

THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: October 2018



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Minister's Thoughts



When we are young we have a sense of awe and wonder at most of the things we see, whether that be an ant running across the pavement or a '99' ice cream with two flakes in it! But as we get older we sometimes seem to lose that sense of awe and wonder.

We can too easily get caught up in our thoughts, remembering the past or worrying about the future, to notice the many amazing things going on around us. We're too focused on counting all the things we don't have yet, to notice the beauty, love and abundance that is already ours.

What is your first thought upon waking in the morning? If you're like a lot of people, it will be one of resistance. You don't want to get up. You don't feel like facing your to-do list. You don't want to go to that meeting. You're not exactly enthused about struggling through another tiresome day.

Your first thoughts in the morning can have a huge impact on the attitude, feelings and energy you carry around with you for the remainder of the day.

The Roman Emperor Marcus Auerlius once famously wrote: *“When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive — to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.”*

Imagine how different we would feel if we were to wake up with a similar attitude; if we greeted the day with thoughts like:

“Wow, what a privilege it is to be alive. I am so lucky to be here now, experiencing the wonders of life. I am blessed with fresh air, the beauty of nature, my loved ones, the ability to laugh and create and dance. I am blessed with food and shelter, an imagination and the ability to do kind acts for others. I am so grateful for today, and I am going to relish the next 24 hours.”

Are you feeling inspired? It’s not easy to train your mind out of old habits, so to give you a helping hand, here are 10 positive morning thoughts that can help get you in the right frame of mind each day.

1. Thank you God for this gift of a whole new day. I am grateful.

2. How can I best serve God today?
3. I dedicate today to love and kindness.
4. I am going to give this day my very best, so that I may rest my head with deep satisfaction tonight.
5. I have everything that I need right in this moment.
6. I see the world with grateful eyes, and it fills my soul.
7. I will listen to God's voice today and allow Him to guide me.
8. Let me make the world a better place by shining my light today.
9. My life is a miracle.
10. I carry peace and stillness in my heart as I go about my daily activities.

And God's continual goodness to us is recorded in His Word:

Act 14:17b says; '...he has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.' [NIV]

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve



WESLEY CHARITY NEWS

- The final total for the Allegro concert was £678 and this was credited to Julie Peek's salary
- Allegro return on 22nd. June 2019 and we shall be raising money for two charities. Church Council have chosen the Alzheimers' Society with the other half for Wesley Methodist Church's work among Young People.
- Every year our Treasurer. Tina kindly collates the annual totals that our church donates to a range of charities. Thank you,

Tina:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Shelter Box | £ 632.68 |
| Macmillan | £ 623.75 |
| Action for Children | £ 437.80 |
| National Autistic Soc | £ 504.79 |
| Barnardo's | £ 339.19 |
| Nkanfoa School | £ 121.00 |

Hope International £1162.78

Harp £260.50

Christian Aid £277.89

Ovarian Cancer £277.89

World Mission Fund

(Easter Offering) £114.10

JMA £55.36

Total: £4620.84

Eileen Simmons 18.08.18

LEARNING and CARING

➤ Viv Threadgold has been Wesley's Pastoral committee Secretary for over sixteen years and has now decided to retire.

➤ She has been wonderful (and still is!) in this post and her knowledge of individuals is just amazing.

➤ Fortunately, she wants to continue as a Pastoral Visitor with her big group and we are delighted to agree.

➤ We thank Viv for her many years of committed service.

➤ I have volunteered to be the new Pastoral Secretary from September 1st, and Viv has agreed to help me with the handover.

Eileen Simmons 10.08.18



WESLEY CHURCH 120TH **ANNIVERSARY**

In June 1944, my brother David aged six and I a year younger, found ourselves staying with relatives in a large bungalow, sadly now no more, in Lymington Avenue. We had left our home in S.W. London, as our mother May was in a Maternity Home about to give birth to another daughter, Heather. Our father Gordon, having recently suffered an embolism in his left leg, was working in the City and acting as an Air raid Warden. Fortunately, when our home was Blitzed nobody was inside, and so another chapter in the life of the Crawford family began.

We put our roots down in Leigh and made Wesley Church our Spiritual Home, The Rev. Greville Lewis being the minister.

My early memories are joining the Primary Department of the Sunday School, which met at 3 p.m. on Sundays, where Miss Anne Verinder, who ran a Book and Card shop just over the road in Rectory Grove, had recently taken over as leader from Margaret Lewis. I was put into a little

group where our teacher was a lovely young man awaiting to be called up. I made friends with another young girl named Jill White, who thought it a great joke to call our teacher Mr Bucket. Yes, it was David Buckey, and so began many years of friendship with David and his family. Jill and I still correspond, although sadly recently she has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. I remember her grandfather, a big man named Mr Miller a Trustee of Wesley with his gold watch chain that hung across his waistcoat. It obviously made a big impression on a small girl. Another activity that Jill and I together attended, was the Cadet section of the Girls Life Brigade. At this time, before Guides met at Wesley, it was a very thriving part of the Wesley's Youth. (The Boys Brigade meeting down at New Road our mother Church.)

We would walk up Elm Road past Wesley and knock on the door of the very next house to collect Lieutenant Rosa Johnson who lived there with her parents and sister Margaret. Her father was one of the local Undertakers with premises adjoining the house. Rosa worked in the office which looked out onto Elm Road.

Further premises were around the corner in North Street.

Rosa's mother would invited us in and I remember eating biscuits in front of an open fire, whilst waiting. Then together with Lieutenant we would open up and go into the Canteen Room to take part in many absorbing activities. Team games were very popular and Rosa a keen Dramatist would write or find a little play to be performed by her Cadets at the company's Annual Display. This happened around the end of the year in Wesley Hall, involving the whole company where many skills were displayed to a huge gathering of parents and friends. When I was around seven or eight I remember being cast as Cinderella in the little Pantomime to round off the Cadets Slot in the Programme. Unfortunately, just close to the great day I fell down the stairs at home, dislocating my elbow. This caused great consternation, as to how I would be able to change from one costume to another. A handy dressmaker came to our aid, and so I was appropriately dressed for Prince Charming, my good friend Judy Bell, now The Rev. Judith Chapman, to help me try the slipper. Captain Norah Bradbrook, and Lieutenant Freda Cotgrove, {Aunt to Margaret) would put the older girls through many hours of Marching and Drill, all around Wesley Hall, in

readiness for the Monthly Church Parades mainly at our Church, but sometimes further afield. Quite often the Band would assemble. Judith Chapman skilfully learned to carry and play the Bass Drum. Others played bugles. I was hopeless, but Margaret Tomlin, nee Card, was brilliant.

Heather my sister, greatly benefited from all these hours spent up in Wesley Hall, because after qualifying a Nursing Sister and Midwife, she went into Princess Mary's R.A.F. Nursing Service. One November she was chosen to lead a group of nurses down the steps of The Royal Albert Hall and into the Arena on the Saturday prior to Remembrance Sunday, because of her excellent Marching Skills. Our daughter Melanie aged three, now in her early fifties, was allowed to sit up, and watch on our television, Auntie Heather parading with the other nurses.

David my brother became a member of the cubs and then scouts, but most of all enjoyed being a member of The Youth Club. Just before his eighteenth birthday, suddenly one night he was taken ill and died within a few hours. I know my parents found great comfort from knowing he had given his life to the Lord Jesus Christ, when going with a group of Youth Club friends to Wembley, to hear Billy

Graham speak. Dr Graham ended his Address with the Appeal for all who wished to Follow the Lord Jesus to go forward. David with so many others responded. Geoff Hawkins at this time was one of the Club Leaders. He showed great kindness to us, as a family, by visiting our home on a regular weekly basis for a good while, after this tragedy. For a young man to give up his Thursday evening after returning from the City, is so worthy of a mention and a credit to those who ran The Youth Club. In David's memory my parents gave the Illuminated Cross that shines out from Wesley Church over Leigh. It was dedicated by the Revd. Tom Stancliffe in 1958. It has over the years has been cared for and maintained by David Johnson, Keith Charnock and a kindly electrician. For their knowledge and expertise I express sincere thanks. As a family we have been pleased to meet any costs incurred for the maintenance. I really thought a new cross would have to be purchased after the updating of our Churches Frontage. It was becoming very difficult to track down a replacement, and so I greatly appreciate the work carried out by the three gentlemen already referred to. When asking the electrician for his bill, he replied, there was no charge, as

he had worked for Wesley Church.

In 1963 My Husband Derek and I set up home in Gosfield, North Essex, and put down roots at Braintree Methodist Church, later to be part of Christ Church. 27 years later we returned to Leigh, just prior to my husband's death.

The Revd David Read was minister at Wesley and in him I found a man of sound principles, courage, understanding, and with a good sense of humour. This quality became very apparent firstly, when I became one of David's Church Stewards, and then a while later when I went down with Breast Cancer. He would often visit, and we had many interesting chats and discussions. I also admired the way he always wore his clerical collar when on home visits and at meetings, or around the church quietly observing what was going on. Fairly regularly on a Saturday morning, before 9.a.m.I would be within the sanctuary arranging flowers for the next day, and David would arrive cheerfully enquiring as to how I was getting along.

This privilege of being responsible for Church Flowers was handed over to me by a lovely member, named Elsie Clacket. Her husband Will had for many years been Choir Master, and assistant organist. Elsie had a delightful

soprano voice and often sung solos. My father would ask her to sing at his Home Mission Anniversaries, something referred to in his obituary in the Methodist Recorder as not being just an observance of a Regulation of Conference. Elsie had many other accomplishments, and so as a young person I was rather in awe of her. Upon returning to Wesley, being more mature, and sadly feeling rather bereft, as my father, brother, sister and husband has all travelled on to meet their Saviour, I was aware of a few very special friends, Elsie being one of them. Knowing of my Floristry skills she asked me if I would like to take over the job, she had for so many years held. I was very touched by this suggestion and thanking her accepted.

It was with sadness I learned from David Read that at the same time I was in Southend Hospital undergoing surgery for my cancer, Elsie too for a similar reason was on a different Ward. In the end I made a complete recovery, but Elsie was called to her Heavenly home. For a good few years I got great pleasure holding this position feeling in a quiet and fulfilling way I was carrying out a Pastoral Role. Talking to Brides about their wedding flowers or helping friends and family to remember a Dear One who had

travelled on, and for many years, after Evening Service we would distribute flowers for various reasons to folk who would appreciate a visit. Without the help and generosity of many friends this ministry would have been lost, so I do thank you all, and I still treasure the kind and appreciative letters I received.

Eighteen months ago, I moved to an Apartment in Chelmsford, and find myself being drawn to The Cathedral for Worship and have joined a little Art Group. I was thrilled that during Morning Worship on the First Sunday in the New Year, the Dean announced that during the next weeks service, we would be using the wonderful prayer written by John Wesley, and said by Methodists at the Annual Covenant Service, "I am no longer my own, but Thine". As I often tell folk, both John and Charles Wesley died as Anglican Priests.

With All Good Wishes, Maureen Hall.

COMING UP

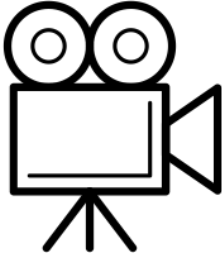


On Friday, 28th September, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning will take place, and here at Wesley we will be hosting our very own special Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning.

From 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on that day. There will be a cake stall and handmade cards, together with the usual Macmillan competitions. Donations for the cake stall would be very much appreciated. Please come along, bring a friend, and help us raise as much money as possible for this important work. Enjoy a lovely cup of coffee or tea, with a delicious slice of cake.

We look forward to welcoming you on the day.

Thank you, Ruth Lowden



Friday 21st Sept "THE BLINDSIDE" 10.30am

Michael Oher knows little about family, less about sports. What the homeless teen knows are the streets and projects of Memphis. Well-to-do Leigh Anne Tuohy knows little about his world and yet when she and Michael meet their lives are both changed forever.

Come along and share this remarkable and uplifting, real-life faith in action story.

FREE EVENT!!!!!!!!!!!!

Julie Peek

Mission Enabler for Older People

SUMMERTIME TEA & CAKE AFTERNOONS

Once a month for 60+ age group
Thursday afternoons 2-4pm

April 26th
May 31st
June 28th
July 19th
Aug 30th
Sept 27th
Oct 25th



£1 for tea, coffee or soft drink with a choice of
delicious cakes.

Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road,
Leigh-on-Sea



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

Flower rota for September.

[2nd September](#) 

[9th September](#) 

[16th September](#) Flowers on Chamberlain window given by Judy, Alan and Aimee in loving memory of Kath Landless.

[23rd September](#) 

30th September- Flowers given by Sue and Steve Hockett in loving memory of their parents.

Annette Charnock

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.

Gabrielle Greenway 557071 mob 07554884780

Isobel Wratishaw 557764 mob 07508164525

Steve Hockett 478772 mob 07952058251

Jane Fulford

Linda Lister

June Childs 711891

June Childs 711891

Vivien Threadgold 713325

Miriam Gifford 716175



TIME FOR HEALING

The next Time for Healing Prayer Group will be held on Saturday 22nd September 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:

October 20th

November 17th

December 8th

We hope to see you there.

Terry Harper

REGULAR SERVICES AND **EVENTS AT WESLEY**

Sundays

2nd Sept 11 am Workship – Pastor Steve Mayo

9th Sept 11am Workship – Mr R Thomas

16th Sept 11am Workship – Rev Chris Reeve

23th Sept 11am Workship – LA

30th Sept 11am Workship – P Smith/H Simmons

11am The Zone – All young people welcome

9am - Communion – 2nd Sunday in the month – All are welcome

Mondays

10am – Coffee Shop Morning – Foyer – All are welcome

10 am – Wesley Art Group in Room 3

2pm – Memory Worship, Worship for those with and without Dementia – 3rd Monday in month. – Church space

8pm – Wesley Theatre Group – Wesley Hall – All are welcome

Tuesdays

10am – Coffee Shop Morning – Foyer – All are welcome

2pm Age Concern Community

1:30pm – Leigh Afternoon WI

8pm - Creative Workshop – Church Space – every 4th

Tuesday in the month – All are welcome

Wednesdays

10 am – Coffee Shop Morning – Foyer – All are welcome

10 am – Parent and Toddler – Canteen room – resuming
5th September

2:30 pm – Talking Poetry – Canteen room – All are welcome

6pm – St John's Ambulance – Youth Hall and Room 2

7:30- Cameo House group meets on the 3rd Wed in homes of members, please contact Jane fulford for more

information. 1st meeting 19th Sept at David Johnsons home.

Thursdays

10 am – Coffee Shop Morning – Foyer – All are welcome

6 pm – Fusion Kids (School Terms Yrs 1 – 6)

6pm – Fusion Youth (School Terms Yr 6 plus)

8pm – Thursday Call – Every 3rd Thursday in the month

Fridays

10 am – Coffee Shop Morning – Foyer – All are welcome

2pm – Table Tennis 60+ - Wesley Hall

Saturdays

10am – Coffee Shop Morning – Foyer – All are welcome

11:30 am – Time for Prayer – Vestry – All are welcome

11:30 am – Time for Healing – Church Space – All are welcome (Dates are in Terry's new flash)

As much as you want
to plan your life, it has
a way of surprising you
with unexpected
things that will make you
happier than you
originally planned.

That's what you call
GOD'S WILL.

@the-art-beat

Editors information

This is the first month of a new format Clarion, any feedback on the layout and content is welcome, please speak to any member of the Leadership Team. If you would prefer to receive a copy of the clarion electronically, please let me know, as we are working to become eco-friendlier. If you would like to donate towards to cost of The Clarion, there will be a plate out during the Coffee Shop mornings and on a Sunday morning, should anyone wish to donate.

**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

