

THE CLARION



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Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: April 2020



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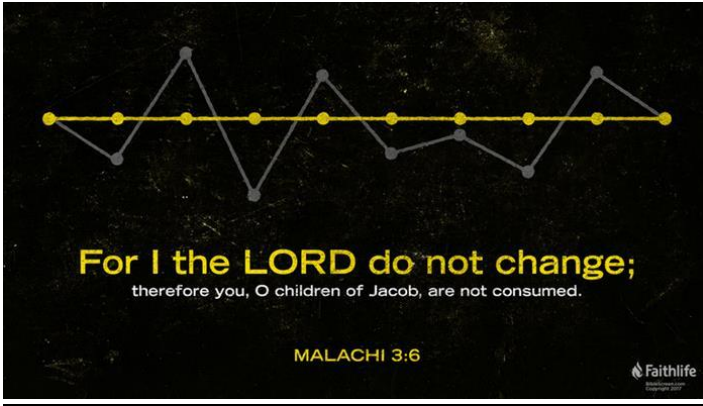
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MINISTER'S LETTER



HOW THINGS CAN CHANGE IN A MONTH!

This time last month Coronavirus was something other countries were dealing with but now, we find ourselves right in the middle of a virus outbreak and in unprecedented times.

Everyday new statements are coming out from the government and medical experts and the changes can be difficult to keep up with let alone implement!

But amongst all this change the book of Malachi reminds us of one thing that *does not* change: our God. For it says in Malachi 3:6; '*I the Lord do not change.*' [NIV]

And our God will *never* change. He existed before time began, and He will exist long after time, as we know it, ceases to be. He existed before the Coronavirus, and He'll exist long after the Coronavirus has disappeared.

And the same applies for God's Son, Jesus. Hebrews 13:8 says, '*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*' [NIV]

And from that statement comes a wonderful hymn written by Sidney Edward Cox (1887-1975).

*He's the same today as yesterday,
My great unchanging friend.
He's the same today as yesterday,
Just the same unto the end.
By his mighty power he holds me,
In his arms of love enfolds me.
He's the same today as yesterday,
My great unchanging friend.*

What a reassuring truth that is, that no matter what the future holds, we can rest in the fact that our God, will never change! He holds us now, and He will hold us in the future! So, yes, things change in life, and yes, sometimes quicker than we can keep up. There are no constants in this world apart from God. People let us down, job security comes and goes, buildings and monuments are built and then gradually fade away over time, and even viruses come and go, but one thing remains unchanged: God.

If you are finding the changes in your life difficult to handle or to understand at this time, then cling to something that doesn't change. A God who loves and cares for

you *whatever* the circumstances and whatever the situation. Cling to the rock which cannot move. And *always* remember; '*I the LORD do not change.*'

If over the next few weeks, you need any help or just want a chat, please phone me and I will be happy to talk, and I will arrange for you to be assisted as best I can.

Please remember, the Church is not confined by bricks and mortar, even though we are not physically meeting together at the present, we are *still* the Church and we are *still* here for you.

Please stay safe.

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

Tel: 01702 483827

Email: pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

COVID-19

Following UK Government and Methodist Church in Britain guidance, it is with sadness that we inform you that Wesley Methodist Church is CLOSED until further notice. This includes all worship services, Fusion and Fusion+, Parent & Toddler, all church groups and the Coffee Shop. If you are a hirer, please speak to your contact. For further information please email info@wesleymethodist.org.uk Contact details for the church Leadership Team and Minister can be found on the church website. www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

God of all hope we call on you today. We pray for those who are living in fear: Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of other's reactions to them. May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your church in this time of uncertainty. For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others. For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend. Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that nothing will separate us from your love - demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ. Help us to turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you

AMEN

LET THERE BE LIGHT



A huge thank you to the many volunteers for their help on Sat 22nd Feb at the biggest jumble sale this year.

Without their help we would not have been able to achieve the wonderful sum of more than £1,300.00 to buy solar lamps to illuminate schools, home and medical centres in Rwandan villages.

Christian Hope International supports the Anglican Church of Rwanda and aims to assist schools, churches and the many needs of Diocese on the outskirts of Kigali.

Since 1944 the charity has had links with this area and the help of funding is invaluable so thank you to everyone involved.

We have all been KIND and it was a joyous occasion.

P.S. Thank you to Linda Forbes for storing all the goods in her garage, without this facility the jumble sale could not happen.

Pam Boughton-Smith

Family News

PERCY PRITCHARD has died, and his funeral was held at Telford Crematorium. Pastor Steve, Linda and Peter Lister attended the funeral to represent Wesley.

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

Coronavirus and the financial impact on Wesley

As I write this, we are coming up to our first cancelled Sunday service. No one knows how long we will be closed for which means that our income will be, almost, non-existent. Not only will there be no income from the Sunday service collections but also, we have no money coming in from our lettings. The only plus side will be lower than usually Gas & Electricity bills.

As a Methodist Church, the first call on our money is the Circuit assessment. This money is used to pay our Ministers and pay for the manses in which they live. Wesley have also agreed to continue to pay its employees through this difficult time.

Could I please ask EVERYONE to consider setting up a bank standing order, to make a regular financial contribution to Wesley? Some people already do this, and I would ask those to look at what they can afford to give and increase if possible.

To set up a standing order either contact your bank by writing to them, or popping in if you're not in self-isolation or, if you have online banking, you can set up a standing order via the website or app. I'm not sure, in the current

circumstances, whether your bank would accept instructions over the phone but it's worth a try.

The details you need are: -

Beneficiary Wesley Methodist Church

Beneficiary Sort Code 09-01-52 Santander

Beneficiary account no: 15898702

Reference your name

All your details are completely confidential to me alone.

Obviously, the sooner you can do this, the better it will be for Wesley. If you have any queries, please contact me.

Keep safe & healthy

Tina Gowers

Treasurer

07713179111 TinaGowers@sky.com

WESLEY CHARITY NEWS April 2020

There were two significant charity events at Wesley during February (too late for the march Clarion deadline). Both took place on the same Saturday!

After months of planning and collecting jumble, Pam and Linda, with a large team of supporters ran another successful Jumble sale for Christian Hope International which raised **£1211.30**.

Pam and Linda are an amazing team and are so well organised. The charity keeps us well informed with their magazine during the year, so we know just how effectively money is being used.

February 22nd. Was indeed a fruitful day. In the evening the Concert Group had booked the Southend Co-operative Jazz Band. This was well attended with all the proceeds going to the Paget's Association. **£520** was raised. Marjorie and Keith organised the refreshments and were delighted with the response. It was good to enjoy the evening knowing that the charity was close to home in the sense that Keith has Paget's disease of the bones.

Eileen Simmons 15.3.20

COMING UP SOON!!!!



TEL: 01702 345373

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**Summertime Afternoon Teas and Cakes
2020.**

Afternoon tea and cakes will unfortunately be cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. I shall let you know as soon as it is safe to meet again.

With love, Janet Whiddett



CONCERTS AT WESLEY

Unfortunately, all concerts in March, April, May and June have been cancelled. We hope to start again in July when **Michael Glayser** returns to sing **Elvis** on 11th. July - watch out for the banner outside church. We are hoping to rearrange the Orpheus and ABBA concerts. in the Autumn

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

Jane Fulford

Linda Lister

June Childs 711891

Vivien Threadgold 713325

Miriam Gifford 716175



TIME FOR HEALING

Time for Healing – In common with most other church activities the Time for Healing Prayer Group is suspended until further notice. We will continue to pray for healing for all at this uncertain time.

Editors information

Please could I have all items for the May Clarion by Friday 17th April 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.

