

THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: December 2019



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MINISTER'S LETTER



'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.' [John 1:14 MSG]

Christmas is a very special time for most people. At the very least, it gives us the opportunity to take a break from our daily routines and to spend some quality time with family and friends.

But Christmas is far more than a chance for well-deserved break. It's far more even than an opportunity for a harmless bit of self-indulgence or to shower our children and all those we love with gifts which show our love and concern for them.

Christmas is a celebration of the new-born King; the God who becomes one of us to renew us and give us new life.

Christmas celebrates the birth of the one who shows by His coming among us that love can be a reality even in the midst of a troubled world inhabited by a deeply flawed human race. Christmas shows us that love and new life can prevail even in the muddle which we call 'day to day' living.

But the problem with Christmas these days is that the sheer busyness of preparing for it can leave us drained and tired and completely stressed-out rather than being in the mood for a joyful celebration of any kind. Modern life can be exhausting at the best of times, Christmas preparations on top of everything else can sometimes feel impossible!

The Christmas message which is celebrated in our churches can help give this season a sense of meaning and reality. The opportunity for worship and reflection can also help us to regain a sense of balance in our lives and help us discover, or rediscover, what Christmas is all about.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed and joyful Christmas and a happy New Year!

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

ANNA CHAPLAINCY

I was commissioned at Wesley on November 3rd as an Anna Chaplain. After the service a member of the congregation asked if I would write about Anna Chaplaincy for the next Clarion.

Like so many of you I believe that Wesley should witness by Christian outreach. For some this takes place on church premises such as Parent and Toddler and Time for Healing. Other Christian outreach like Christians against Poverty and Anna Chaplaincy takes place away from church premises.

Almost ten years ago Rev. Keith Underhill (known to many of you), Methodist Minister was working in Alton in Hampshire. He and the Anglican Vicar discussed their mutual concern that outside their churches there was little spiritual support in the local community for older people and those with dementia. They signed a covenant and with financial help from Methodist Connexion appointed Debbie Thrower as a part time worker. Debbie is now the national pioneer of Anna Chaplaincy.

Anna chaplains must be licenced by the Bible Reading Fellowship and agree to regular supervision.

My main work as an Anna Chaplain takes place in a local home, where most of the residents have dementia. I have volunteered there for eighteen months. I do one to one work and always ask: "May I talk with you?" I love the work, which can be quite challenging, but also very rewarding. Every day I visit is so different,

I felt called to such work, when a college friend was diagnosed with dementia in 2012. In 2013 I became a Dementia Friend.

Many Anna Chaplains work in care homes, but there are many wonderful examples of individual befriending schemes. One of the major issues in old age is loneliness and this was the theme of the recent Anna Chaplaincy conference, which for me was an inspiration and source of many ideas. Most Anna Chaplains are Local Preachers, Anglican licenced lay ministers or the equivalent in other denominations. At the conference a Methodist Minister on the verge of retirement wanted to talk to me, as she feels this may be her work after retirement. Anna Chaplaincy is an ecumenical practical outreach in a geographical locality.

At the moment I am the only Anna Chaplain in Essex, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, but my vision is for this to become widespread. There is a plan of action to appoint a paid Anna Chaplain in St. Albans.

My own work will develop, but I intend to protect my current position as I believe in one to one personal interactions. To actively listen to another person is a precious opportunity provided by God.

Eileen Simmons 8.11.19

WESLEY CHARITY NEWS

Church Council chose Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity for Christmas 2019 charity collections which comprise the Carol Service on Sunday 22nd. December at

6pm., Christmas Eve Communion and the Christmas Day service.

Next year Church Council have decided to support a local charity. If you qualify for gift aid you are able to make out a cheque to Wesley, who will then benefit from your Christmas giving. Some charities provide envelopes, which allow you to sign up to them for gift aid.

Eileen Simmons 17.11.19

Some Words in Season

The encounter of Moses with God in Exodus 34 (12 -23) might seem an odd lesson from Scripture for a Christmas reading. God promises a one-to-one encounter with Moses but shields him from a view of his face 'for no-one may see me and live.' (Exodus 34. 20) Moses is granted a rear view only, after God in his glory had passed by.

To encounter God, as it were face-to-face, was denied to Moses. Here was God indeed, the author, creator and sustainer of all that is in our – and every – universe: a mind so remote from ours, we may not fathom its purpose, an intellect so much beyond our own that we are unable to comprehend any of it, powers so great that they would annihilate us on immediate contact: ultimate reality, indeed! As God tells Moses, a direct revelation would destroy him. Yet these same Books of Moses also contain another story, which was often thought to be the first prophecy of the coming of God's son: Numbers 24.17: Balaam's Star, which would come out of Jacob, far off in space and time – but was nevertheless definitely on its way. This has long been

regarded as the first promise or prophecy of the coming of Christ. In the fullness of time, God will send his son to share our life and nature, and at the same time share and display God's nature in a way in which we can appreciate and understand. The story is also told in the carol Balaam's Star, a very popular carol amongst the Cornish. (See: *A Book of Folk Carols* # 68 'Star of Bethlehem'.)

NB: This is an extract if you would like the full edition please let me know.

Advent draweth nigh - so season's greetings - Ken MacKinnon (Local preacher, Inverness Circuit - and former Wesley member 1947 – 2000)



CONCERT GROUP

We are very lucky at Wesley to have a Concert Group who arrange a diverse programme of concerts throughout the year. This involves many different tasks from meeting new groups to serving tea and coffee at the concert. The group is small and would welcome anyone who would like to join them however small the contribution they feel they could make.

Oct 21st Memory Worship Harvest Service “For the Beauty of the Earth”

We were delighted to welcome the children and teaching staff from Clams class; West Leigh Infant school to sing a Harvest song at Harvest Memory Worship and for four months now we have also enjoyed the company of a number of residents from Admiral Court. The opportunity to share the meaning of Harvest through hymns and scripture with such an all age congregation was a delight.

A BIG THANK YOU to Waitrose for donating a wonderful array of items for our Harvest display and Fusion for Harvest wreaths which looked so beautiful.

After the service these donations were taken to Storehouse Community Centre in Southend and this is the message we received from Rob Carvosso, Project Manager at the Storehouse

“I wanted to say thank you for the Harvest donations from Wesley Memory Worship, they were gratefully received. We are supporting over 500 people each week from Street homeless to struggling families.

With food poverty on the increase many people are not knowing where to turn to. Last year our community café provided over 23, 000 free meals for the community and the team of staff and volunteers provided additional support to people from accessing the correct benefits, housing

issues and health care. We now have over 4000 people registered with us, so your donation is much appreciated. Many thanks once again”

If you know anyone who you think would appreciate being part of our Memory Worship service please do take a Memory Worship programme from the concourse and give them a copy or why not bring them to our next service which is Monday 16th December at 2pm when West Leigh Infant school will be returning to sing with us again.

Blessings

Julie Peek

Mission Enabler for Older People and Memory Worship
facilitator Highlands Methodist Church

Tips for supporting people with dementia at Christmas

Given by carers and families of people with dementia and compiled by Alzheimer’s Society

IN THE HOME:

Get everyone involved: There are many ways to involve people living with Dementia at Christmas time – from something as simple as hanging a bauble on the tree to doing a spot of Christmas shopping. The important thing is to remember to make sure they are included.

Slowly does it: Introduce the Christmas environment slowly. Think about putting up decorations gradually over a few days so it doesn't come as a big change to the person's usual setting.

Bring back old memories: Whether it's an old song they used to enjoy or a classic Christmas film, find something fun you can take part in. Making a family photo album or memory box could be a nice way to spend time together.

Don't overdo it: Someone with Dementia may feel overwhelmed by lots of noise and unfamiliar people around, so try and keep visitors to a few at a time. Schedule periods of rest throughout the day or have a quiet room they can retreat to in case things become too much.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Musical events: Try to include people with dementia when attending carol services, as singing carols is a great join activity and can bring back lovely memories.

Accommodate: If you are organising a party or event, have a quiet room sat aside and make sure facilities are clearly labelled. Knowing where to go will really help someone with dementia feel more confident.

Be patient: It's easy to get caught up in all the hustle and bustle of Christmas, but if someone seems confused or is taking a bit longer to do something, take breath and be patient.

Christmas Shopping: With a bit of planning, Christmas shopping doesn't have to be too stressful. Shop in the morning when it's quieter and you can take your time. A number of major retailers now have employees who are Dementia Friends in store, including our friends at Waitrose Store, Leigh on Sea. So, look for the badge and don't be afraid to ask for help.

Become a Dementia Friend: By wearing your Dementia friend badge with pride whilst out and about this Christmas, you will make a big difference by showing your support and understanding for those affected by Dementia.

Christmas can be a very stressful time, so don't bottle it up. Alzheimer's Society Helpline is a place to ask advice telephone: 0300 222 1122



UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

October Figures:

Income	£6,381.21
Expenditure	£ 2,852.76
Net	£3,528.45



Year to date:

Income	£15,111.41
Expenditure	£6,075.20
Net	£9,036.21

Tina Gowers



SO, WHAT'S THE STORY...?

Wesley Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea started the 2019/20 Methodist Connexional Year with this theme.

A Celebration of the Contribution of Older People

On 8th September 2019 a very special service of Worship was jointly led by Pastor Steve Mayo, our minister, and Eileen Simmons, Methodist Local Preacher and Anna Chaplain at Wesley Methodist Church, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. We called it a Celebration of the Contribution of Older People and every effort had been made to ensure that all our Older People were in church. Some find it difficult to attend regularly, but most were involved in some way.

There had been extended visits in the previous weeks to their homes to learn more about their life stories and these

were a delight; learning more as we did about their activities past and present. Although we were not able to use all the requests, we did include favourite hymns and Bible readings, down to such detail as a Music Group singing 'For the beauty of the earth' to the Rutter tune.

There was a large congregation and it was a joyous occasion, as we honoured all that had been contributed in the past and, in so many cases, continuing. Not many churches have a boxing coach still active well into his eighties working with local youth in a town centre club.

One of the highlights was when three Pastoral Visitors spoke about three elderly ladies and related their life stories in their absence; just so moving and fascinating. What Christian blessings have been shown by these individuals in our Wesley family. Our Minister, Pastor Steve Mayo spoke about the celebration not only being about what older people had contributed in the past, but also a celebration of what they can *still* contribute to church life both present and in the future. Their wealth of experience and knowledge has been, and can still be, such a gift to the church and the younger generations and would be sorely missed if not utilised. Job 32:7 says; *7"Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom."* [NIVUK]

Afternoon Tea and Cakes 2019

A Big Thank You



Thank you if you setup the tables and arranged all the cakes, you served refreshments, washed up and cleared away, ----- such a great help.

Thank you if you made delicious cakes, ----- we all enjoyed them.

Thank you if you met up with your old friends -----wonderful.

Thank you if came knowing no-one at all, -----we hope everyone welcomed you.

Thank you if you took home cakes to share with friends, neighbours and family-----that is the whole idea.

Thank you if you brought a friend, your children and grandchildren-----it made the afternoon extra special.

We hope to be back in April 2020, With many thanks Janet Whiddett

Congrats

Congratulations to Jo Sharpen for being awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Art for her work with Women and Children.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

COLLECTIONS



The Church Council has approved Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) as the charity to receive the collections taken at this year's Carol Service, the Christmas Eve Midnight Service and the Christmas Day Service.

GOSH, together with the UCL Institute for Child Health, is the largest centre for paediatric research outside North America and through their Bringing Research to Life campaign they are committed to raising £3.5 million each year to fund pioneering research that will advance understanding, improve treatments and develop new strategies for prevention not only for patients at Great Ormond Street hospital but across the world.

Our son-in-law's nephew, Oscar Parry, was only three years old when he was diagnosed with acute leukaemia but after several years of treatments and relapses, including two bone marrow transplants and a time on life support, he finally made it home and only has to return to hospital every six months. He now enjoys working and life with his family.

Every day 618 children and young people arrive at GOSH and the charity relies solely on charitable donations - a very worthwhile cause - Joan Hawkins

COMING UP SOON!!!!!!!!!!

CAROL SINGING



This year the Carol singing will be on Friday 20th December. We meet in the Concourse or maybe even in the new sanctuary, ready to leave at 6pm. We need as many voices as possible to bring the real spirit of Christmas to those living in our community. We may be accompanied by musicians, weather permitting, but anyone may bring an instrument and join in. Please bring a TORCH so you can read all the verses of the carols from the sheet provided by Action for Children. All monies raised will go to this organization. Children are required to bring a responsible adult, but families are always welcome – the more the merrier and louder! Please wrap up warm. The evening will end in the usual way with possible the same quiz, but not the same soup, rolls, mince pies and tea, coffee or squash. For any more details, contact Jane and Geoff Fulford. Fulford.family@btinternet.com

STAMPS

Can I remind you to please save your stamps so that I can pass them on to Charity especially your Christmas Stamps, due to advances in technology i.e. Emails and texts fewer people these days send letters but quite a few of you will send and receive Christmas Cards.



Thanks for your help with this. Vivien Threadgold

CHRISTMAS CARDS AT WESLEY

As in previous years, the Christmas Card collection box will be in the concourse from the beginning of December. Please post your cards in the box and give a donation for postage money to any member of the Leadership Team or to Jane or Geoff Fulford. Please make sure that your cards have clear names and addresses. The cards will be sorted on Friday 20th Dec, put on tables in the Church and be available for collection at the morning service on Sunday 22nd Dec. Any uncollected cards will be either held for the evening carol service or delivered. Volunteers to deliver uncollected cards will be greatly appreciated. As usual, any money collected will go towards the very valuable work that Ian and Diana Bosman do at Nkanfoa Methodist School in Ghana.



CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL JUMBLE SALE 2020

SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY at WESLEY

The garage will be **OPEN** on the **1st NOVEMBER** All help appreciated on Friday to set up from 2pm/All help appreciated on Saturday from 9am

Help at the end of the Jumble Sale to clear **EVEN MORE APPRECIATED**. With that in mind please do not offer any Soiled Clothing, Duvets or Large Furniture. Please be prepared to walk goods to the Charity Shops in Leigh. **We** would be delighted to hear from anyone with a **CAR** (not a van) to go to the tip about 12.30pm on that Saturday. Thank you to everyone who has helped in the Past and thank you to you in advance for your offers this next year 2020. **REMEMBER THE DATE: SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY**
Please contact: Pam 07971785425 Linda 479415



Age Concern Community Club

Wesley Methodist Church Elm Rd

Tues 3 rd Dec	Quiz and Games Wesley
Tues 10 th Dec	A Christmas Jolly at Wesley
Tues 17 th Dec	Christmas Lunch at Sunflower Bistro 12.30pm.£14+ £1 Choose from menu
	
	7 th January 2020 club resumes
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month we have lunch out Club closed	

Wesley Theatre Group Presents

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS...

Treasure Island

FRI 6 DEC 7.30PM **SAT 7 DEC 2PM & 6PM**

Buy Online:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/wesley-theatre-group

WESLEY HALL
ELM ROAD
LEIGH-ON-SEA

BOX OFFICE
01702 480968

TICKETS: £7
CHILDREN: £5
FAMILY TICKET
(2A & 2C) £20

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BEN CROCKER PANTOMIMES


The illustration depicts a tropical beach scene. In the foreground, a large, open wooden treasure chest with metal bands and a latch sits on the sand. Next to it is a small green glass bottle and a coconut. In the background, a tall palm tree with green fronds and brown coconuts stands against a light blue sky with white clouds. The overall style is colorful and cartoonish.


Flower Rota for December

1st Dec - 

8th Dec - 

15th Dec - Flowers given by Frances Adams and family in loving memory of her parents, Len and Margaret Johnson and her brothers, Michael and David Johnson.

22nd Dec - 

29th Dec - 

A message from the flower room.

It is with regret that I have to announce that Sue Hockett is no longer able to help with the flower arranging. I would like this opportunity to thank her for her years of service and creativity. She will be missed. This does leave me with a situation as I am unable to take on the extra weeks that Sue would have covered. Previously I have asked if there is anyone that would like to help me but as yet no one has come forward.

I enjoy doing the arrangements but as I can only really do one pedestal per month it would be unfair to offer it to one person and not another. I will continue to ensure that there are always flowers in the church but on a smaller scale. As of the new year, there will not be any pedestals on a weekly basis but only on days such as Easter and harvest etc. Instead there would be a large vase of flowers. If you are still wanting to donate flowers then please do speak to me, I will endeavour to keep to the dates that have been requested. There will always the option for you to buy and

arrange the vase of flowers yourself. We have trialed this, and it has worked very well.

I appreciate how important it is to remember our loved ones and I wish to continue with as many as I possibly can. I would like to thank everyone that has generously supported the church by donating the flowers.

Thank you for your understanding.

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 Wratishlaw 557764 mob 07508164525

Jane Fulford

Linda Lister

June Childs 711891

Vivien Threadgold 713325

Miriam Gifford 716175



TIME FOR HEALING

Time for Healing – the next Time for Healing Prayer Group will be held on Saturday 14th December between 11.30am - 12.30pm.

Please note that this meeting will be held in the Canteen Room rather than the Sanctuary.

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 the 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. We hope to see you there.

The first meetings of 2020 will be held on:

- 18 January
- 15 February
- 21 March
- 25 April

REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS

AT WESLEY for December 2019

Sundays

1st December at 11.00 am Toy and Gift Service with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper – Preacher Pastor S Mayo.

8th December at 9.00 am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper – Preacher Mrs E Simmons.

8th December at 11.00am – Preacher Mrs E Simmons.

15th December at 11.00am – Nativity Service and Local Arrangement.

15th December at 5.30pm – Creative Worship “Inspire”.

22nd December at 11.00am – Preacher Mrs J Fulford.

22nd December at 6.00pm Carol Service – Preacher Pastor S Mayo.

29th December at 10.30 am United Service at Highlands.

Christmas Services not on a Sunday

24th December at 4.00pm Christingle – Preacher Pastor S Mayo.

24th December at 11.15pm Sacrament of the Lord's Supper – United Service – Preacher Pastor S Mayo.

25th December at 10.30am – Preacher Mrs J Fulford.

Mondays

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

10 am – Wesley Art Group in Room 3 - The Art Group will close on Monday 9th December for Christmas and restart on Monday January 13th

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 – Every 3rd Tuesday Leigh Afternoon WI

Wesley House group will meet in the Quiet Room on Tuesday 3rd December at 10.30am and in the New Year on Tuesday 4th February.

8pm - Creative Workshop – Church Space – every 4th Tuesday in the month – 29th Oct. led by Jane Fulford.

Wednesdays

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

10 am – Parent and Toddler – last session will be 11th December, resuming 8th January 2020

2:30 pm – Talking Poetry – Canteen room at 2
18th December – Any Christmas poem

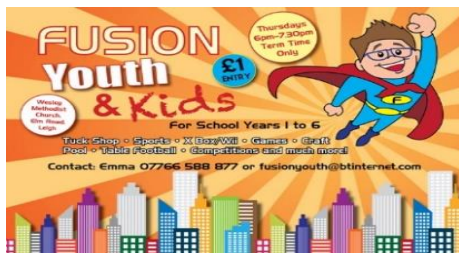
6pm – St John Ambulance – Youth Hall and Room 2

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

Thursdays

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

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



Fridays

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

2pm – Table Tennis 60+ - Wesley Hall. Last session will be the 13th December, resuming 10th January 2020

(for further details please email:)

marjoriecharnock@icloud.com

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 see. Time for Healing article for dates

Editors information

Please could I have all items for the January Clarion by Friday 13th December. 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.

Judy Taylor – ukspud@talktalk.net

**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 contribute to community life.

