

'THE CLARION



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Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: March 2020



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MINISTER'S LETTER



A water bearer in India had two large pots; each hung on each end of a pole, which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a hole in it and while the other pot was perfect, and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made.

But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to. After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream.

“I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologise to you”.

“Why!” asked the bearer? “What are you ashamed of?”

“I have been able, for the past two years, to deliver only half my load, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master’s house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all this work and you don’t get full value for your efforts.”

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion, he said, “As we return to the master’s house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path.”

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wildflowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologised to the bearer for its failure. The bearer said to the pot, “Did you notice that there were flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pots side? That’s because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walked back from the stream, you have watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master’s table. Without you being just the way, you are, he would not have had this beauty to grace his home”.

Each of us has our own unique flaws. We are all cracked pots. But if we allow it, the Lord will use our flaws to grace his table. In God's great economy, nothing goes to waste.

Every blessing, Pastor Steve.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The below poem was written by one of the participants from Time of Healing.

TRUST

Where there is darkness,
let there be light
Where there is blindness,
let there be clear sight
And where there are wrongs,
let them be put right

Where there is sickness,
let there be good health
Where there is poverty,
let there be abundant wealth
Where there is pollution,
let there be purity
Where there is uncertainty,
let there be surety

Where there are lies and deception,
let there be truth and perception
Where there is unkindness,
let there be charity
Where there is confusion,
let there be clarity

Where there is abuse,
let there be reflection
Where there is loneliness and isolation,

let there be good company and connection

Where there is greed,
let there be sharing
Where there is real need,
let there be support and caring

Where there is resentment, and on the Past, we dwell,
Let there be forgiveness
And Trust that all is well

Marianne Francis

From the Editor of the Highlander

(As requested by Circuit Office)

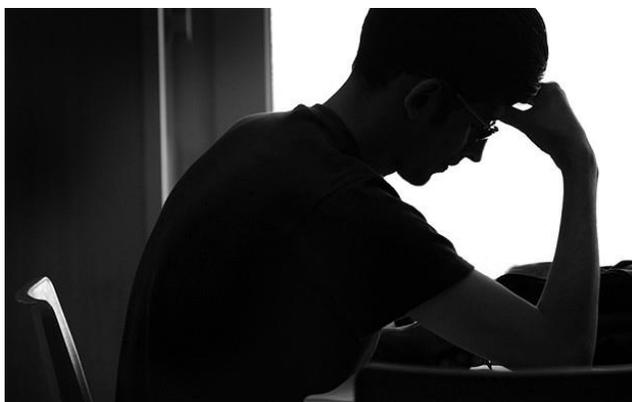


Traditionally January and February are the times when we think about health. About 12% of all gym memberships are taken out in January. Unfortunately, about half of those are cancelled after the minimum contract of 6 months.

Mental health is increasingly recognised as an important concern, not only to an unwell individual and their family, but to society as a whole; in other words, to all of us. The scope of the all-embracing term ‘mental health’ is very

wide. It can refer to many developmental and genetic conditions, learning and behavioural difficulties, addictions, and emotional, psychiatric and cognitive disorders such as depression and anxiety. The causes of these conditions can be equally wide-ranging, and I do not claim this as anything like an exhaustive list.

I apologise for any and all omissions I have made here. I am as far from being an expert as it is possible to be. And yet, through family and friends and through contacts I



make in my life, I seem to meet with mental health issues every day. Behind every 'issue' (a nice convenient word for

many things we prefer not to further define) is a living breathing human being, a brother or sister in Christ.

Jesus commands us to love every person we meet. This applies especially to those who are suffering in any way. It therefore is up to each one of us to learn as much as we can about mental health issues. We cannot assume that we will be able to help; some things are best left to health professionals. But we can try to listen, and to better

understand, and to perhaps get the message to the people in front of us that we are there by their side.

I'll try to make sure that Highlander properly reflects the importance of this topic. I'll begin by giving a short piece as a poem for February. (Except you'll find if you go to page 17 that it's not a poem as such). And I'll throw it open to anyone out there who has an interest in, experience of or insight into mental health, to write as they feel, and share. I'll publish it anonymously if you prefer.

Poem for February

This month's poem is different in a very subtle way. It's actually prose. But so beautifully written that I hope you'll forgive.

Now, if
you
happen to
walk from
Midhurst
to
Petworth
in West
Sussex (a
walk I



recommend) you can go to St Peter's Church, Lodsworth and visit the grave of Ernest H Shephard, best known as illustrator of *Winnie the Pooh* and *The Wind in the Willows*.

This picture is an example of his work you'll surely recognise. The story below is not however the work of A A Milne who created the immortal Winnie. It's an affectionate pastiche that makes a simple point very effectively.

Not Much Fun to be Around (attr Kathryn Wallace)

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

'Hello Eeyore,' said Pooh.

'Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet,' said Eeyore, in a Glum Sounding Voice.

'We just thought we'd check in on you,' said Piglet, 'because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay.'

Eeyore was silent for a moment.

'Am I okay?' he asked, eventually. 'Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now.'

Pooh looked at Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house.

Eeyore looked at them in surprise. 'What are you doing?'

'We're sitting here with you,' said Pooh, 'because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are.'

'Oh,' said Eeyore. 'Oh.' And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were There.

No more; no less.

<https://www.therapyforyou.co.uk>



I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has sent me Get Well wishes via emails and cards and a huge thank you to everyone who has prayed for me. I have been genuinely overwhelmed by the love and support that I have received. I have been diagnosed with acute anxiety and it will take some time to get me back to where I was, and able to continue with everyday tasks. I am shocked at how debilitating it is. I have never underestimated mental health as I also suffer from stress, but I never realised that stress and anxiety were two different things and different in how they manifest themselves. Thankfully I knew I needed help and asked for it and I ask for your continued prayers please. Please also pray for my family as they have to ride this journey with me. I will still be your treasurer but won't be attending any meetings for a while. If you have any questions about the finances, please don't hesitate to email me.

Many Thanks Tina.



We would very much like to give our "Thanks" to everyone at church for their constant Prayers, get well wishes and messages throughout the weeks and months of Rupert's most recent ill health. Though this was an extremely difficult period, the prayers offered, and the support given by way of get-well

messages, were very much valued and assisted in getting through the many bleak days. We have been able to remain positive during this time by the fact that the Church Family were keeping both of us in their heart, mind and in the belief that God hears prayers and responds positively.

Many thanks to everyone, Rupert and Janice Bertie.

UPDATE FROM TREASURER

January 2020 Figures

Income £8,648.70

Expenditure £6,547.90

Net £2,100.80

Year to Date

Income £45,299.72

Expenditure £33,072.65

Net £12,227.07

COMING UP SOON!!!!!!



TEL: 01702 345373

Age Concern Community Club

Wesley Methodist Church Elm Rd Leigh Tuesdays 2 – 4pm

Dates for the Diary - £2 Admission

Tues 3rd March	Speaker-EssexPolice-Crime Prevention tips Wesley
Tues 10 th March	Quiz and Games Wesley
Tues 17 th March	Lunch at the Sunflower Bistro £11.50 + £1 Chose from menu
Tues 24 th March	Speaker – Old Street – Growing up in the 40s and 50s Wesley
Tues 31 st March	Quiz and Games Wesley
Every 3rd Tuesday of the month we have lunch out Club closed	

Summertime Afternoon Teas and Cakes 2020.

At this time, we are between Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis, but soon it will be time for our Tea & Coffee afternoons to start again. Here are the forthcoming dates for your diary.

Thursday afternoons 2- 4pm at Wesley Church

April 30th

May 28th

June 25th

July 30th

August 27th

September 24th

October 29th

Look forward to Spring with longer & warmer days and your good company.

With love Janet Whiddett



CONCERTS AT WESLEY

28th. March Southend Wind Orchestra

25th. April The Orpheus Singers

16th. May ABBA Gold

13th. June Southend Wind Orchestra

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

May 3rd, 2020 at 12 30 after morning service:

WESLEY ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.



Flower Rota for March

1st March - Flowers given by Shirley and Jim Mavin in loving memory of her father, Cyril Vincent Parker and her mother, Sarah Parker.

8th March - Flowers given by Rupert, Janice and Alex Bertie, in loving memory of his father, Edwin, his mother Ann, brother Charles and brother in law Adrian.

15th March - 

22nd March - Mothering Sunday

29th March - No service

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting the changes with the church flowers. It seems to be working quite well and we are able to accommodate most people's requests.

Easter is coming up and I'd like to ask you to consider making a small donation towards the Easter flowers. If you are interested, then please contact either me or Marjorie. All contributions are very gratefully received.

Thank you

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 Wratlaw 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 21st March 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 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.

Meeting for the rest of 2020 are planned for:

- 18th April
- 16th May
- 20th June
- 18th July
- No meeting in August
- 19th September
- 17th October
- 14th November
- 12th December

REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS

AT WESLEY for January 2020

Sundays

1st March at 11am – Preacher: Pastor S Mayo.

1st March at 6pm – Circuit Service -Preacher: Revd Dr Barbara Glasson.

8th March at 9am- Service of Communion led by Pastor Steve Mayo.

8th March at 11am – Preacher: Miss S Strachan.

15th March at 11am – Preacher : Mrs K McCullough.

15th March at 5:30pm – Creative Worship “Inspire”

22nd March at 11:am – Preacher: Mrs D Mayo.

29th March at 10:30 am Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and United Service at Highlands

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 – Every 3rd Tuesday Leigh Afternoon WI
8pm - Creative Workshop – Church Space – every 4th Tuesday in the month.

Wednesdays

10 am – Coffee Shop Morning – Foyer – All are welcome
10 am – Parent and Toddler – Canteen room
2:30 pm – Talking Poetry – Canteen room
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)
7:15pm – Fusion Youth (School Terms Yrs 7)



Fridays

10 am – Coffee Shop Morning – Foyer – All are welcome
2pm – Table Tennis 60+ - Wesley Hall. (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 April Clarion by Friday 20th March 2020

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.

