

THE CLARION



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Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: August 2020



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MINISTER'S LETTER



I'm sure that we have all become very familiar with the slogan above! But that is still the overriding responsibility for those leading churches, as well as those who don't.

Many have been asking when we are going to open for Sunday worship again, as some churches, but not all, have already returned to a 'new normal' form of worship, with no singing, social distancing and no hymn books or Bibles!

Well, a decision has been made by the circuit, of which we are part, that we will recommence our Sunday services in September and a preaching plan for that quarter is being drawn up.

Some of our churches have already opened for private prayer in the week, but the attendance for this has been minimal, I think due to people still having concerns for their safety and the safety of others.

There is a huge amount of preparation required for us to re-open for worship, and I am grateful to those who have undertaken this daunting responsibility.

We want to open, but we want to open safely, so please bear with us as we prepare to return to church.

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve, July 2020

Tel: 01702 483827

Email: pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

Questions for you to reflect on

The questions below were sent to Church Councils from the Circuit to gain their thoughts. The Leadership Team wanted to provide the congregation at Wesley with the same opportunity. If you would like to make a response, please email or post to Pastor Steve or Judy Taylor.

1. What are we experiencing now that we might want to retain when restrictions are lifted?
2. What are some of the elements we do not miss?
3. What new missional opportunities can we begin to discern in our communities as the result of our time in lockdown?
4. Are there opportunities which might arise from merging aspects of our life, work, and ministry with another congregation?

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

May & June Figures Combined

Income £12,509.63

Expenditure £15,423.18

Net -£2,913.55

YTD

Income £92,593.02

Expenditure £76,438.79

Net £16,154.23

Total raised from the Gift Month, as at 30th June, was £3,275.00. We have also received our Gift Aid claim of £5,657.85, after admin fees. The split was Memory Worship £62.11, General account £823.57 and Offerings £4,772.17.

The Circuit assessment of £10,405.25 was paid in May and, for the coming year, the assessment has dropped slightly to £9,884.75. The first payment is due in August.

Tina Gowers - Treasurer

CHURCH COUNCIL

There have been some changes in the Leadership Team. As you already know, in January Sue Hockett stepped down from the team.

We were not able to hold our Annual Church meeting in May but during the online Church Council on 2nd. June we were able to thank Isobel Wratlaw for her term of office as our main Steward, Isobel had kindly done two extra years in this role. Her place as co-ordinating Steward has been taken by Gaye Greenway who is already active in that role.

Please see the list of Church Council members here in the Clarion.

Eileen Simmons 14.7.20



GOOD NEWS

Both Joss Greenway and Megan Mayo have excelled by being awarded First Class Honours Degrees. Many congratulations to them both.

SUNDAY SERVICES

The circuit is organising a plan for September to November and there will be a service at Wesley on 6th. September at 11am.

Church Council Members as from 18th June 2020

Name	Capacity
Rev Peter Moorhouse	Superintendent
Pastor Steve Mayo	Minister in charge (chair of council)
Judy Taylor	Church Secretary Safeguarding Circuit Rep.
Gaye Greenway	Co-ordinating Steward. Outreach. Circuit Rep.
Ian Lowe	Serving, Inclusion and Justice in the Circuit Community. Circuit rep for Wesley.
Anna Wratishaw	Communication. Deputy Rep for GG.
Eileen Simmons	Pastoral Co-ordinator
Emma Hearn	Youth.
Geoff Hart	Property Link Officer.
Geoff Hawkins	Church Rep
Helen Boyd	Church Rep
June Childs	Church Rep
Rupert Bertie	Church Rep
David Cox	Church Rep
Alex Childs	Church Rep

NB: Every Leadership team member except Pastor Steve Mayo is a Steward of Wesley Methodist Church.

Advisors to Church Council -Tina Gowers/Alan Severne

From Radio 4 Thought for the Day 13/07/20 John Bell

If I had a penny for every time, I've heard the word 'unprecedented' in the past four months, I would be a rich man. But if I depended on a thousand pounds for every time it has been used properly, I would be a pauper. The word unprecedented literally means having no precedent, unparalleled. And whether it is used with regard to increased border controls, or to do with restrictions on public movement, or the monitoring of a contagion, there are precedents. If not in this country, then certainly elsewhere. Although our children have missed regular schooling, think of how in the second world war children were removed from both home and school, evacuated to areas of the country they did not know, and made to live with people who were not their relatives for long periods. The sit-com Dad's Army bears witness to what was unparalleled surveillance of our nations' borders. And I can think of stunning examples I heard in conversations with Public Health experts regarding how initiatives spearhead by local practitioners stalled the spread of infectious diseases and changed public behaviour. The truth is that from the government down most of us have not lived through the kind of upheaval we have been experiencing recently. But it has parallels. And we should not use the term 'unprecedented' either to excuse being ill-prepared or to suggest that an unfamiliar but effective initiative is new. If what I say rankles, there is precedent for people not wanting to hear about precedents. For me, the most graphic is when Jesus, in suggesting that God loved more than one nation, illustrated this by quoting two documented incidents of how the prophets Elijah and

Elisha centuries before showed compassion for those who were not of their own ethnic origin. His fellow townspeople were so outraged that they made the first direct attempt on his life. We can both learn and draw hope from precedents. The unprecedented thing is when we surprise ourselves and others by acting contrary to habit or expectation. This also can be unpopular. When Jesus said, 'if someone slaps you on the face, turn the other cheek; and if someone wants to borrow something, don't ask for it back' he was not met with instant popularity or a round of applause. What changes the world and ourselves is an unprecedented commitment to acts of kindness.

[Transcript taken from www.bbc.co.uk] From Anna Wratishlaw

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 – 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 September Clarion by Friday 21st August 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.

