

THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: October 2020



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MINISTER'S LETTER



'In some parts of Mexico hot springs and cold springs are found side by side – and because of the convenience of this natural occurrence the women often bring their laundry and boil their clothes in the hot springs and then rinse them in the cold ones. A tourist, who was watching this procedure commented to his Mexican friend and guide: "I imagine that they think old Mother Nature is pretty generous to supply such ample, clean hot and cold water here side by side for their free use." the guide replied, "No señor, there is much grumbling because she supplies no soap." [Illustration Unlimited: James Hewett]

How often do we find ourselves grumbling about life, when if we would only *open* our eyes, we would see we have been given so much?

In life we can have one of two attitudes; we can be *grateful* or *ungrateful*.

People who live with an ungrateful attitude are always waiting for something bigger and better to come along before they'll be thankful. But a grateful attitude lifts you up because you are thankful for the little miracles of life that come along every day.

Yes, we are living in a global pandemic, but God's provision for us remains the same; the sun still shines, the rain still falls, crops are being harvested and there is food on our tables. James 1:16-17 tells us; *'Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.'* [NIV-UK]

When you have a grateful heart, you are looking past the hills of everyday problems, and toward the heavens from where your true help really comes. We should be grateful that the Lord we serve has the capability to handle *anything* and *everything* that life can throw at us, and all we have to

do is shown a bit of appreciation to a God who gives us everything.

God loves a cheerful servant as well as a cheerful giver. Every church family has its 'Doubting Thomas' or its 'Miserable Mary'. To see them and listen to them is like witnessing an autopsy or diving into the sea on a winter's day; not enjoyable! God wants His family to be happy, and that means that each member must contribute to the joy. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, ¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ *pray continually,* ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* [NIV-UK]

A final question: Do you lead a life that is full of gratitude and thanksgiving to God for all that you have?

Pastor Steve, October 2020

Tel: 01702 483827

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Congratulations to Cole Hockett who has gained his BA Hons in Health and Social Degree 2.2 class this August.

Shirley Mavin wished to thank everyone for their prayers and support during Jim's illness, and for the sympathy cards and continued support at the time of his death, and afterwards on Sat 15th August.



Congratulations to Jonathan and Jenny Charnock on the birth of Oscar Peter Charnock on 10th September weighing in at 8lb.10oz. A first grandchild for Annette and Neil and a great grandchild for Marjorie and Keith.

PASTORAL NEWS.

Both now and for the future extra help with Pastoral work is needed.

It is a rule of the Methodist Church that Pastoral leaders/Visitors need to be members, but there can be shared responsibilities, within a group. Many of you, who are not Pastoral leaders are doing superb pastoral work anyway, but please talk to me if you are able to offer to help with some individuals.

One service, which is massively helpful, is to pick up individuals and bring them to church. So, yes please drivers talk to me if you are able to help. As in church, masks would need to be worn at the moment.

Having literally just got back from holiday I hope I have learned of all developments over the last ten days .Various individuals within our Wesley family are either recovering from illness or injury, awaiting surgery, or are now being medically investigated.

We hold in our thoughts and prayers Miriam Gifford,Keith Charnock, and Joan Hawkins. We remember Shirley Mavin following Jim's recent funeral.

If you are able to help by making phone calls to individuals either temporarily or on a regular basis then please ring or e mail me.

Eileen Simmons, Pastoral co ordinator.

472521

eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com



All of us at Westerley Christian Care Home would like to thank everyone for their support during these unprecedented times. We would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that we have been lucky enough to remain Covid-19 free throughout this pandemic and are still able to offer our services for permanent or respite residents. So if you or anyone you know is in need

of residential care and are looking for somewhere with Christian family values please call us on 01702 349209 or email westcliffm@lwphomes.org.uk

Regards

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Wesley's Harvest Festival is scheduled to take place during morning worship on **Sunday 4th October.**

Everything is a bit different this year, with social distancing and shorter services, but (barring any changes in restrictions) we would still like to hold a collection of tinned and long-life foods for Southend Food bank. This will help support our local community during what is a difficult time for many.

In line with guidance from the Methodist Church, we will collect donations in the church foyer as people enter the church before the service. Donations will then be stored for 72 hours before being taken to the foodbank warehouse.

All donations will be very gratefully received.

Food donation suggestions include:

- Noodles
- Cuppa soup
- Long life puddings
e.g. tinned rice pudding, custard.
- Breakfast Cereals
- Soup
- Pasta
- Rice (500g or 1kg bags)
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned beans
- Tinned fish
- Tinned meat meals
e.g. Meat pies, meatballs, chilli, or curry.
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- UHT Milk
- Tea or Coffee
- Biscuits
- Snacks

If you would like to make a financial donation:

You can make cheques payable to, Southend Foodbank and post them to: Southend Foodbank, Friendship House, 484 Southchurch Road, Southend on Sea SS12QA

Or by bank transfer to:

Bank Name: Lloyds Bank plc

Sort Code: 30 65 22

Account number: 75600360

Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

August Figures

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Income | £3,743.71 |
| Expenditure | £12,627.38 (incl assessment) |
| Net | -£8,883.67 |

End of Year

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Income | £101,341.79 |
| Expenditure | £91,586.36 |
| Net | +£9,755.43 (Boilers have not been paid for yet) |

Total Church Funds, as of 31st August 2020 £85,898.02

Informal worship services

We appreciate how valued our range of informal services are, and the leadership team will be looking at how, and if, these might be reintroduced in line with Covid-19 guidelines. Updates will be shared in due course.

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 6th 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
- 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 13th 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 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 Wratlaw 557764 mob 07508164525

Jane Fulford

Linda Lister

June Childs 711891

Vivien Threadgold 713325

Miriam Gifford 716175

Maureen Chambers 01702 870956.



If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please speak to Gabrielle Greenway

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 November Clarion by Friday 16th October 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.

