

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 8. 00pm	Wesley Art Group Wesley Theatre Group
WEDNESDAY	9. 00am	Midweek Informal Communion on the 3rd Wednesday in the month
	10.00 - 11.30am 6.00 - 9.00pm	Parent and Toddler (School terms) St. John Ambulance
THURSDAY	6.00 - 7.30pm 6.00 - 7.30pm	Fusion Kids (School Terms Yrs 1-6) Fusion Youth (School Terms Yr 6 plus)
FRIDAY	2. 00pm	Table Tennis 60+ (School Terms)

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.

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

Children and Youth Worker: Jonathan Logan Tel 07852 905742

Mission Enabler for Older People: Julie Peek Tel 01702 479804

Lettings: Alan Severne Tel 01702 711851 lettings@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Church Steward: Isobel Wratislaw Tel 01702 557764

Church Council Secretary: Judy Taylor ccsec@wesleymethodist.org.uk

The Notices: Trudi Pipe notices@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Communications: Anna Wratislaw email communications@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Twitter: @leighwesleyMC

Wesley Website: www.wesleymethodist.org.uk



MINISTER'S LETTER

Covenant Sunday



As is our tradition, early in the New Year we meet to renew our covenant with God. This is a distinctively Methodist practice which can be traced back to the first covenant service held by John Wesley in 1755. That first service took place in August, but it soon became the custom for the covenant renewal to take place early in the year, as a day of solemn reflection and rededication. That these were times of great spiritual blessing is evident from Wesley's descriptions in his Journal. For example, on Sunday 1st January 1775 Wesley wrote:

We had a larger congregation at the renewal of the Covenant than we have had for many years; and I do not know that ever we had a greater blessing. Afterwards many desired to return thanks, either for a sense of pardon, for full salvation, or for a fresh manifestation of his grace, healing all their backslidings.

In Wesley's time the covenant service would be preceded by a period of preparation, including prayer, fasting and exhortation, which helped to underscore the importance of what was taking place.

These days, coming so soon after the excess of Christmas and New Year, it is more likely to be preceded by feasting rather than fasting and the rigorous seriousness of the covenant service increasingly feels like a much needed spiritual detox. It is unfortunate that the covenant service has become detached from the prayer and

preparation that used to precede it, for what we undertake in the service, is no trivial or insignificant matter.

As Daniel Benedict writes, 'A covenant renewal service is not a seeker's service... There is no such thing as "covenant renewal lite."'

The Covenant we make is primarily about a relationship; the relationship between God and God's people. Or as God says through Jeremiah (31:33) *I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* In the service when we make the Covenant Prayer, we will say to God: *you are mine, and I am yours.* If you don't remember anything else about Covenant, remember this phrase: *I will be your God, and you will be my people.* This is the very centre of what covenant is all about. Scripture then continues...

"This is the covenant that I will make" says God: "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts." (31:33)

Now for the ancient Hebrews, the heart wasn't just associated with emotions, but with the rational, decision-making part of us as well. So when Jeremiah speaks of God writing his law on our hearts he doesn't just mean that we will have a warm and fuzzy emotional feeling toward God; he means that the desire to put God's will and purposes into practice will be absolutely engrained in our deepest being.

And then thank goodness, he gives us the means by which we might fulfil this relationship by promising that God's grace and forgiveness abound "I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more." (31:34)

What a relief, a new relationship – written on people's hearts – initiated by God; in fact, a *gift* of God. This is the covenant, which we come to renew at the beginning of each year. We thank God that God not only offers this covenant-relationship to us, but gives us the ability to keep it! If it were not so, the commitment we make in the words of the covenant prayer would be quite foolish and would last as long as many of the resolutions made with the New Year. But there is grace here, and the power of God to change us, and it is this that makes us bold to renew the covenant and say the words of the prayer.

-6-

I am no longer my own but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you, or laid aside for vou. exalted for vou. or brought low for you; let me be full. let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing: I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, alorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven."

Rev Julia January 2018

Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

5pm Sunday 28th January for Prayer Walk remembering the stories of Refugees followed by service 6.30pm Leigh Road Baptist. Please come along and support this ecumenical event. Rev Julia

Annual Week of Accompanied Prayer

Annual Week of Accompanied Prayer will take place from Sunday 15th -22nd April 2018 . Please put these dates in your diary and look out for the "sign up," sheets in the church in January.

Trip to See Cinderella

Wednesday 24th January 2018 Pick up @ 11.15am from Highlands Methodist Church Coach Fare £10 to be collected by Sunday 14th January Please give your money to Mike Spaull @ Belfairs Frank Edmonds @ HighlandsDavid Cox @ Wesley

-7-

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Joy Watson

Joy Watson's funeral is to be held on Thurs 4th January, 10am at Southend Crematorium, followed by a service of Thanksgiving at Wesley 11am. Wesley offer a warm welcome to all of Joy's friends to come and celebrate her life.

Joy Darlwin

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Joy Darlwin better known to us all as "Little Joy". LJ was a regular in the Wesley Coffee shop, with a sunny disposition and full of conversation, she will be missed. Afraid there are no details of funeral arrangements at time of going to print for Jan Clarion.

Thank you

On Sunday, 26th Nov 2017 I did the Bass Belle 10 mile run in South Cambridge shire to raise money for Ruby-Lee who has Global Developmental Delay. The sponsor money raised went to help with ongoing Physiotherapy. I raised £700 and a bonus for me I won the trophy for the first over 60 in a time of 1 hr 14 min and 24 sec. Many thanks for all those who sponsored me and supported Ruby-Lee.

Steve Hockett

WESLEY NOTICES FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

Wesley 120 Years celebrations

The idea of recording our Wesley stories is taking off and we <u>may</u> publish as a booklet, rather than monthly in the Clarion, so please talk to me if you are willing to contribute.

Christian Hope International

Charity Jumble Sale for Christian Hope International - February 17th 2018. Please start saving your unwanted items for this worthy cause.

Thank you Pam and Viv

Pink Bags

If you have any surplus pink recycling bags at home Pam would very much appreciate them donated for Wesley church recycling. Many thanks

Update on Traidcraft

I should like to thank everyone who has supported the Traidcraft stall over past years. As there is no one able to take on the running of the stall, this will be gradually phased out, however Jane Fulford will continue to purchase Traidcraft tea, coffee and sugar for use at the coffee mornings and other events.

Alison Newnham

The Zone Needs You!

At Wesley, we are incredibly blessed with a great group of children and young people, who inspire, engage and challenge us as leaders. The Zone runs a range of activities exploring various aspects of faith and Christianity. This requires at least 2 leaders per week – and we are currently running the rota with just 5 leaders. This simply isn't sustainable in the long run. On behalf of the Zone, could I ask you to consider how you may be able to support us? Whether this is leading a one-off session, or more regularly, there are a variety of ways you can be involved, so please do give this some thought. It is a great privilege to work with our children and young people, and an incredibly important part of the churches work. Many thanks, Anna Wratislaw

Notice to all Church Groups re: Hiring of Rooms

As you all know Alan has taken over the lettings from Paul. As Alan is not a church member there are many activities that take place on a regular basis in various rooms that he is not fully aware of. Obviously Paul was at an advantage in this matter due to the time he has been at Wesley. In order to assist Alan and to avoid clashes and double booking it is vital that all Church Groups make sure that they book their requirements with Alan well in advance. He is now receiving requests for bookings as far ahead as October 2018. Your consideration in this matter would be much appreciated.

CIRCUIT NEWS

Thriplow Daffodil Weekend and Country Fair - Saturday 17th March 2018

Thundersley Methodist Church is running again, a trip to Thriplow Daffodil Weekend and Country Fair on Saturday 17th March 2018. The price is £20 which includes the coach and entrance. There will be a pick up at Highlands Methodist Church and then at Thundersley Methodist Church. More details to come. Please let Anne Lane if you would like to come on 01268 755291 or annelane8@btinternet.com

New Circuit website <u>WWW.SOUthendandleigh.org/</u>



WESLEY PRAYER CHAIN

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.

Gabrielle Greenway 557071 mob 07554884780 Susan Mthimkulu mob 07454011257 Isobel Wratislaw 557764 mob 07508164525 Steve Hockett 478772 mob 07952058251 Jane Fulford Linda Lister June Childs 711891 Vivien Threadgold Miriam Gifford 716175

"Pray without ceasing" 1 Thessalonians 5: 17



-11-

Trip to Thriplow Daffodil Weekend & Country Fair Saturday 17th March Adults £20 (price includes coach travel and entrance to

Thriplow)

Many items including stalls, gardens open to look round, flower festival, bell ringing, Morris dancing, organ music and of course food and drink and much more.

Please book your place or for more information contact Anne on 01268 755291 or <u>annelane8@btinternet.com</u>



TEL: 01702 345373

Age Concern Community Club Wesley Methodist Church Elm Rd Leigh Tuesdays 2 – 4pm Dates for the Diary

	······································	
Tues 2 nd Jan	No Club	
Tues 9 th Jan	Quiz and Games Wesley	
Tues 16 th Jan	Speaker David Norman former Mayor of Southend	
Tues 23 rd Jan	Fish & Chip Lunch – Fish 2 Go – Elm Road, Leigh 12.30 Price tbc	
Tues 30 th Jan	Quiz and Games Wesley	
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month we have lunch out Club closed		





TIME FOR HEALING

The next Time for Healing Prayer Group will be held on Saturday 20th January between 11.30am - 12.30pm. Meetings are typically attended by six to ten people with the majority often being from outside our usual church membership. The format usually includes prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, together with a short meditation on the theme of healing and occasional testimony. This is followed by the opportunity for private prayer with one or more of the group leaders. It is open to anyone, so please come and join us if you can, and give, receive, or just take much needed time out. Future meetings are planned for the following dates:

- Saturday 24th February
- Saturday 24th March
- Saturday 21st April

We hope to see you there.

The meditation used at the December meeting was as follows:

Advent - a time of waiting and preparation

Coming up to Christmas we are now in the season of Advent – a time of waiting and preparation, but preparation for what exactly? Certainly there is all the busyness of the buying of gifts and sending Christmas greetings, the organising of a Christmas meal and sorting out who is visiting who and when. But, beyond all that, it is a time for reflection on the greatest gift that God has given us.

> O come Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

(Advent antiphon (Extract) taken from Celtic Daily Prayer-From the Northumbria Community)

At Christmas we give our thanks and celebrate our joy at the gift of Christ as our saviour and friend. However, we know (and it can seem even more painful at Christmas) that we will still have to deal with our own circumstances, whether they be illnesses, or suffering, or losses of any kind. Our burdens can sometimes overwhelm any joy of Christmas, but the enduring message of Christmas is that there is always hope – God is with us.

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

(Taken from The Holy Bible - New International Version)

Christ came to heal in every way; spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. If we seek Him, He will show us the right way to live and open up all sorts of possibilities to us. God's healing help and forgiveness comes in many forms and often in ways that differ from what we might expect. God uses all our experiences to help us better understand how we can be part of the changes we wish to see. We should continue to look for and give out the message of goodwill, friendship, hope, caring and reconciliation. To repeat what we said last year, Christmas is not just for Christmas – it's for life!

Matthew 28:20b "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Taken from The Holy Bible – New International Version)

To conclude, we can perhaps reflect that the arrival into the world of the infant Jesus, his life of example and his sacrifice for our salvation shows how much God cares for us. God has an unconditional love for us all and we are all considered worthy in His sight. We can trust in His healing touch.

"Deep in the night the voice of the waves on the shore announced to us: Christ is born! Son of the King of kings from the land of salvation, the mountains glowed to Him, the plains glowed to Him,

then shone the sun on the mountains high to Him. All hail, let there be joy.

God the Lord has opened a Door Christ of hope, Door of Joy! Son of Mary, hasten Thou to help me: In me Lord Christ let there be joy."

(Christmas (Extract) taken from Celtic Daily Prayer-From the Northumbria Community)

I think the poet John Betjeman captured the essence of the season so well in the last verse of a poem about Christmas:

No love that in a family dwells, No carolling in frosty air, Nor all the steeple-shaking bells Can with this single Truth compare -That God was man in Palestine And lives today in Bread and Wine.

(Taken from Christmas 1959 by John Betjeman)

Terry Harper

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?

Painting, decorating & Odd Jobs	5
Dog walking	

Mark Wiltshire Freya 01702 475089 07771 643665



Southend Talking Newspaper is a FREE, weekly, audio record of local news for blind and partially sighted people who are unable to read a newspaper.

Each week our volunteers read and record about an hour of local news. It is posted, "first class", to our visually impaired listeners, keeping them up to date with local events and matters of interest.

There is also a regular audio "magazine edition" with local and more distant articles.

We record on CD or special USB memory sticks and can provide a USB player, at no cost to the listener, if necessary. Do you know someone who is unable to read the paper and who might welcome this FREE service? If so please contact:

> Secretary Eric Quarmby on 01702 554536 or Chairman Nigel Gayner on 01702 305064

> > southendtalkingnews@gmail.com

Southend Talking Newspaper was originally formed as a community project by Southend Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs. It became an independent charity in 1980.



In 2017 Allegro held a concert in Wesley for Action for Children and the Wesley Premises Fund. It was a great success and raised £425 for each of the two beneficiaries. We looked after them so well they said they would return. On Saturday 9th. June they will hold a concert for our Work with Older People. Please note the date and help by bring friends to the concert. Church Council will decide exactly how the money is to be spent.

Eileen Simmons. Leadership Team member for Learning and Caring 12/12/17 Eileen Simmons

THE TEN HOLY HABITS:

- Biblical teaching
- > Fellowship
- Breaking of bread
- > Prayer
- ➢ Giving
- > Service
- Eating together
- Gladness and generosity
- > Worship
- Making more disciples

After my service on 26/11/17 I was asked if we could share a copy of the Ten Holy Habits via the Clarion.



Illustrated by Trudi Pipe

FLOWER ROTA FOR JANUARY

7th No donor

- 14th flowers given by Annette Jarvis in loving memory her sister Vera and brother in law Bob. Arranged by Sue Hockett
- 21st No donor
- 28th Flowers given by Paul McDowell in loving memory of his

parents, Jean and Mac. Arranged by Annette Charnock.

WESLEY MONTHLY MOVIES

Friday 26th January 2018 "MISS POTTER" 10.30am

Whilst delighting generations of children with her books, Beatrix Potter kept her own story locked carefully away.

Miss Potter is the enchanting love story inspired by Beatrix Potter's own life.

FREE event

'Hope three16'

TAKES SERVIING THE HOMELESS TO A NEW LEVEL

'Hope three16' - a relatively new Christian charity which has successfully run a supported housing project in Southchurch for over three years, are launching a Social Impact Enterprise Business to extend their provision into much needed 'supported employment' opportunities for their residents. This will be a both a social enterprise and a training & engagement facility by which to transit their homeless hotel residents onwards into employment with the skills needed to both sustain a tenancy and regain status in the world of work – no matter how limited that may, be according to each individual's capacity.

The 'Hope three16' mission was conceived out of the musings of 3 Christian volunteers when - stirred through experience at a local homelessness support charity about what is commonly referred to as the 'Revolving Door', concluded that: "there must be a better way". Thus was borne an enterprise which established first one shared home and now 4, supporting up to 17 vulnerable homeless men. As Project Director and foundational team member John Hales explains: "We operate under an ethos of 'mending broken lives' because we have engaged many people whose lives have been affected and even defined by never having known a mother or father's love. Homeless can be the result of never having enjoyed that loving relationship – perhaps because of a childhood in care or domestic abuse. Again and again we see major issues of trust because of failed relationships, leaving lots of our guys with no life skills when they become adults themselves. Their own family then falls apart with relationships becoming virtually toxic, and typically the male partner is excluded. Indeed, often part of the homeless hostel experience needs to include 'parenting' within the shared home 'family' - yes 'parenting' of 20 and up to 60 year old year old adults". That's where showing them the love of the Father is key. However, Peter Moss, fellow founder and Project Team member relates: "a period in homelessness effectively supresses the ability to participate in or contribute to Society. This presents barriers to employment, leading to boredom and significantly: destruction of self-worth - which is what induces many to resort to 'escape' into alcohol and drugs. So we have realised that keeping our guys 'on the rails' once rehabilitated, requires engagement in fruitful activity with a prospect of rewarding employment.

Another benefit which flows from activity in a workshop environment is a teamworking fellowship which is very different from that engendered from sharing the facilities in a home. As Steve, one of the supported housemates describes his experience: "This opportunity give us a sense of purpose and a focus for our energy because the wealth we are creating is in the restoration of our people rather than in the furniture we will be selling".

The Social Impact Enterprise is based in a small industrial unit in Southchurch with a workshop area where second-hand furniture will be restored and domestic ornaments will be crafted. A house clearance service is also offered by which stock can be sourced. A combined cafe' and retail outlet is envisaged trading as 'Upcycled With Style' also selling products by other artisans and crafts-people. The workshop site also has two small enclosed yards where building and decorating skills can be taught and a base established for provision of property maintenance services. Clients will also be coached in the associated business management processes. To bring this all to fruition however, volunteers are needed to physically support the work but also coach in the required skills and it is hoped that retired builders and decorators will be willing to give time to transfer their skills. Donations of unwanted tools and equipment will also be welcomed and perhaps shared used of access equipment in exchange for storage. The offer of part-time use of a van or pick-up would he most welcome. Another venture is on a small-holding in Sutton where fruit and vegetables will be grown and from where a domestic gardening service will be offered. Again gardening and allotment experienced volunteers are sought to advice on scope, design and crop planning.

Hope three16 is unashamedly and overtly a Christian' mission which as Gill Ioannis – another of the House Managers explains, holds the sharing of God's love as a core value: "We know that those who have never been loved are never going to be best placed to love themselves, so our love is our 'investment' in them which through nurturing, life guidance and encouragement will enable them to renew their personalities. And once renewed, our intended 'supported employment' facilities will provide a route back into Society as skilled artisans. Indeed we would dearly love to receive offers of time and expertise from Christian who have a passion to share their artisan skills as well as offers of financial help and the other requested resources."

This is intended as a community initiative helped by 'The Community' to bring those on the fringe back into 'Community' as fruitful and contributing members. Opportunities exist for all to contribute whether helping the housemates within the shared homes to adjust back into domestic routine from the unstructured chaos in life on the street; the computer skills required for the challenging but laborious online form-filling required to claim 'Universal Credit', housing and other benefits; catering, cooking and domestic housekeeping routines; and equally important: mentoring through the 'shoulder to cry on' when confidence is challenged or the consequences of family break-down surface such as loss of access to children. There is even a place for coaching in music and art so as to divert the housemates away from lapsing back on to drink and drugs. And of course the charity's administrative and accountancy burden also needs support. Offers for volunteering and any of the requested resources to HopeThree16 should please be directed to Peter Courtenay on <u>peter@courtenay.org.uk</u>. Also any requests for house clearances. Further information and opportunity for financial

donations using 'Gift Aid' can be accessed on our website: hopethree16.org.uk

Peter Courtenay



NEW 2018 PROGRAMME



Worship for those with and without Dementia

2PM - 4PM 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

SUNDAY 7 th J	AN COVEN	JANT SERVICE
	11.00am	Preacher: Rev Julia Monaghan Porch: Linda Lister
Tues 9th	12.30pm	Age Concern Community Club
Weds 10th	10.00am	Parent & Toddler
	2.30pm	Talking Poetry – "Resolutions"
Thurs 11th	6.00pm	Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth
Fri 12th	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 13th	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Time for Prayer

SUNDAY 14th JAN

	9.00am	Communion
	11.00am	Preacher: Mrs M Gutteridge
		Porch: Heather Swain
Mon 15th	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
Tues 16th	2.30pm	Age Concern Community Carol Service
Weds 17th	10.00am	Parent & Toddler
Thurs 18th	6.00pm	Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth
Fri 19th	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 20st	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Time for Healing

SUNDAY 21ST JAN

	11.00am	Preacher: Mrs Mayo Porch: Richard King
Mon 22nd	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
Weds 24th	10.00am	Parent & Toddler
	2.30pm	Talking Poetry – "Winter"
Thurs 25th	6.00pm	Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth
Fri 26th	10.30am	Wesley Movie "MISS POTTER"
	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 27h	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Time for Prayer

SUNDAY 28th JAN

	11.00am	Preacher: LA Porch: Janet Whiddett
Mon 29th	10.00am	Wesley Art Group
Tues 30th	12.30pm	Age Concern Community Club
Weds 31st	10.00am	Parent & Toddler
Thurs 1st	6.00pm	Fusion Kids/Fusion Youth
Fri 2 nd	2.00pm	Table Tennis 60+
Sat 3 rd	10.00am	Coffee Morning
	11.30am	Time for Prayer

SUNDAY 4TH FEB

11.00am	Preacher: Rev Julia Monaghan
	Porch: Linda Lister

FORWARD EVENTS

Sat 3rd Feb4.00-5.00pmNext FUSION FamilySat 17th FebChristian Hope Int'l
Jumble SaleSun 15th -22nd AprilAnnual Week of Accompanied
PrayerSat 9th JuneAllegro Concert

FEBRUARY CLARION

Items for the Jan Clarion should be emailed to <u>julie.peek@hotmail.co.uk</u> or placed in the folder outside the vestry by **SUNDAY 19th JAN 2018**



Wesley Methodist Church is a member of Southend and Leigh 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.

