

# THE CLARION



## Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: June 2020



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# Content Page

Contact Information ..... **3**

Ministers’ Letter ..... **4-7**

News from the Pews..... **8-18**

Coming up soon.....

Wesley Prayer Chain..... **19**

Time for Healing ..... **19**

Editor’s information ..... **20**

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## MINISTER'S LETTER



*'A man in his middle years was on a Caribbean cruise. On the first day out, he noticed an attractive woman about his own age who smiled at him in a friendly way as he passed her on the deck, which pleased him. That night he managed to get seated at the same table with her for dinner. As the conversation developed, he commented that he had seen her on the deck that day and he had appreciated her friendly smile. When she heard this she smiled and commented, "Well, the reason I smiled was that when I saw you, I was immediately struck by your strong resemblance to my third husband."*

*At this he perked up his ears and said, "Oh, how many times have you been married?"*

*She looked down at her plate, smiled demurely, and answered, "Twice."*

In the dictionary it says:

**HOPE: To desire that something good will happen. To have confidence, a reason for belief that the thing hoped for will happen.**

If I were to ask you what you thought hope meant, you would probably say something to look forward to, like; *“I hope it doesn’t rain tomorrow or I hope the train isn’t running late.”*

But in the Bible, hope, is used in a much larger sense, a hope of life to come. Lamentations 3 verse 25 says; *‘The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him.’* [NIV]

Sometimes in life, certain things happen to us, which at the time, devastates us. We see nothing but a very bleak future. But as we stay close to God, or become closer to Him, we start to see light at the end of the tunnel, and God brings us back into fellowship with Himself.

As we soldier on through this pandemic, it’s very easy for us to be dismayed. But focus on the thought that God is on our side and *will* see us through. We do have something, someone, to hope in!

I leave you with the words of this hymn:

*This, this is the God we adore,  
Our faithful, unchangeable friend,  
Whose love is as great as his power,  
And knows neither measure nor end.  
'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,*

*Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home.  
We'll praise him for all that is past,  
And trust him for all that's to come.*  
Joseph Hart (1712-68)

As we think about the future at Wesley, we want to try keep as much normality as we can.

So, we are going to go ahead with our Gift Month in June. The reason for this is twofold.

Firstly, it's a good reminder that the church is still going on! Although at the moment we can't meet, we are still united as Wesley Methodist Church!

Secondly, due to the Coronavirus, the church has lost a high proportion of its income, yet, our assessment to the circuit stays the same at £10,405.00 per quarter. We have also had the two boilers replaced which has been due for a while. We have had a couple of legacies from David Johnson and Percy Pritchard which are going toward the cost of the boilers, but we are left with a deficit of £16,000.

I am aware that this is a tough time for some financially, but if we want to keep our church open and warm, we need to help as much as we can.

If you are able and would consider helping this Gift Month, you can either do a bank transfer to Wesley, marking your payment 'Gift Month 2020'

Bank: Santander  
Sort Code: 09-01-52  
A/c No. 15898702

or,

Send a cheque made payable to:

'Wesley Methodist Church' and post to me at:

1 Oakview Close

Leigh-on-Sea

Essex

SS9 4JN

Please write on the back of the cheque; 'Gift Month 2020'.

Traditionally, I have made myself available in the vestry to receive gifts. Unfortunately, that will not be possible this year, but I am more than happy to chat on the phone if this would be helpful.

Thank you for your help in the matter.

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

### **Spring Garden 2020**



During these strange times many of us have been confined to our homes and gardens. Over the weeks the traffic noise has decreased, and the birdsong has increased, which has been an amazing and unexpected pleasure.

In early April, at dawn, I heard a cuckoo calling. Many garden birds are building nests. A pair of bluetits have come back to a bird box at the bottom of the garden. I like to think they are the same family returning from last year. They have been busy taking out the old nest, spring cleaning and rebuilding for this new season. Two goldfinches came down to drink in the bird bath. I wonder if they often visit but I am never usually here to see them. Male blackbirds are squabbling in mid-air over territory or a female. Yesterday a sparrow hawk plucked a sparrow from a tree and landed in my garden. We kept a reasonable social distance and within seconds the sparrow hawk flew away with the sparrow in its clutches. Life can be cruel even in a back garden. A baby robin hops from pot to pot around the edges of the garden while his attentive parents feed him. He is twice the size of his exhausted Mum and Dad.

Foxes trot through the garden at all hours of the day and night, - they think they own the place. Squirrels are busy digging out bulbs and chewing through new shoots,



particularly tulip heads, charming creatures but so annoying.

Butterflies have emerged during these warmer days, read admirals, orange tips, commas, common blues and a white moth resting on green lawn in the sunshine. There are forget me nots everywhere which remind me of our friends at Memory Worship, our church family at Sunday morning services and our daily coffee mornings, activities, and meetings at Wesley, - all greatly missed.

It has been good to witness the appearance of new leaves on each tree and shrub and the opening of blossoms and spring flowers on a daily basis. Often, they are given little more than a glance as I rush in and out of my home.

We are all looking forward to the time when we can safely meet together again but for now my garden is teaching me about God's world in miniature.

With love, Janet Whiddet.

## **LEGACIES**

Recently we have received two legacies for which we are very grateful, and they reminded just how much we miss David and Percy. David Johnson's legacy was £10,000 and Percy Pritchard's was £1,000.

We are all invited to consider Wesley when making or updating our wills.

Eileen Simmons

## **Coronavirus and the financial impact on Wesley**

### **April's Figures**

Income £3,856.40

Expenditure £6,081.66

Net £2,225.26-

### **Year to Date**

Income £80,083.39

Expenditure £61,015.61

Net £19,840.79

To explain the above figures, April was our first full month of lockdown. Income was largely from lettings invoices from March's hire. The year to date income includes a legacy, left for Wesley, with specific instructions as to its use.

***Tina Gowers***

***Treasurer***

07713179111 [TinaGowers@sky.com](mailto:TinaGowers@sky.com)

## **WESLEY ART GROUP**



The Art Group will not restart until Monday 7th September and only then if it is safe to do so. Thank you.

Annette Jarvis

## I'd pick more daisies



If I had my life over,  
I'd make more mistakes next time.  
I would relax. I would limber up.  
I would be sillier than I have been on this trip.  
I know of very few things I would take seriously.  
I would laugh more and cry less.  
I would be crazier.  
I would worry less about what others thought of me  
And I would accept myself as I am.  
I would climb more mountains, swim more rivers, and  
Watch more sunsets.  
I would eat more ice cream and less beans. I would  
Watch less TV and  
Have more picnics.  
I would have only actual troubles and very few  
Imaginary ones.  
I would feel only sad and not depressed.  
I would be concerned, not anxious  
I would be annoyed and not angry  
I would regret my mistakes but  
Not feel guilty about them.  
I would tell more people that I liked them  
I would touch more friends  
I would forgive others for being human and hold no  
grudges  
I would play with more children and listen to more old  
people.  
I would go after what I wanted without believing that I  
needed it  
And would not place value on money

You see, I am one of those people who lives  
Cautiously and sensibly and sanely,  
Hour after hour, day after day,  
Oh, I have had my moments and,  
If I had it to do over again I would have more of them.  
In fact, I'd have nothing else.  
Just moments one after another, instead of living so  
Many years ahead of each day.  
I have been one of those people  
Who never go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot  
water bottle, a gargle, a raincoat and an umbrella.  
If I had to do it over again,  
I would go places and do things and travel lighter than I  
have.  
I would plant more seeds and make the world more  
beautiful.  
I would express my feelings of love without fear.  
If I had my life over,  
I would start barefooted earlier in the spring and  
Stay that way later in the autumn.  
I would ride more merry go rounds  
I would pick more daisies and I would smile,  
  
Because I would be living free.

***Sent in by Sue Hockett.***

## **TOGETHER WHILST APART**

Many of us have really appreciated the ways we are being kept in touch. Joan Hawkins had the idea of 'Together whilst apart' and the Leadership Team really liked the phrase and there is a section on our church website giving examples of a whole range of activities.

When we received our palm crosses in the post one individual told me "Honestly I could have cried. What a thoughtful thing to have done".

It seems a long time since we published "Our Wesley stories" and I would like to quote Anna's story about our Wesley family. "We are brought together and united not by biology but by faith". The person who could have cried also said: "When I joined Wesley two years ago, I was never looking for a church but a church family and how I miss that family at present"

We are enjoying watching the BBC 1 Sunday Worship. Pastor Steve's Youtube services are just superb and contribute so much to our sense of belonging to the Wesley family. Being very non-technical I admire his skills enormously and I know that preparation for such a service is exceptionally time consuming. I know that many of you are appreciating his phone calls in these difficult times. It was very sad to receive a phone call from Stephen Tubby early in the morning of 12<sup>th</sup> May to tell me that Dennis had

died that morning. It was so good that Stephen had been with his father through the night and was with him as he died which was a blessing for Dennis and all the Tubby family. We send them our condolences as we do to Pamela. It is very sad for all of you, who knew Dennis well over many years.

Geoff and I have been part of the Wesley family since December 2013 and Joy Milner was editor of the Clarion at that time. She invited me to write an article for the Clarion about us. I was born in Swadlincote in South Derbyshire and I had the most lovely letter from Dennis to tell me that in June 1940 he was evacuated to Swadlincote and lived there for a year. He told me it was a big cultural shock as Swadlincote had coal mines, slag heaps and quarries by contrast with Leigh. We became very friendly and I have enjoyed the friendship of both Dennis and Pamela. Many of you have good memories going back a very long way.

There will be a service of thanksgiving at Wesley to celebrate Dennis' life, when we return to normal.

Wearing my Anna Chaplaincy hat I have come across a FREE telephone line called 'Daily Hope' - 0800 804 8044. This free phonenumber includes options of hymns, reflections, and prayers. You may listen to all three or just choose. I tried it and would recommend it to you.

Eileen Simmons 15.05.20



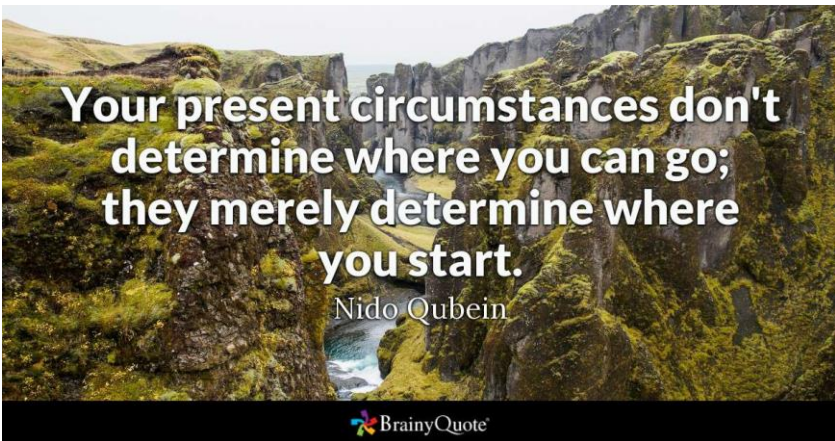
**FREE** phone lines for prayers and news  
from the Methodist Church

Listen to a **prayer**: 0808  
281 2514

Listen to **news**: 0808 281

2478

Content is updated weekly on Thursday afternoon





Dear MHA Reps,

Further to my Covid-19 email update in March, I am writing to ask for your support for Methodist Homes (MHA) staff, residents and their families, during what is an unparalleled time of challenge in our care homes.

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, our committed workforce at MHA has been working tirelessly to support our 6,000 residents. However, they have been doing so without a steady and secure supply of the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) and without testing for the virus, which would protect both them and our residents.

Our managers, nurses, carers, cleaners, maintenance staff, chef's, administrators, and volunteers have daily been going into our homes, 50% of which are experiencing Covid-19 outbreaks.

That is why we need your help. We have been petitioning Government since the outset of the pandemic to address these shortfalls and to recognise the vulnerability of those in care homes alongside those in the NHS. Only now is it starting to be recognised that we are the second front line



and we need to be properly equipped with all the tools to safely do that job.

Additionally, we need PPE so families are able to say farewell to their loved ones as they approach the end of their lives, as they are not currently allowed in our homes for the protection of residents, staff and themselves. We are therefore asking the Government to provide our homes with adequate and reliable PPE not just for our residents and colleagues, but also to offer to families.

We are now hearing that the Government are going to make more provision for PPE and testing in care homes, but these plans are light on detail and timescales. So we will continue to need to source PPE from commercial organisations, costing sometimes five times the price of Government supplies, because those supplies have proved inconsistent and inadequate. And we will continue to need to transport PPE across the country between our homes, to meet need when homes experience a Covid-19 outbreak. And we will continue to cast a light on how vulnerable those in our homes are, residents and staff, to this pandemic. We have already lost over 200 residents where they have been confirmed or suspected as having Covid-19; and we have lost two of our colleagues.

Our church has a proud tradition of social justice and concern, out of which MHA itself was born 76 years ago. So I am asking you and your churches to stand alongside us at this vital time to ensure that those most vulnerable and those working on the front-line to care for them, have access to the correct and necessary PPE and testing.

- You can support us by signing our petition to ask the Government to ensure adequate and consistent supplies of PPE and timely and ample testing for residents and staff by 26 April.
- You can donate to help us purchase the vital PPE we need – face masks, gloves, goggles, aprons, and gowns, vital to limit spread and protect staff, residents, and their relatives.

If you wish to donate, please use link below:

**<https://mha.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e83cad4805b8565338b16b5ae&id=cc04043b74&e=70e0f8f500>**

- You can volunteer in our homes and Live at Home Schemes, crucial to countering the increased loneliness and isolation of so many vulnerable elderly people during the lock-down.

Thank you, stay safe. With every blessing,

Sam Monaghan

## **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 Wratlslaw 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 July/August Clarion by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 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](mailto:ukspud@talktalk.net)

**Wesley Methodist  
Southend and Leigh**



**Church is a member of  
Circuit**

[www.southendandleigh.org](http://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.

