

Prayer Diary

Sun 11 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.

Mon 12 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.

Tue 13 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.

Wed 14 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.

Thu 15 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.

Fri 16 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.

Sat 17 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.

Sun 18 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.

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

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Wesley Methodist Church

Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

Minister: Rev. Julia Monaghan

Notices for the week commencing Sunday 11 December 2016



We extend a very warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. Coffee and tea are served in the concourse after Sunday morning services – please do stay if you can.

Please use this notice sheet as a reminder as you pray for the life and work of this church.

A prayer before we worship:
*God, my creator and my unseen Guide,
you have led me to this holy place.
Let a spark of its beauty and your love
settle in my heart and live with me when I leave.*

Sun 11th	11 am	A'Maze'Ing Christmas Nativity Service
3rd Sunday of Advent		Led by Sam Monaghan Hymns: STF 214, 187, 191, Jesus was a refugee (see overleaf), STF 202 Reading: John 1:1-5, 9-14 Porch: Janet Whiddett
Mon 12th	10 am	Coffee Morning
	10 am	Wesley Art Group
Tue 13th	10 am	Coffee Morning
Wed 14th	9 am	Midweek Communion at Belfairs
	10 am	Coffee Morning
	10 am	Parent & Toddler
	2.30 pm	Talking Poetry – Fear or Friends
	8 pm	Leadership Team Meeting
Thu 15th	9.30 am	Wesley Pre-School Christmas Concert
	10 am	Coffee Morning
	6 pm	Fusion Kids & Youth
Fri 16th	10 am	Coffee Morning
	2 pm	Table Tennis 60+
	6 pm	Carol singing (see page 8 of the Clarion)

Sat 17th	10 am	Coffee Morning
	11.30 am	Time for Prayer
Sun 18th 4th Sunday of Advent	11 am	The Zone on Sunday
	11 am	Morning Worship
		Preacher: Colin Turner
		Porch: Anna Wratislaw
	6 pm	Carol Service led by Eileen Simmons

Please give any items for the next notice sheet to Paul McDowell in the Administrator's office, or by e-mail to admin@wesleymethodist.org.uk or phone to 01702 711851, by 9.45 am each Friday.

David Read – Our former minister Rev. David Read died on Saturday 3 December. His funeral is at 1 pm on Wednesday 21 December at Trinity Methodist Church, Lowestoft.

Carol Lock – Carol who worked in Wesley Pre-School died this week. Her funeral is at 2 pm on Tuesday 20 December at Wesley followed by a committal at Southend Crematorium for family only.

We give thanks for both David and Carol's lives and hold their families in our prayers.

'Jesus was a refugee' (tune: In the bleak mid-winter)

In the bleak midwinter far away from home / You huddle on a dusty floor cold and all alone. / Tears have fallen, tear on tear, fear on fear / In the bleak midwinter not so far from here.

Jesus was a refugee, now the King of all / Tells us we must welcome you – will we heed his call? / Escapees and refugees whether here or whether there, / Motherless and fatherless, need our loving care.

What can I do now? At this time of Christmas cheer / If you need a friend then you'll be welcome here. / If you need a champion I will speak for you, / My voice, my hands, my heart, my home, I'll do all I can do.

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We welcome **Leigh North Street Primary School** for their carol services on Wednesday 14 December, and **Sandra Singer's Stage School** for their concerts on Saturday 17 December.

Advent Candles – response for all to say – 'Risen Christ, Light of the world, shine in our lives and shine among us now. Amen.'

Christmas Icons at the Royals – The Icons-on-Sea team are excited to be back in a shop at the Royals this year with 'Christmas Icons: a pop up installation'. We have been working with local artist Laura Keeble to create a

series of artworks taking a contemporary look at the nativity story. We'd love you to spread the word and come and visit the shop if you can. We are open from 10 to 24 December from 10 am to 4 pm daily in the shop next to Poundland. – Rev Hannah Bucke.

Age Concern Christmas lunch and carol service, Wednesday 21

December – If you have come along to our Tuesday club or have enjoyed the monthly movies or maybe you come to coffee mornings we would like to invite you to join us for a traditional Christmas lunch and Carol Service. Lunch places are limited so booking is essential. Please give £5 deposit to secure your place to Julie Peek. We look forward to celebrating Christmas together. – Miki Le Masurier, Age Concern.

Concourse Decoration ready for January 2017 – If you can spare 10 or 15 minutes after the Christmas Eve Christingle service to help move tables and chairs from the concourse to the canteen room, it would be very much appreciated. – Sue Hockett, on behalf of Leadership Team.

New Testament Greek Classes at St Clements with Fr Clive – Classes are free with donation always welcome. Taster session: **Saturday 7 January** at 2 pm. Classes start Saturday 21 January at 11 am, fortnightly.

Service of Celebration, Thanksgiving and Dedication, 3 pm, Saturday 28 January – The preacher at our reopening service will be Leslie Griffiths and we shall all receive an invitation along with all the details of our Christmas services. Please tell anyone who has been part of Wesley in the past and bring them along. – Eileen Simmons.

Southend Foodbank are collecting treats that can be given out to Foodbank guests over the Christmas period. Christmas week is too late to make it into food parcels, so please donate now if you can. A list of example items can be found in the concourse.

Fund raising for BRDF – How would you like a one for all voucher up to the value of £50 in January? It is simple, just buy a date on the calendar for £1, you can buy as many as you like and obviously the more dates we sell the bigger the fund raiser. One date will be picked at random at the end of January so please do your best to purchase all 365 dates so we can raise much needed funds. See June Childs for further details.

Wesley Art Group – Thank you to all who visited and bought at our Art Exhibition in October which ended on the Saturday of the Autumn Fair. A donation of £50 was given to the church which was included in the final amount raised on 29 October. Our last art session before Christmas is on Monday 12 December and we resume on Monday 9 January. – Annette Jarvis.