

## Reports for the Annual Church Life Meeting 2019



Photograph from Fusion Youth Club

## MINISTER'S REPORT – WESLEY METHODIST 2019

It's amazing how time flies and I have officially been your minister for some 8 months now.

Over this period of time I have been much encouraged by the warmth and enthusiasm of the church here at Wesley.

You are fortunate to have a large number of young people attending the church either through Sunday school, Fusion Youth Club, Parent and toddlers and other community activities, and I know many of you work hard to sustain these ministries for which myself, and the church, are indebted to you and grateful.

But it's not just the young people which Wesley cares for and nurtures, but all ages, and this is to be commended whether it's Memory Worship, daily coffee mornings, art groups and many other activities which happen throughout the week.

I've also been very impressed by the pastoral support you give one another, whether that be through the pastoral visitors' system or through you just looking out for each other. Our church family is so important and it's great you give it the time and priority it deserves.

Missional outreach has also been great this last year with many new people coming through our doors through different concerts, the Christmas tree Festival at the Leigh Lights, and also the generally well attended Christmas services. A big thank you, to all those involved in these evangelistic activities.

I would also like to thank you all for your warm welcome to myself and thank you for the encouragement and support I have received over these initial few months.

I look forward to getting to know each one of you better as we serve the Lord together in our various roles.

*Father God, you are the source, guide and goal of all life.*

*You have given us responsibility not only for our own lives,*

*but also for the well-being of our church here at Wesley*

*and the surrounding community.*

*We ask you to fill us with the love and power of your Spirit,*

*that we may complete the task you have laid upon us.*

*In Jesus' name. Amen*

May God richly bless you,

**Pastor Steve Mayo**

Over the past few months there have been many lovely moments in the life of Wesley Church that have made an impression.

- The dignity, beauty and warmth of the celebration service for the life of Molly Moss.
- The moment when an elderly gentleman paused in the church and looked around. He said he was married at Wesley 66 years ago and counted his blessings every Saturday morning, when he and his wife came here for coffee.
- The buzz and energy at the Annual Jumble sale which raised £ 1500 for Christian Hope international. Such a lot of hard work, but the money raised will achieve so much.
- The second anniversary party of Memory Worship, which was so joyful. - The exuberant dancing at the Elvis tribute concert, which was enjoyed by such a large audience.
- There are so many other examples, too numerous to include.

Eileen Simmons

## **CHURCH COUNCIL:**

The decision-making body of Wesley Methodist is our Church Council. The Church Stewards and Church Representatives to Church Council are elected by the Annual Church Meeting. We thank David Norman for his service on our Church Council. We accepted his resignation on health grounds at our January 2019 meeting. We welcomed Emma Hearn at that same meeting as a newly elected member.

Church Council takes significant decisions about the future of the church which includes:

- Each September, approval of the annual budget.
- Decisions on, and approval of, major spending on premises, staffing and staff appointments.
- Decisions on mission developments, eg. the introduction of Sunday lunches.
- Choosing which charities will be supported by the special services over the Christmas period.

**List of Church Council Members and Advisors**, their roles and dates of office as from September 2018.

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>First Elected</b>	<b>Elected to new role</b>	<b>Completed 6 years</b>
Rev. Peter Moorhouse	<b>Superintendent</b>			
Anne Briant	<b>Circuit Representative</b>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2023</b>
Pastor Steve Mayo	<b>Minister in charge (Chair of Council)</b>			
Judy Taylor	<b>Church Secretary/ LT for Safeguarding</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2020</b>
Sue Hockett	<b>Co-ordinating Steward/LT for Worship</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2020</b>
Gaye Greenaway	<b>LT for Evangelism</b>		<b>2014</b>	<b>2020</b>
Ian Lowe	<b>LT for Service /Circuit Rep</b>		<b>2014</b>	<b>2020</b>
Anna Wratlslaw	<b>Zone Leader /Communication Representative for LT</b>		<b>2016</b>	<b>2022</b>
Eileen Simmons	<b>LT for Learning and Caring, Pastoral Secretary (Sept 2018)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2021</b>
Isobel Wratlslaw	<b>Church Steward</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2019</b>
Geoff Hart	<b>Property Link Officer</b>	<b>2008</b>		<b>2019</b>
Emma Hearn	<b>Fusion link Rep</b>	<b>2018</b>		<b>2024</b>
Geoff Hawkins	<b>Church Rep</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>2019</b>
Helen Boyd	<b>Church Rep</b>	<b>2012</b>		<b>2019</b>
June Childs	<b>Church Rep</b>	<b>2015</b>		<b>2021</b>
Rupert Bertie	<b>Church Rep</b>	<b>2016</b>		<b>2022</b>
David Cox	<b>Church Rep</b>	<b>2018</b>		<b>2024</b>

**Advisors to CC**

Tina Gowers/Alan Severne

## Wesley is now registered as an Inclusive Church.

Inclusive Church is a network of churches, groups and individuals uniting together around a shared vision:



"We believe in inclusive Church - church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

The structure of our **Leadership Team** is based upon Our Calling and has remained the same for 2018/19 reports directly to Church Council. **Our Calling:**

**The Calling** of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

It does this through **Worship**. The church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

**Learning and Caring:** the church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

**Service:** the church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

**Evangelism:** the church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

The members of the **Leadership Team** are the Minister and Church Stewards:

Pastor Steve Mayo	Minister
Isobel Wratishaw	Steward
Sue Hockett	Steward for Worship
Eileen Simmons	Steward for Learning & Caring / Pastoral Secretary
Ian Lowe	Steward for Service
Gaye Greenaway	Steward for Evangelism
Anna Wratishaw	Steward for Communications
Judith Taylor	Church Secretary / Steward for Safeguarding

## **Worship Consultation Open Meetings Report by Sue Hockett Steward for Worship.**

In September we held the first Worship Consultation meeting and 13 people attended. We discussed all the different forms of worship including All Age Worship; Café Worship; Memory Worship; Informal Worship; Local Arrangement Services; Worship at Fusion; Music; Christmas arrangements and Extra-ordinary Events. We have since held two further meetings in November (10 people present) and February (13 people present). Out of these meetings we have now started Inspire Worship on the third Sunday of the month and Sanya Strachan has held a dance workshop with the Zone on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

We have reviewed the Covenant Service and are looking at holding it on an alternative date because the first Sunday in January seems to have a small attendance.

After discussion on trying to encourage Fusion members to a Sunday morning service it was felt that a much better idea would be to encourage our church family members to attend their Annual Awards evening on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. By doing this, members would see the young people in their own environment and see how they worship. Emma Hearn has agreed to write an article for the Clarion explaining about the evening and asking the Church Family to support and engage with the Fusion Families.

At the last meeting we had a good discussion on our Communion Service and we now have more communion stewards and Steve Mayo has had a training meeting with them all. We now look forward to well organised communion services.

I am very encouraged by these consultation meetings. We can discuss the worship at Wesley openly and everyone who attends has a voice and is able to express their feelings on the forms of worship we offer. Our next meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at 8PM at Wesley. This will be publicised in the notice sheet and the minutes are always put on the board in the concourse following the meeting. I would encourage anyone who has ideas or suggestions for worship come along to our meetings.

I have now produced a three-fold leaflet giving details of worship at Wesley which can be given to visitors. I believe it is easier for visitors to have all the worship information together rather than just giving them a Clarion.

The **Zone Nativity** was a lovely family service. Well done to Anna Wratishaw and her fellow zone staff for all their hard work. We realise it is difficult trying to organise a programme when the attendance of young people is very spasmodic. Thank you for your dedication.

The Christingle Service was bursting at the seams again. Our thanks go to Marjorie Charnock and her team for all the Christingles.

2019 started well with the launch of the new Inspire Service (third Sunday of the month at 5.30 pm) and on the fourth Tuesday each month, Informal Worship at 8 pm. Both services are more contemporary, and each month are different; sometimes more meditative or involve discussion; sometimes using different forms of music and songs.

### **Communion Services**

We hold two communion services a month – 11 am on the first Sunday of the month and 9 am on the second Sunday of the month – both led by Steve Mayo. The early morning communion service is followed by breakfast and a short time for fellowship.

### **Memory Worship and Time for Healing**

These two services go from strength to strength and our thanks go to all those involved.

### **Easter 2019**

During Holy Week we will be joining with Highlands, Belfairs and Rochford for some of our services.

### **Gift Month and Celebration Weekend**

June 2019 will be gift month at Wesley and our Celebration service will be held on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Further details will be available after Easter.



## **Pastoral Report by Eileen Simmons- Steward for Learning and Caring**

Promoted to glory since the last ACM: Molly Moss, David Johnson

I became Pastoral Secretary in September 2018 and liaised with Vivien Threadgold to make a smooth handover. Viv had been pastoral Secretary for something like sixteen years and still is an amazing source of information. She was superb at the job and we were delighted to celebrate her contribution during the special service to commission all the Pastoral Visitors in the Autumn.

The Pastoral visitors' team work so hard and effectively caring for our Wesley family. Each Pastoral visitor knows the individuals in his/her group well and responds to their needs in a variety of ways. Home visits are made. Where needed hospital visiting takes place. Phone calls are very helpful. People meet up for coffee or a meal and talk about anything and everything; including personal Christian faith, concerns, family news, football..... The list is endless. Being a Pastoral visitor is very satisfying and we receive at least as much as we give.

There are details of the House group activities. I belong to CAMEO which I value enormously.

Besides the formal structure of a Pastoral committee and activity there are also many personal links, which can be so supportive including the relationships between members of House groups, which can be such an encouragement. Margaret Buckey decided to stop being a Pastoral visitor and we had a lovely presentation to thank her for her many years of dedicated service.

Pastor Steve is exceptionally responsive in cases of pastoral need and is systematically getting to know individuals in our Wesley family by making mutually convenient times to meet. However, as he is doing this for three churches the task will take a long time.

Pastoral visitors need to be members of the Methodist Church. I would be happy to talk to anyone interested in becoming a Visitor. There is plenty of opportunity for shadowing and indeed for non-members to work with a Pastoral visitor to support this vital work. This already happens informally and is much appreciated.

I recently came across some guidance notes I wrote when I was at Wesley's Chapel "The role of a pastoral visitor is very important as all members need to feel known and have an individual who takes a personal interest in them. I was reading something this week about mentoring which rang a bell for pastoral visitors 'It is all about listening to people, ultimately everyone just wants to be heard'".





## **Service – a place in the community, a place for justice Report by Ian Lowe Steward for Service**

### **Nightshelter**

This winter's sessions concluded on 23rd March. The call for extra volunteers was successful, with several, including some younger people, joining the local church teams.

### **Town Centre Ministry**

Rev. Hannah Bucke is following a call to Army Chaplaincy and will, therefore, finish her current role with the Town Centre Ministry in August 2019. Exploration of the next phase of this pioneering Ministry has continued with discussions with Love Southend and the District Grants Committee. It has been agreed that Love Southend will take over responsibility for the retail side of that chaplaincy work, working initially with a local volunteer and progressing to employ a chaplain. The work at Adventure Island and HARP will continue under the auspices of the Circuit, funded initially via a District Grant for 10 hours per week for a seven-month trial period. Heather Simmons is leading the work. Once the trial has been reviewed further funding will be sought to take forward the developed work.

### **Healing and Well-Being Services**

These opportunities to learn from medical professionals and to pray have been running for just over a year on the last Wednesday of the month at Benfleet at 7.45pm. The format is being reviewed and members are encouraged to attend. The 27th March covered Parkinson's Disease.

### **Bible Month**

The Circuit will be holding Bible month studies and linking to the morning services in June, using the same format as in previous years. The book being studied this year is Colossians. All necessary booklets etc have been ordered and training for those who lead small groups is available at Westminster Central Hall on 4th May.

### **Pastoral Oversight**

Following the death of Rev Steve Watts the temporary pastoral cover for his churches is:-

Rayleigh:	Rev Nana Thomford
Hockley:	Rev Dr Michael Moon
Chalkwell Park:	Rev Peter Moorhouse and Rev Margaret Deans

The Circuit Meeting (CM) approved the convening of the Circuit Invitation Committee (CIC) to pursue the appointments necessary for September 2020 (Rev Peter Moorhouse for review next year and the vacancies for other presbyterial appointments arising from: the retirement of Rev. Michael Moon next year; the death of Rev. Steve Watts and Rev. Nana Thomford going into stationing this year; the unfilled vacancy from the previous year of Rev. Julia Monaghan). Given the anticipated scarcity of available Methodist Presbyters CM also approved the establishment of a Steering Group (SG) to pursue options regarding appointment of Authorised Ministers and/or Pastor/Preachers, possibly in advance of the Stationing Round.

CM approved a Memorial to Conference to correct an anomaly in Standing Orders which precludes a former Salvation Army Officer from transferring into Methodist Presbyterial ministry.

Work will follow by the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) to establish pastoral oversight patterns going forward. It is likely that from September 2020 we will need to revert to the old sections, aligned to local authorities, but with a link in each section for the Superintendent.

### **Circuit Office**

The Circuit Office will be moving to Highlands. Work continues to refine the Administrator's Job description. Prior to advertising the role, the necessary Job Description and Person Specification for this part time (15 hours/week) role will be finalised. In the interim CM approved the extension of the current temporary contract.

### **Finances**

The church treasurers had an opportunity to discuss at their meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March. The assessments continue to be capped at no more than +/- 5% per church as per previous agreements of CM. For consistency, the current formula will be maintained for at least the next 2 years. It was noted that the new budget requires local churches to pay for their own quinquennial.



### **Communications Report from Anna Wratishaw, Steward for Communication.**

Since my last ACM report, Judy Taylor has taken over as editor of the Clarion, and we thank her for agreeing to take on this role. We also thank Julie Peek for all her hard work as editor over a number of years. Judy has also kindly agreed to keep the TV screen in the concourse updated with a display of all the regular activities at Wesley –

this includes worship and church-affiliated groups as well as regular outside hires. Thanks to Judy for her work on this. Thanks also to Trudi Pipe who compiles our weekly notice sheet, and to Sue Hockett who put together a 'Worship at Wesley' leaflet for us.

This year we took a slightly different approach with Christmas cards; in the spirit of inclusivity all our congregations – Sunday worship, Fusion, Memory Worship, St Johns, Show Choir, those at Leigh Lights etc all received the same postcard style card, which included Christmas service information alongside the Christmas card greeting. We also used matching digital artwork and for the main poster.

At certain times of the year – particularly around Christmas and Easter - we have a lot of posters and banners that need to go up to promote a variety of events. As we have a limited number of boards and railing space, I have instigated a poster board booking form to try and alleviate this. The form is available in the vestry and simply requires people to block out when they require a board (nb. the monthly services poster has sole use of one of the boards).

This Lent we have been sharing the #40acts daily acts on twitter and Facebook, and at the time of writing I intend to repeat last year's Holy Week posts – sharing Bible passages detailing the events of Holy Week, as an opportunity to share the story of the run up to Easter, which may not be familiar to everyone in our community. If you can share our posts on social media, please continue to do so as it can increase our reach greatly.

On a technical note, following the implementation of General Data Protection Regulation, the privacy policy is now available on the church website, where you will also find the cookie policy; we also have a signature in place for all Wesley email address users, and those using external accounts for Wesley groups (Fusion and Concerts), to signpost to these policies. Please be mindful of these new regulations and our policies if you are ever in a position where you need to take, keep or use personal data of any kind, and speak to myself or Judy Taylor if you have any questions on GPDR or data protection within the church context.

If you have any suggestions on anything to do with the church's communications – how we can improve them, or suggestions on content etc. – please do get in touch.



## **Evangelism Report by Gaye Greenway**

Wesley continues in its evangelistic work. Firstly, of course, in our efforts to reach our community through providing different forms of Worship at different times and on different. days.

Our coffee mornings continues, and the very popular monthly afternoon teas commence this month. We are endeavouring to come up with Sunday lunches but have hit a few technical issues as well as the need for hygiene certification for more helpers.

Our church groups thrive, and the Leadership Team are looking at ways to publicise the house groups and make them more accessible.

We are grateful to those who continue to reach out with the Clarion, Notices sheet, the Website and Facebook.



## **Safeguarding Report from Judith Taylor, Steward for Safeguarding.**

This year has seen changes again to requirements for Safeguarding, linking in with the change to the Data Protection Act, and the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations May 2018. Wesley has taken all precautions and are currently meeting the regulations. Anna Wratishaw and I have been working on the relevant consent forms for The Zone and Fusion, plus we have researched the requirements for storing data. If you have any questions, please either speak to Anna or me. I took on the role as Internal Verifier for Wesley this year, regarding DBS checks. The Methodist Church is now using an agency called “Due Diligence Care”, which is an online agency who process all our DBS applications.

The Safeguarding and Well Being Policy has been updated and reviewed by Church Council in Jan 2019. All hirers are given a copy of this policy when they sign the hirers agreement. Safeguarding Training is being arranged by the Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

**Reports** from other church groups



### **Clarion report from Judith Taylor.**

The Clarion has had a revamp this year, which I hope most people approve of. The magazine is now in colour and using a different format allows slightly more flexibility when using different fonts and formats. Regarding the content, there have been few changes, apart from adding a content page, to help people identify where all the information is, and some titles to enable me to keep similar information together. I would like to thank Julie Peek for all the work she did with the Clarion, and for providing me with all her back copies, and the email addresses of people to whom she has sent the clarion to every month.



### **Time for Healing report by Terry Harper and Jane Fulford**

A small group of us, usually about 5/6 and occasionally up to 10, meet monthly on a Saturday morning at 11.30am with refreshments to think of and pray for; our thanksgivings, individuals who need prayer, the Church and the world.

We feel it is important to pray for the needs of others as they are made known to us. The power of prayer and the praying with others for individuals is a privilege and one we will continue to do. If you wish to join us, please do. See the Clarion and weekly Notice Sheets for dates.



### **Time for Prayer report by Jane Fulford**

This is usually me or one other member of Wesley Church. We offer thanksgivings, pray for the needs of the individuals made known to us, the Church and the world using the Connexional yearly Prayer Book. The names are recorded and when permission is clear added to the Sunday morning Prayer book for Intercessions. Any one is welcome.

This year WTG has put on plays that were slightly different from the normal genre, Bazaar and Rummage is an example of one production which had limited use of a formal set and was an all-female cast. Bothered and Bewildered, a play that uses the stage as two different places (split scene), where actors moving between them, into different time zones and places. This play made excellent use of the new lights that had been purchased by WTG, also with this play we used the opportunity to use sound track vocals to add to the atmosphere.

This year is panto year, and we would welcome any new member who would like to join our group, whether it be for a speaking or non-speaking part, all are more than welcome. We rehearse on a Monday evening from 8pm till 10pm.

Finally, thank you to you our audience, for without you, we would not be able to continue our love of performing and bringing different plays to you are audience.



### **PARENT AND TODDLER report by Marjorie Charnock.**

Parent and Toddlers meet on a Wednesday morning from 10.00 to 11.30 am during the school term. The children range from babies to 3-year olds and come with either mum, dad, grandparent or childminder. They all play well with the toys learning to share with each other and the morning always ends with 10- or 15-minutes singing time which is enjoyed by everyone. Numbers vary each week with an average of 15 plus adults. There is an opportunity for the adults to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits whilst having a chat together. Also, there is a continual supply of biscuits for the children, which they all look forward to from our special biscuit tin. The success of the Parent and Toddler Group, over the past 26 years, has been due to the loyal support and help given voluntary by many dear friends of Wesley. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Pam Caton, Pam Woodhouse, Beryl Hart, Pauline Webber, for their continued loyalty each week to enable us to continue serving the community.



### **Wesley Table Tennis Club 60's+ report by K & M Charnock.**

The Club which was formed in 2008 still meets on a Friday afternoon, during school term-time, and is progressing well. At present, we have 24 members on our register with an average attendance of 17. At the end of our 2017-18 sessions we were able to give a wonderful donation to the Church of £1,169.93.

Sincere thanks go to Mr Jim Mavin for auditing the accounts.

Our afternoon provides plenty of exercise, laughter and fun with a well-earned cup of tea/coffee with cakes/biscuits at half-time, and on occasions includes birthday celebrations

On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019, the Club supported the Paget's Awareness Day charity, by wearing blue and green in honour of Sir James Paget. A photograph was taken of the members in Wesley Hall, which has been printed on the front cover of their international magazine. We would like to also thank the church for the support given to the club.



### **Wesley Art Group Report by Annette Jarvis.**

We meet every Monday morning 10am until 11.45am except Bank Holidays. We have seven members and have different abilities and encourage each other. We pay £3 per week which includes a cup of tea or coffee. The group keep a good stock of supplies which all members have use of.



### **Coffee Mornings report by Jane Fulford.**

We are open every morning between 10am – 12 noon (excluding Sundays). Some mornings are still quiet while others are very busy. Quite a lot of regulars are not church attenders but consider Wesley a welcoming place for conversation and company.

I am indebted to all the ladies and gentlemen who serve the coffee and offer a welcome to all our customers whom we consider friends. I am very grateful for those who fill in at short notice.

Thank you too to those volunteers who offer a 'listening ear'. This is such an important activity as it really helps people feel welcomed, listened to, and valued. If you feel this is something you can do, please contact me.

Thank you again to all who serve by serving others. Please offer your time if you feel it is something you want to be involved in. Another rather mundane but important job is washing tea towels and the tablecloths when they have been used. Thank you to those 'fairies' who simply see a need and help out.

I am convinced that it is vital that we are open on a regular basis so that any member of the community can enter and receive a friendly welcome.



### **Talking Poetry report by Joan Hawkins.**

The Talking Poetry group continues to meet every second and fourth Wednesday at 2:30pm and continues with good attendance as two new members have joined us this session. Our membership is 14 with an average of ten. We are currently emphasising Poet Laureates which is proving to be more interesting than anticipated. We pay £1.50 each week which includes tea or coffee and biscuit. If you are interested in joining please phone Joan on 01702 476004



## **Fusion Youth & Kids report by Emma Hearn.**

For God So Loved the World ..... Fusion Youth & Kids - Easter 2019



What a great term we have had at Fusion. We are busier than ever with our highest recorded on a Thursday night at 88 children. Our adult team is strong, and we now have 9 Youth Team helpers (previous known as Junior Helpers).

On our register we have 135 children with a further 20 who just come for the special events.

As ever we are always needing more adult helpers especially if numbers continue to increase so we can maintain safe children to adult ratio.

Each week I look at a different subject to discuss with the children and depending on the time of year try and relate to what is going on. So, for Valentine's Day we looked at God's love for us and whether we could measure it. Over the last couple of weeks, I have, through cartoon videos, shown the children the different parts leading up to Easter Sunday. For a lot of the children this is the first time they are hearing the real meaning of Easter. We discussed Lent, Palm Sunday, The Last Supper ending with his death and resurrection. The children were totally silent throughout the video of Jesus' death and then erupted into a spontaneous round of applause at the end after watching his resurrection. It was quite emotional watching the children's response.

The Thoughts and Prayers board is still providing popular not only with the children but the Youth Team and adults. We take time at the end of Fusion to pray for those on the board and it was lovely to hear them also being read during Sunday Service at Wesley.

On Thursday 28 March we will be holding our Easter Special which will run from 6pm to 8pm. As with all our Special events we expect a busy night. We have organised

inflatables, football shoot out, party pets, disco, craft, burgers, sandwiches, tuck ending with parents being invited during the last 30 minutes to join in the Big Quiz and to watch a video the children have made of messages to their mums in honour of Mothering Sunday. It's a great opportunity for the parents to see what the children do at Fusion.

I was invited to attend a meeting at Leigh Town Council along with other local Churches, Sea Scouts and Southend's YMCA on Wednesday 20 March to discuss what Leigh is providing for the youth in the Town. Pastor Steve joined me and it was very interesting to hear what others are doing and what, as a town, we are lacking for the youth. I have a copy of the minutes if anyone would like to see them. The other churches and particularly the YMCA were astounded at the number of children we have attending Fusion. What Pastor Steve and I got from the meeting is the lack of a weekly Youth Group for the senior year group (11 to 16yrs) at Wesley.

In September we will be losing 56 year 6 children as we have nothing set up at Wesley.

We acknowledged from the meeting that the Year 7's will be going through a difficult time, changing schools, going from being the top of the school to the bottom with all sorts of emotions and stresses. So, whilst at the moment we are unable to provide a separate older Youth Group we are going to extend Fusion to include Year 7's from September as a trial until Christmas. We will set them up their own room but still allowing them to participate in the sports, crafts etc. and join us in the Church at the end. We will include training for those that wish to stay on as Youth Team helpers and then look at the possibilities of Wesley being able to provide an older Youth Group if providing popular.

As always, I am very thankful to the support of our wonderful volunteers, Pastor Steve and the Church Members who give me and the team encouraging and supportive comments.

It is exciting to see how Fusion is expanding and as a Church we need to respond to this. You may not see so much Youth on a Sunday morning, but they are there on a Thursday night having their own worship. One boy said to me on Thursday 'I don't go to Church'. Oh, but you do child....!





## **Wesley Memory Worship 2019 Quarter 1 Report by Julie Peek Mission Enabler for Older People and Memory Worship facilitator**

### **Highlands Methodist Church**

This new ministry that started life at Wesley continues to grow. On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 Wesley Memory Worship celebrated its 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday and “Lord of all hopefulness” seemed a perfect theme for the day. Sixty people gathered to share worship together with dancing, singing, storytelling and yummy Birthday cake.

It was our vision when Rev Julia and I set up this new ministry two years ago to find a way that people with or without dementia could join in worship and take comfort that God accepts us all and meets us where we are today. Two years on and Memory Worship has become a beacon for churches across the country to address the spiritual needs of people living with dementia and their carers. Every month, churches contact me wanting to come and learn how they can emulate for their own communities, from Somerset to Hereford and Birmingham to South Woodham Ferrers and many others in between. Last month I learned of a new Memory Worship service just started in Bedale Methodist Church in Yorkshire.

In Essex there is a Memory Worship service at Thorpe Bay Methodist Church on 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month and on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month Memory Worship services are held at Wesley and Holy Trinity Church in South Woodham Ferrers.

Memory Worship has become a warm safe supportive environment for everyone involved where all understand they are held by God.

## **FINANCE ADVISORY GROUP report by Geoff Nash.**

The group has met three times this church year after a gap of two years or so. Ian Lowe, Tina Gowers and Alan Severne have joined Rupert Bertie, Heather Swain and Geoff Nash on the group which is chaired by Pastor Steve. We meet in advance of Church Council meetings to whom we report.

The current accounts are presented at each meeting, noted and the need for any action discussed. The group has reviewed and increased some charges to hirers, especially where quite generous discounts had been given in the past.

A leaflet is to be produced (similar to the 'Welcome to Wesley Methodist Church') to show what facilities Wesley has to offer for hire and the cost to hire them.

Wesley has pressing financial needs so the group wishes to encourage fund raising and will give support to those undertaking any such activity.

## **WESLEY CHARITY NEWS report by Eileen Simmons and Tina Gowers**

Each month there is a column in the Clarion giving any Charity news.

There have been some notable events including a superb Macmillan coffee morning and the amazing Christian Hope International jumble sale.

Church Council decided to have just one charity for all the special Christmas services (excluding Christingle which is always decided by the Zone) and this year Action for Children was chosen. We raised a total of £854.63. This included the Carol singing.

Action for Children produce a newsletter for Churches and we were the first to be listed in their new year 2019 edition under the heading: A massive thank you to..... See notice board in the concourse.

It is Action for Children's 150th anniversary in 2019 so I hope we are able to raise a lot of money on July 14<sup>th</sup>, which is AfC Sunday, when we shall have a retiring collection. A big thanks to Tina who keeps meticulous records for us.

### **FINANCIAL RECORD.**

Macmillan	£670.00
Action for Children	£634.63
Southend Food Bank	£140.00
Winstons Wish	£390.19
Nkanfoa	£145.00
Hope International	£1515.03

Cheques made payable to the charity concerned do not go through the church accounts but are forwarded direct to the charity.

## **Property Report by Alan Severne**

This year we have made progress in tackling some of the recommendations of the last Quinquennial. The usual issues (roof repairs, blocked drains, pipework issues) have arisen, but we have been able to be a little more proactive in addressing roofs in particular. Unfortunately, the long-predicted possibility of heating system issues due to the age of the installation has now had an impact on further progress – we've stopped until the cost of repairs is known.

### **Works completed:**

This year we have made major repairs to several roof areas including recovering the complete corridor/cupboard area between room 6 and Wesley Hall, and one of the large box gutters on the roof of the sanctuary. Damaged stonework on the south side of the sanctuary has been repaired. An additional electrical circuit was added to the kitchen to better support heavy oven use.

### **Works in Progress:**

#### **Roofs: Porch and Room 2**

By the time the 2019 ACM takes place, roofing works to the Sanctuary Porch and the roof/gutter work to Room 2 should be complete. They start on April 2nd, weather permitting. It is hoped that this will alleviate the damp in the relevant areas.

#### **Fire Risk Assessment:**

A qualified Fire Risk Assessor started to carry out a full assessment in February; however, the Risk Assessor concerned has incurred an injury and has not yet been able to complete the inspection / report. It may become necessary to employ a different assessor. Until his report is received it is not known what impact if any this will have.

**Sanctuary heating:** Although on a number of occasions this year this has behaved in an unexpected fashion, it now appears to be operating correctly. Manual override was planned, but due to the major item below, deferred.

**Damp in Sanctuary Porch:** damp has become evident. The exact cause is uncertain, but contractors generally agreed (one dissent) treatment was to install a waterproof barrier on the lower section of the inner wall surface. Church Council agreed this but before actioned the major item below arose.

### **Major Item:**

#### **Flue / Boiler Replacement:**

Our boilers are 30+ years old, and although servicing shows them to be working safely if they fail many parts are unavailable. They must be considered at or approaching end of life. The flue for the boiler serving the halls has been weakened by corrosion and is mechanically unsafe. Previous advice (before this level of physical weakness

became apparent) was that we wait until the boiler was replaced as a replacement flue would not work with a new boiler.

Consultants designing Sanctuary estimated £8000 for a flue, and £55000 for a new boiler system. We are seeking quotes from local firms; one quote received - £8000+vat for flue, and £115000+vat to install a full, modular boiler system and supporting equipment. Others may vary significantly. Asbestos in vestry will also have to be removed – cost unknown as yet. The design of the system is complicated by a number of factors and getting quotes is proving a slow process, but one flue expert has suggested that some designs could allow us to use most of a new flue with a new boiler.

In view of the potentially very substantial costs involved non-essential works have been deferred. Last updated 3rd April 2019



### **House Group reports:**

#### **Wesley House group report by Annette Jarvis.**

We are a small group who meet the first Tuesday of every month 10.30am to 11.30am except the first Tuesday in January and August and take turn to lead the meeting. This year we have studied St,Valentine, the period of Lent and April will be Easter. We have lost two dear members recently and have had illness to contend with.

#### **Cameo house group report by Jane Fulford.**

This house group is a mixed group of members from Wesley, Rochford, and Belfairs. We usually meet once a month on the third Wednesday in the evening. There is no set agenda for the year we decide each meeting the time before – so a mix of topics can be reviewed varying from Scripture, Hymns, Christmas readings and difficult topics of suffering to current local and national concerns. In April, some of us will be attending the last session of the Circuit Lent course. We number about 9 and any newcomers are very welcome.

#### **Thursday Call report from Isobel Wratishlaw**

Thursday call continues to meet on the third Thursday in the month apart from July and August. We meet in various members homes and each take responsibility for leading sessions which can vary from topical issues to theology. We are an open group and if you would like to taste and see, please see Isobel Wratishlaw for details.'



### **Finance Report by Tina Gowers, Treasurer.**

The current offerings income, against the circuit assessment figure, is £6,815 short. The predicted end of year income is £25,870 with an end of year assessment figure of £43,264, so short of around £17,394. This will be offset slightly by our Gift Aid claim which will probably be in the region of £5,500.

Our current property expenditure is covered by the income from our lettings, but we are aware that there are some major repairs to take place and the money for these may have to come from our reserves in the Central Finance Board (CFB). We currently have £31,000 in the property account but some of this will have to be used towards the assessment as this is the first call on our finances.

Some agreed property expenditure has been put on hold as a more pressing matter has arisen. However, putting off vital repairs will only cause situations to get worse and cost us more money in the long run.

Our current deficit, as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, is £6,156 but this is predicted to rise to £11,440 by the end of the year. We currently only have £10,000 available in our CFB account.

I have been asked by the Finance Advisory Group, to keep you regularly updated on our finances via the Clarion.

The Concert Group are raising money for work in the community, for youth, older people and those with dementia and they are doing a fantastic job.

However, fundraising will be required to help with the circuit assessment and our ongoing property expenditure.

I would like to thank the team of counters who count and bank the money each week, and to Joan for organising their rota.

***Audited accounts attached to this document***

