

# THE CLARION



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## Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: September 2020



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## MINISTER'S LETTER



Looking out of my patio window as I write this letter, I'm surprised by the amount of brown leaves appearing on the oak tree at the bottom of my garden. On closer inspection, I actually realise that many leaves have already fallen, and my lawn is covered in acorns.

It only seems like a couple of weeks ago I was enjoying the brilliant green of new life as the leaves first appeared in the spring. How time is flying even in these strange times! But as the Bible reminds us in Ecclesiastes 3;

*There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
2 a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
3 a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
6 a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
8 a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.*

This reading tells us there is a time for everything, even...

A time to isolate

A time to mix

A time to meet for worship

A time to stay home

A time to shake hands and embrace

And a time to refrain

As we prepare at this time to return to church, we will return to a new normal.

In this edition of the Clarion there is a list of protocols and procedures to which we must adhere.

So, this is not a time to be carefree, but a time to be cautious and considerate of others.

I'm sure a time will come when we will be able to return to some of the traditions and practices we are missing at the moment.

But as this time, please be mindful and understanding of the efforts that have been made in our churches to keep us all safe.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon,

**Pastor Steve, August 2020**

Tel: 01702 483827

# **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**

## **CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL JUMBLE SALE 2021**

It is with great regret that this event cannot go ahead as social distancing would be impossible!

Thank you to all those who have helped in the past. We are hopeful for February 2022



This has been decided now as we know many of you save up your 'goods' for this wonderful cause.

**BUT THAT IS NOT ALL**

We would also like you to be imaginative and think of a different way or ways to raise money for this charity that could be over a period of time or an event in February 2021.



Please contact: Pam 07971785425 or Jane 01702 714213

God Bless.

## Pastoral News

In the last month I have resumed visits to Marian Rumble. Marian wishes to be remembered to all those who remember her and Tony. They were active members of Wesley, preparing, cooking, and serving lunches and especially at the 'Shoppers' Service'. During Covid19 I would occasionally wave to her from her garden but now back to normal visits. She is well cared for by her live-in carers and Sue and Mike, her daughter and son, although in South Africa and Germany ring regularly. If you have any messages for her, I can give them to her. She is a remarkable faithful servant.

God Bless, Jane Fulford

Jim Mavin.

You will be saddened to hear that our good friend and faithful Wesley member, Jim Mavin died on August 15th. We all send our condolences to Shirley and family.

- Eileen Simmons, pastoral coordinator.



I would like to thank all my Wesley friends for their prayers, good wishes texts and cards following my accident at the end of July. Following a partial hip replacement, I am home now, making a good recovery and feeling very glad that the heatwave seems to be over. I do hope you are all keeping well. - Joy Milner



## Information from the Treasurer July Figures

Income £5,005.06

Expenditure £2,520.19

Net £2,484.87

### YTD

Income £97,598.08

Expenditure £78,958.98

Net £18,639.10

The total raised for the Gift Month, as at end of July, was £3,850 which was an increase of £1,213 on last year. A big thank you to everyone who donated.

Tina Gowers-Treasurer

[tinagowers@sky.com](mailto:tinagowers@sky.com)

Tel 01702 528674

## **BOILERS.**

We would like to thank Tina for her update on the September 2019 to August 2020 Methodist financial year. She was hoping the invoice for the boilers would have been presented, but until everything is perfect the company will

not send the bill. Quite right! Alan tells me a replacement control board is needed.

The boilers themselves have been installed quite a long time and so really belong in the 2019/2020 financial year.

Alan estimates around £28,000

Eileen Simmons

## **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?

Wesley **Methodist** Church 

# Returning to Worship at Wesley



# Information about procedures in place for the return to worship

## Intro

This information has been put together so you can know what to expect from returning to worship at Wesley. The following pages will give you a “walk-through” of the plans that have been put in place to ensure that worship is as safe as possible, and we hope that having these details in advance will help you to feel safe and comfortable when in the building.

We know that worship is going to be a bit different for the foreseeable future, but we are working hard to make sure that these practical changes do not detract from the heart of worship.

These plans have been put in place to support Sunday morning worship. Other worship services will be reviewed in due course.

Worship will be at 11 am on Sundays (unless otherwise advertised), with the first service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Services will be shorter, at around 30 minutes.

The following information has been put together for the congregation, preachers and any volunteers taking part in Worship.

*All Are Welcome.*

## *Before the Service:*

- o The car park will be available for use.
- o Stewards – will enter and sign in via the side entrance.
- o Preachers – will be met at, enter and sign in via the side entrance.
- o Congregation - please enter via the front doors on Elm Road (steps and ramp access are available). Please do not enter via the side entrance or use keys to open these doors.

- When queuing and entering the church, please maintain 2m social distancing. A one-way system has been set up in the porch area for entry/exit.
- On entering the church building, please wear a face covering. These are mandatory in places of worship. If you do not have one, we will have some available. If you are exempt, **please** just make the steward on the door aware.
- You will be asked to sign in (including a contact number if we don't have this already). This is just in case we need to contact you in line with the Government's test & trace scheme. For details on how we will store this data, please see [www.wesleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.wesleymethodist.org.uk)
- There will be hand sanitiser available, and you will be asked to cleanse your hands on the way in and out.
- To aid social distancing, the congregation will be asked to fill up from the front of the church first.
- Chairs will be set up in pairs, for use by the same household, with 2m spacing between each set. Please do not move the chairs.

- We will only be using the wooden chairs, to aid cleaning, and they will be set further back from the pulpit area than usual.
- If you require a cushion for the chair, please bring one with you if possible. Any church cushions used will be quarantined until the following week.
- We will only be using the galleries if congregation numbers require this.
- The vestry will be used only for the preacher, and the steward in charge of the collection (two stewards will be on duty for each service).
- Those who are operating the sound and overhead projection can come into the church from 10.30am to set up in advance of the service.

## During the Service:

- The service will be shorter than usual - we will be asking preachers to aim for 30 minutes.
- Where possible, the doors will be left open to allow for natural ventilation.

- The lectern will be available for use by the preacher (it will be sanitised after each use).
- It is intended that 'Worn' microphones used by the preacher will be handled only by the user or a member of their household - should any further assistance be necessary it will be given by a person wearing a mask who will first re-sanitise their hands.
- Afterwards, microphones will be secured unused for 72 hrs, wiped, and stored for a further 72hrs before reuse.
- The pulpit will not be in use. Instead, a microphone and music stand will be set up at the front for any readers (the music stand will be sanitised after use, and the microphone will be stored and sanitised as above).
- There will be 1 designated reader for each service.
- The preacher will be asked to combine any information/ notices/reminders with their welcome.
- The government states that those leading a service in a place of worship as well as volunteers who are assisting with activities such



as reading, preaching, or leading prayer do not need to wear a face covering when performing those aspects of the service.

However, a face covering will be worn when social distancing cannot be maintained and when distributing communion or other consumables.

- o If you would like to read the Bible, please bring this with you.
- o Paper will be avoided, but single use copies will be produced if needed.
- o Congregational singing is not currently permitted. Preachers may decide to play pre-recorded hymns and songs, and we ask that you please refrain from singing along.
- o Either live or recorded music may be played before/after the service. We will not be using the organ, and no wind instruments are permitted.
- o Communion – we are planning that Pastor Steve's services will include Holy Communion. The first is scheduled for Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September. PPE will be worn during preparation of the elements. We are looking at the safest way to distribute communion, and it will likely be

different to what we are used to. Whilst trying to retain the special nature of Holy Communion, we hope that you will appreciate that we must adhere to public health guidelines and prioritise your safety.

- o Under current guidance, we are unfortunately not able to provide any crèche facilities or activities for children and young people.

## After the Service:

- o Whilst there will be no offertory during the service, we will be having a retiring collection at the end of each service. An offertory plate will be at the door for you to place an offering should you wish to.
- o At the end of the service, we respectfully ask that you leave in a considerate manner, maintaining social distancing and filing out from the back of the church first.
- o Please exit via the front doors, making use of the hand sanitiser. If necessary, another exit will be made available – the stewards will direct you on this.

- o Please do not congregate outside the church.
- o Once the congregation have left, the stewards will ensure that each chair that has been used is cleaned, along with any contact points (e.g. the sound desk, door handles) or other such areas. Microphones will be cleaned as detailed above.

## Additional details:

- o The accessible toilet, which has instant hot water, will be the only one in operation during this time. Please be mindful of other users and make use of the alcohol wipes provided for sanitising before and after use. The toilet will be cleaned after the service by the stewards on duty.
- o Online services: we know how much Pastor Steve's online services have been appreciated, and we are looking at what online provision will be possible going forward, as we appreciate that not everybody will be able or comfortable returning to worship at the moment. Once this has been finalised, details will be circulated. Watch this space!

- o Booking: at present, we don't feel there is a need to set up a system for booking places at worship. We will review this if needed.

## We look forward to welcoming you to worship

**These procedures have been put in place for the return to Worship at Wesley, by Wesley Leadership Team and the Covid-19 Working Party, following the guidance by the UK Government and the Methodist Church in Britain for returning to worship. They aim to reduce the risk as much as is practicable. These procedures will be reviewed in line with any change in guidance either from the Methodist Church in Britain or the UK Government.**

**Please do not enter the church building if you are displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19, including: a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Please see [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) for full information and advice.**

**If you become unwell with symptoms of Covid-19 whilst on the church premises, you should go home immediately and follow the Government's stay at home guidance, which covers NHS Test and Trace. If you need clinical advice, you should go online to NHS 111, or call 111. In an emergency, call 999 if you are seriously ill or injured or your life is at risk. You should not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. Other people who may have been in contact with the person who has become unwell should wash their hands thoroughly after the interaction, but do not need to take any other specific action unless they develop symptoms themselves or are advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace. If they do develop symptoms, they should follow the stay at home guidance.**

**Certain groups of people may be at increased risk of severe disease from Covid-19, including people who are aged 70 or older, regardless of medical conditions. Individuals who fall within this group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.**

**Individuals who are shielding should continue to follow the Government's advice on shielding.**

**This information is correct as of 18/08/2020**

## **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 October Clarion by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 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.

