is anticipated into the future, as if that might be the only place where it might be believable!

When you listen to your wireless; watch the TV and read your newspaper, you may feel that the world is in pretty rough shape and that perhaps proclaiming hope in the future is always a safer bet than encouraging trust in the present. But we can have little faith in the future if we can't find the seeds of hope in today. And in this season of hopefulness, I'm not going to let the newspapers have the last word that war and disaster and hate are the only stories out there to be heard. There are other stories to be told too, where the gospel of hope and kindness and courage and stability break into the everyday. Where people are looking out for one another, even at risk of their own life; where courage and bravery are found in unexpected places and where unexpected determination and strength are found where it seemed impossible.

If we listen hard, we find other stories that should be honoured and heard. So tonight on the evening news, I listened to the tremendous courage of MP Jo Cox, who, when assaulted by her assailant so brutally outside her office, was heard to call to work colleagues to get back inside, that they might be protected from harm. Or, 4 year old Suzie McCash from Tynemouth, who had the courage and good sense to call 999, when her Mum Rowena collapsed following a respiratory arrest. Or for sheer audacity, 87 year old, cancer surviving *Granny Bin*, who flew down the fastest zip wire at 60mph over the Eden Project, to raise money for Shelter Box Charity, this Christmas. Granny Bin said after completing the run that she would like to fly to

the moon next! And well why not, for both this psalm and the news from Bethlehem, announce that in the birth of this holy baby, God does deliver, *“good news of great joy for all the people,”* and that love, is indeed stronger than death. **Amen**

**Let us pray**

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in;  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel.  
*(Phillips Brooks 1835 -93)*

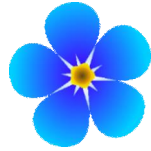
**May God bless you richly this Christmas through His Spirit, your family your friends and your carers**

**Rev Julia Monaghan Dec 2016**

**FLOWER ROTA FOR DECEMBER**

18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>      Flowers given by David Johnson and all the family in loving memory of his parents, Len and Margaret and brother; Michael.

NEW SERVICE AT WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH from January 2017



## **MEMORY WORSHIP, Worship for those with and without dementia**

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month 2pm-4pm

You may recall in July/Aug edition of the Clarion I posed the question “Did you know Southend-On-Sea is working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly town and that this status has been awarded thanks to the partnership work of the Southend Dementia Action Alliance (SDAA) which was launched in March 2015. The SDAA is made up of local businesses, services and community groups all working in partnership with the council.

I am very pleased to share the news that our church along with a growing number of churches has joined the SDAA. In order to be accepted as part of this group Wesley has had to commit to an Action Plan that clearly outlines how we can improve our support for people living with dementia and their carers.

It is our vision that people with or without dementia can approach God, Worship and praise God and feel Gods caring presence together.

Worship can be a channel for recalling the past, creating feelings of comfort, familiarity and spiritual fulfilment. We all have a continuing need to worship and experience a loving encounter with God and the afternoon will take a regular pattern of welcome; singing well-known hymns, reading familiar passages of scripture and saying the Lord’s Prayer together.

The formal part of the service will last 30 minutes, before leading into a craft activity and hospitality, which provide an opportunity for conversation to reinforce the theme of the service.

If you know of anyone who you think would appreciate this service please pick up a Memory Worship programme from the concourse.

Julie Peek, Mission Enabler for Older People  
Wesley & Highlands Methodist Churches

## **Prayer Diary December 2016**

This prayer diary has been inspired by: "Safer than a known way" by Ruth Etchells; various publications from the Nationwide Christian Trust; "Look well to this day" by Tom Gordon; and The Leprosy Mission.

1st. At this time of advent we look forward, Father God, and ask that this month of December will be a holy journey for us leading to the celebration of Jesus' birth in a few weeks time. We ask that you will help us to put you at the forefront as we plan for time spent with family and friends.

2nd. Father God we thank you that we can come before you to pray; thank you for loving us, for caring for us and forgiving us. Help us to become thankful and grateful people.

3rd. Father God, we thank you that you are always with us and that we are never alone. Help us to find ways to pray with and for others in our families and among our friends.

4th. Today we worship with our friends at Highlands church - we enjoy and value the fellowship of our two congregations joining together. We ask your blessing on each person attending and for all those in our community who we seek to serve.

5th. Father God, you loved the world so much that you gave your one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life; thank you Father.

6th. This is love; not that we love God but that He loves us and sent His Son. Jesus said: "I have come that you may have life and have it in its fullness".

7th. Father God, we are amazed that you were willing to allow your Son, Jesus, to not only come and live on earth, but also to die a cruel death so that we can have a personal and eternal relationship with you.

8th. Father God, thank you that you have a plan for our lives, and that you have given your Holy Spirit to help us to discover it. May we be guided by You in all things so we may have a life that is pleasing and honouring to You.

9th. Father we know that "you will never leave us or forsake us". We remember those who have difficult and painful anniversaries at this time. We ask you to be with them and give them your peace.

10th. Father God, sometimes we feel alone; fill that void with your loving presence, that we may know that we are deeply loved and profoundly valued by you.

11th. Father God, today is our first service in our newly refurbished church building. A special day. We praise and thank you for all that come to our Nativity Service today that they may learn of your love through your precious gift of Jesus.

12th. A thought: when the Japanese mend broken objects, they repair the damage by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that when something has suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful. In the same way the worries and difficulties that we encounter and overcome make us the people that we are - mature, experienced and beautiful. Father thank you for the tapestry of our lives.

13th. Perfect endings? We tend to learn the hard way, that some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle and end, Life is about taking one step at a time, not knowing the outcome or even the journey. Do not be afraid of tomorrow for God is already there.

14th. May God bless you today. Everyday is a new start; a new opportunity to live life to the full and to find blessings in unexpected places. Jesus said: "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly". We pray today for our local North Street School as they celebrate their Carol Concert in our Church.

15th. We pray today for the Pre-school that meets each weekday at Wesley. We pray for the children, parents, leaders and staff as they hold their Christmas Concert in our church.

16th. We pray your blessing on our Carol Singing tonight. Father God, we offer our hearts in preparation of the wonder of your coming to us this Christmas in simplicity as a child amidst your own creation.

17th. We thank you Lord for all the true delights of Christmas: the joy of planning gifts with care and love for those who will receive them.

18th. We thank you for the joy of festive gatherings where we seek each other's pleasure: the joy of small children's wondering excitement; the profound and beautiful joy as we worship tonight at Wesley with our Carol Concert.

19th. Father, help us to understand the true mystery of your coming at Christmas time - let us see in this vulnerable, homeless infant, the one He will become: in his manhood showing the inexhaustible love of our Father for us.

20th. Father, we bring to you this Christmas all who are without a home: those who have lost their homes through natural disasters.

21st. We pray for:

- those who were driven from their homes by war and terror.

22nd. We pray for:

- those who have lost their homes through poverty

- those who were driven from their homes by unkindness.

23rd. We pray for:

- those who seek continually for a home but cannot find one.

Lord send them your help through their fellow human beings' concern and practical aid, - may we play our own part in such care.

24th. Dear Lord, be the one supreme gift tonight to your waiting world. May all our small tokens to each other speak of the overwhelming love of your Christmas gift to us.

25th. "In the bleak mid-winter, a stable place sufficed The Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ"... "What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part, yet what I can I give him - give my heart." Hymn 204, "Singing the Faith"

26th. Boxing Day - Is traditionally the day when servants and tradesmen would receive a gift known as a 'Christmas box'. Today we know it as a Bank or Public holiday. In 1994 in South Africa December 26th was renamed the day of "goodwill" and after the first fully democratic elections marked a visible end to the era of apartheid.

27th. So, the "day of goodwill" was a symbol that the spirit of Christmas needed to be carried over to the next day and the day after and for every succeeding day for the goodwill of its people. We pray for the people of South Africa.

28th. During the days following Christmas we thank you, Father, for our families and friends; the time spent together, in phone calls abroad, and the opportunity to be together.

29th. And yet, Father, we remember those who are not so fortunate at Christmas time; for those who face sadness and feel so alone. We pray for those who are so desperate that they need to access the help of "Samaritans" phone lines. We pray for them and those who seek to help them.

30th. We pray for the young people at our church who attend the Fusion events led by Jonathan. We pray for the leaders, helpers and children. We pray for those attending pantomimes and those from the churches visiting and participating today in the ballet "Red Shoes" by Matthew Bourne.

31st. We pray for all those using the Night Shelter, the staff and volunteers, that each may experience your love, Father God. As we ponder on the year that has passed with all the events that have impacted our lives, we pray for the year that is to come with the words of Jesus: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age".  
Matt. 28: 20.





First of all congratulations to Sam Monaghan on his amazing fund raising cycle ride for Barnados. Many groups of people sponsored him including individuals from WESLEY, for which many thanks. Sam has written his own report below.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY COLLECTIONS at WESLEY.

The September meeting of Wesley Church council discussed the question as to which charities to support this Christmas. The following decisions were made.

1. Carol Service. December 18 at 6pm. During this service there will be a collection for ACTION FOR CHILDREN.
2. Christmas Eve communion. 11.15 pm. Collection for AGE CONCERN, Southend. Their Community club meets here at Wesley and Julie Peek is doing great work with them.
3. Christingle service, Christmas Eve at 4pm. The Young People have chosen the Charity Side By Side. Please be as generous as you can.

We appreciate you may not be able to come to some of these special services but you may wish to join in the giving. There will be plain envelopes at the back of the church from the first service held there and if you write the name of the charity on the envelope and put it in the usual collection bag along with your regular contribution then the money counters can ensure it is allocated correctly.

Geoff and I have decided not to send any Wesley Christmas cards this year, but to give the money saved to increase the amounts we would be giving to these three charities.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Eileen Simmons

# Thank You



I would like to thank everybody from Belfairs, Highlands and Wesley Churches who supported and sponsored me on the **Big Barnardo's Bike Ride**. It was a real adventure and challenge, which I enjoyed much more than I'd ever anticipated. Thanks for the messages that a number of you sent me en route - but even more so for the money that you raised across the 3 churches to support Barnardo's work across Essex.

## **Belfairs, Highlands and Wesley raised £1,700**

We were exceedingly fortunate with the weather, with sunshine most days. The 6 of us, who were the core team, also got on really well. I hadn't realised that team work would be so important, especially keeping you going when you got a bit tired. Amongst those who joined us for the odd day was Olympian Daley Thompson, which gave us a real boost mid-way.

The 362 miles were broken down into: Holyhead to Chester; then to Telford;; then Worcester; then Oxford; and finally to Barkingside. North Wales proved easier than I thought due to the longest sea-wall - so fewer hills. Crossing rural Shropshire down through Worcestershire to the Cotswolds on crisp sunny days was stunning - if latterly so much more hilly than I'd thought. Finally, crossing North London for 18 miles, I lost count of how many speed bumps I went over, but felt every one of them.

So thank you from me and Barnardo's and the children and families we support. Overall I raised £3,000 and as a team we think we've raised £17,000 - 10% from the Leigh Section alone!

Sam Monaghan



**CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING WORKSHOP**

***AND BUFFET***

***FRIDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2016***

***7 FOR 7.30 PM***

***IN AID OF THE BDF AND A DONATION TO THE BRAIN CANCER CHARITY***

Join us for a Buffet Supper and make yourself a lovely Christmas Flower Decoration. We will demonstrate an arrangement for you to replicate and provide all materials, flowers and foliage. This will be held in the Canteen Room followed by a Buffet Supper in the Concourse at Wesley Church, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea. We will be holding a raffle. Cost £15 per person.

If you would like to come and bring a friend/friends please contact us.

Please book as soon as possible.

Sue Hockett 07525 071023

Alison Newnham 07863 954388

**HELPING HANDS**

The following contacts from our wider church family may be able to help if you are struggling with housework, gardening or odd jobs?

Gardening Services and Odd Jobs

Steve Hockett

07952 058251

Painting, decorating & Odd Jobs

Mark Wiltshire

01702 475089

**CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL JUMBLE SALE Sat 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Please keep this date free and start saving your unwanted items and carrier bags; we need them,

Thank you Pam and Viv

**AGE CONCERN SOUTHEND CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
AND CAROL SERVICE  
Weds 21<sup>st</sup> December**

If you have come along to our club or have enjoyed the monthly movies at Wesley or maybe you just drop in to Wesley for refreshments during the week we would like to invite you to join us for a traditional Christmas lunch and Carol Service.

Places are limited so **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**. Please give your £5 deposit to secure your place to Julie Peek in the church or phone me at Age Concern Southend. Tel 01702 345373.

Thank you and we look forward to celebrating Christmas together.

Miki Le Masurier

**Dates for the Community Club diary  
2 – 4pm**

Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Quizzes and Games . Wesley
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Leigh Floral Society . make a table decoration for Christmas (small fee) Wesley
Tues 20 Dec	No club
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Christmas Lunch + Carol Service Names to Miki - £5 non-returnable deposit Limited Places, Wesley
<b>CLUB RESUMES TUES 10TH JANUARY 2017</b>	
<b>Every 3rd Tuesday of the month we have lunch out Club closed</b>	

## Fusion Youth & Kids

At the moment Fusion Youth & Kids does not receive any funding and as we have almost 50 children a week aged 5-12, we are now in need of some items. We would be very grateful if you could take a look at the list below and donate or contribute if you can?

We are also fundraising to purchase a Bouncy Castle for the children.

If you would like to speak to me about this you can contact me on 07852 905742 or email [jonathan@wesleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:jonathan@wesleymethodist.org.uk).

Felt pens, Glue spreaders, Paints, Old shirts for using as aprons, Board games (Guess who, Hedbanz, Buckaroo, Monopoly Junior, Operation), Play dough, Clay, Socks (for sock puppets), Wool, Glue gun cartridges, Sleeves for laminator, A second Xbox 360, Some more Xbox 360 games age appropriate (12 and under)

Thank you in advance.

Jonathan Logan, Youth Worker

**Fusion**  
Youth & Kids

AWARDS NITE  
DISCO, FOOD,  
CHRISTMAS CRAFT,  
INFLATABLE

**December 15th**

6pm-8pm £2 Entry  
open to children school years 1-8

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH - 100 NATHAN LOGAN DRIVE

## THE CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP IN SOUTHEND

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at Worship Academy Michael Fenske from the Christian bookshop in Southend joined us to offer resources and tell us more about the bookshop. As a **Christian** bookshop, they are Christians first and a business second.

As a place of Christian outreach the staff do feel they sow seeds of Christianity. Many people come to the bookshop seeking. People and especially students ask if they know about certain churches they may want to attend. People come in asking about Jesus as a response to a window display. Christian friends meet there and on one occasion (probably more but Michael just gave us one example) a whole debate ensued with all the customers and staff able to converse about Christianity.

I know from my experience it is a place to browse, even read a whole chapter and usually come away feeling I have stepped closer to God.

The shop has won awards for its community works and has supplied libraries, prisons and orphanages with Christian books so it is having an impact locally and nationally.

BUT

We will lose this resource and outreach if we do not support it. As a business, they cannot run at a loss. What other business begins each morning with prayer for God's kingdom, where else can you browse for so long, where else can you have the joy of seeing and feeling the items you buy, where else is there a calmness, peace and a smile, where else is conversation helpful – dare I say not on Amazon.

So if you want Christian cards, notes, books and music try the Southend Christian bookshop first and at 15% discount I think we will all be pleased and the shop will remain a Christian outreach for us all. See you there especially before Christmas.

God Bless

Jane Fulford.

## **NIGHT SHELTER 2016**

The Night Shelter begins for the Leigh Section on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The other nights we are responsible for are all Saturdays 7<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> March. If you are able to help as a cook or befriender or can sleepover or can do breakfast on the Sunday morning please do volunteer.

The first point of contact is Janet Watson from Highlands Church as she is compiling a rota. Her contact details are 01702 555702 email [wdjwatson@googlemail.com](mailto:wjwatson@googlemail.com) All of us though can help through donations of toiletries and clothes. At present there seem to be more young men who are homeless so their needs are for hardwearing jeans, track suit bottoms, pants as well as hats and socks. There is very limited space so this year we are asked each month to take clothing with us. At Wesley we have our **NIGHT SHELTER** box in the concourse for you to put your donations of clothing and whoever is on the rota can take the clothing to Whittingham Avenue.

Thank You

## **SUMMER TIME AFTERNOON**

### **TEA AND CAKES 2016**

A big thank you to everyone who made these afternoons possible. The cake bakers – such a selection! The tea makers and washer uppers, so important. Those who came to welcome and listen to new people and all our lovely regulars who brought their friends and supported this event each month. We shall return at the end of April 2017.

In the meantime there are plenty of activities to keep you going through the winter months. Keep Fit Classes and 60+ Table Tennis for the nimble, a friendly Art Class and Writers Group as well as 60+ Movie Mornings once a month, if you prefer sitting down. Age Concern community club and Staying Steady Class now meet here plus monthly Saturday Healing services and Morning Worship each Sunday. Wesley Coffee Shop is open Monday to Saturday 10am-12noon.

So come in and join us and find out about all these activities and classes, dates and times in the monthly Clarion.

Janet Whiddett



## **TIME FOR HEALING - Healing, Trust and Abandonment**

I am writing this piece shortly after seeing the film “A street cat named Bob”. The film, taken from the book of the same name by James Bowen, tells how James – a homeless man who was addicted to drugs – turns his life around, with the support of a social worker, when he begins to care, at times in a self-denying way, for a stray cat named Bob. It is a realistic and yet life affirming film about the effects of abandonment and it set me thinking about how the healing process can be linked to resolution of abandonment wounds.

It's sometimes too easy for those with faith to say “Trust in God – he is your father in heaven” as though this will solve a person's problems. How does this speak to someone whose experience of a father, or parents in general, is one of a lack of care or even abuse? Perhaps we need to look at it another way.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has this to say:

The cry to God as ‘Father’ in the New Testament is not a calm acknowledgement of a universal truth about God's abstract fatherhood.

It is the Child's cry out of a nightmare.

It is the cry of outrage, fear, shrinking away, when faced with the horror of the ‘world’ – yet not simply or exclusively protest, but trust as well.

***‘Abba Father’ all things are possible to Thee...***

(A meditation taken from Celtic Daily Prayer-From the Northumbria Community)

We should still ask God for healing and deliverance from our feelings of abandonment, but we need to see that we must play our part as well. This may entail seeking appropriate help from others; counselling or other professional services or perhaps some medical intervention for a physical problem. God can work through these agents to give us help guidance and healing. Sometimes, we may find that looking beyond ourselves to the wellbeing of others, or animals, or taking up a new activity will provide a key that unlocks a path to self-restoration and fulfilment without repressing or denying our pain.



Jesus often spoke about the way a good shepherd looks after his flock – even to the extent of endangering himself to assure their safety.

**John 10:11**

**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”**

(Taken from The Holy Bible – New International Version)

Ultimately he sacrificed himself for us on the cross, so we can be confident of God’s unconditional love for each of us.

Somebody once said to me that God is not “the God of the sweetshop” of whom we ask for everything sweet and nice and are given it. God is always looking at our lives in the round, doing things in his way and his time for our greater good in the long run. This is difficult for us to grasp as impatient humans for we want our solutions now! What we have to learn is that our experiences, whilst they greatly influence who we are and how we behave, need not be constraints that prevent us from changing. God will help us use our experiences to better understand who we are and how we can be part of the changes we wish to see. If we can make our prayer a two way relationship with God through Jesus we can ask and then listen for guidance in reply. Often we will find that solutions become apparent as God works to guide us towards the right outcomes. We can rely on him;

**Hebrews 13:5**

**..because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”**

(Taken from The Holy Bible – New International Version)

**The next ‘Time for Healing’ meetings**, all at the usual time of 11.30 am, are planned for the following dates:

- 14 January 2017
- 11 February 2017
- 18 March 2017

NB: please note there is no meeting planned for December as everyone is so busy with other commitments at this time of year.

We hope to see you there.

Terry Harper

**SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DEC**

**UNITED SERVICE AT HIGHLANDS  
METHODIST CHURCH**

	10.30am	Preacher: Rev Julia Monaghan
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Wesley Art Group.
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Age Concern Community Club
	7.30pm	Flexible Worship Space meeting (part 2)
Weds 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Midweek Communion - Belfairs
	10.00am	Parent & Toddler
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Time for Prayer

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DEC**

**All Age A"Maze"ing Nativity Service**

	9.00am	Communion
	11.00am	Preacher: Mr Sam Monaghan Porch: Janet Whiddett
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Age Concern Community Club
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Midweek Communion - Wesley
	10.00am	Parent & Toddler last for 2016 (resumes Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017)
	2.30pm	Talking Poetry – F / Fear or Friends
	4.00pm & 7.00pm	Leigh North Street Carol Service
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm	Fusion Youth & Kids Awards & Disco
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+ last for 2016 (resumes Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017)
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	3.00pm & 4.30pm	Sandra Singer Christmas Show

**SUNDAY 18th DEC**

11.00am Preacher: Mr Colin Turner  
Porch: Anna Wratishaw

06.00pm **Carol Service**  
Preacher: Mrs Eileen Simmons  
Porch: Alison Newnham

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Wesley Art Group

Weds 21<sup>st</sup> 12.00midday Age Concern Christmas Lunch

2.15pm Age Concern Carol Service

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am Fusion movie "Ice Age, Collision Course"

**SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> DEC**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

4.00pm **Christingle Service**  
Service led by Rev Julia Monaghan  
Porch: Margaret Buckey and  
Jocelyn Greenway

11.15pm **Christmas Eve Communion**  
Preacher: led by Worship Leaders

**SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> DEC**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

10.30am Service led by Rev Julia Monaghan  
Porch: Miriam Gifford

**SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JAN**

**NEW YEARS DAY  
UNITED SERVICE AT BELFAIRS  
METHODIST CHURCH**

11.00am Service led by Mrs Jane Fulford  
Porch: Eileen Simmons

## FORWARD EVENTS

Weds 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7.30pm	Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017	3.00pm	Wesley Service of Dedication, Thanksgiving & Celebration
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017		Jumble Sale in aid of Christian Hope International



**Shop and Give this Christmas**

Raise **FREE** donations for us when you do your Christmas shopping via [www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk](http://www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk)

Boden John Lewis ebay amazon

NOT ON THE HIGH STREET

## JANUARY CLARION

Items for the January Clarion should be emailed to [julie.peek@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julie.peek@hotmail.co.uk) or placed in the folder outside the vestry by **FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER 2016**



Wesley Methodist Church is a member of Southend and Leigh Circuit

[www.southendandleigh.org](http://www.southendandleigh.org)

and part of the

Beds, Essex and Herts District of the Methodist Church