

THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: November 2020



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MINISTER'S LETTER



It is this time of year that our minds turn to Remembrance Day. This year, things are probably going to be very different in some, or all of our country, as gatherings and church services maybe restricted.

Although, Remembrance Day is quite rightly about remembering those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom and liberty, and I'm sure we will take time to remember them, it's also a time to remember what God has done for each one of us and *will* do in the days to come.

Life is uncertain at the moment as we experience a second wave of the covid-19 virus. God reminds us again and again, that He is with us, and does remember us.

Such scripture texts as...

- ✚ *'Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'*
[Joshua 1:9b NIV-UK]
- ✚ *'...the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.'* [Deuteronomy 31:6b NIV-UK]
- ✚ *'The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.'* [Psalm 46:7 NIV-UK]

...can remind us of God's love and care for us.

This remembrance do remember the fallen, but also remember that God is with us and will never leave us.

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

November 2020

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS



“Thank you” for sending the Wesley Clarion to us in Hadleigh. I was at Wesley for many years and moved to Hadleigh a few years ago, due to health. I do attend Hadleigh Methodist Church (which has now re-opened) but it is lovely to read the Clarion and share the fellowship.

Angela and Terry Dewberry.

PASTORAL NEWS.

WESLEY CHARITY CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS.

In 2019 Church Council agreed that in 2020 any Christmas charity collections would be for a local charity. If you have suggestions, please contact me and I can pass on to CC via our secretary Judy for a decision.

Because of COVID 19 and lockdown and closed churches we have raised very little for charity in 2020.

The young people choose the charity for Christingle.
Every Blessing

Eileen Simmons

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

As we start a new year, and in view of all the changes that have occurred, I thought it would be good to compare our figures to last year.

Offertory Income

September 2019	£2,519.21
September 2020	£1,775.29

Total Income

September 2019	£8,730.20
September 2020	£1,844.79

Total Expenditure

September 2019	£3,222.44
September 2020	£3,053.56

The Giving Machine

Do you shop online? If so, you can help raise donations for Wesley! We are signed up to www.thegivingmachine.co.uk - a fundraising organisation designed to help charitable causes online. It's really simple, you sign up for free to The Giving Machine and then enter your favourite shops via The Giving Machine website. Purchases generate a donation for Wesley. With over 2000 stores participating, you can really help make a difference. Thank you.

WESLEY DISPLAYS

I had the privilege of taking the first service at Wesley on 6th. September, when the church reopened for services. We then promptly started a holiday the next day and, on our return, it was too late to write this article for the October Clarion.



When we first went into national lockdown and all the churches had to close Joan Hawkins thought up the

TOGETHER WHILE APART

initiative and we did a whole range of activities. Isobel Wratishaw was our Senior Steward at that stage, and she had the idea of asking our creative team of knitters to produce the Noah's Ark and Rainbow which was on display for that first service. It is superb. Thank you so much Isobel and all of you, who knitted animals. made the ark, etc.

Not content with that wonderful creative display we ALSO had a knitted Last Supper, which will be used at Easter each year. I really admire such beautiful craftsmanship. Others have commented on how attractive the displays are. Congratulations.

Eileen Simmons

5.10.20

Obituary
James (Jim) Gray Mavin
14th January 1934 – 15th August 2020
By Keith L. Charnock

Due to the many different restrictions imposed on us all due to Covid-19, I would like to share with Church Members, and friends who were unable to attend Jim's funeral service, a summarized account of the Eulogy which his son Paul bequeathed.

Jim was born in a small mining village called Pegswood, Northumberland.

His father, brother, and grandfather, in keeping with the rest of the local male population, worked in the mining industry. Jim wasn't keen on working underground, but obtained a position working in the local National Coal Board Offices. It was here and the local technical college, Jim learned to type, and became skilled in mathematics, numeracy, and accountancy.

Jim joined the RAF in 1952, and trained as a rear gunner, whilst stationed at Bletchley and Norwich. However, Jim was very keen about athletics, particularly when it came to sprinting and track events, and he was soon a member of the local RAF sports team. Following demob, he started to run competitively on the professional circuit winning many races, including prize money.

In 1954 Jim was demobbed and returned to Temples Gardens Morpeth, Northumberland where he joined his

brother Tony. It was here that Jim developed his lifelong passion with gardening. He became an allotment holder and grew many prize-winning leeks and onions in the annual, strongly contested North East shows. Jim was also very well known locally for his generosity with regular giving of home-grown fruit and vegetables to the local community.

In 1956 Jim secured a job as a Wages Clerk in Northgate Hospital, Morpeth. It was here Jim met Shirley, a young student nurse working with people who had mental health and learning difficulties. Shirley qualified, and in 1957 Jim and Shirley married commencing life together in Pegswood and then Longhorsely Village accompanied by a menagerie of pets including his favourite boxer dog called Rocky.

In 1964 he became Manager of a Turf Accounts in Blyth, Northumberland. It was here his mathematical skills proved very useful, since he had the ability to work out the most complex odds in his head. In 1971 Jim decided he wanted to change his job and returned to work for the NHS, at the Newcastle General Head Office, in the Accounts Department where he remained for the rest of his career until retirement in 1999.

Jim joined the local Masonic Lodge on 4th April, 1967 and remained a Mason for the rest of his life rising to Mark Master and Worshipful Master in 1979/80. When Jim and Shirley moved to Essex he transferred his membership to St. Margarets Lodge. At the funeral it was interesting to see Masons were there to greet the cortege and to carry the coffin.

Jim and Shirley have a son Paul, and two lovely grandchildren Alfie and Evie. In 2007 they decided to leave their bungalow, and move to Essex, so that they could be closer to the family. It was not long after, they came to Wesley Church where they have made great friendships. Jim's accounting skills have been so valuable at Wesley. He became a member of the money counting team from arriving at the Church, up to a few months before he passed away. Auditing our Table Tennis accounts from 2009, and always so pleased to do them, never missing a year. Sadly, Jim was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, but he never let the illness get the better of him. Jim, I think I speak for all when I say,

"You will be missed".

Shirley and Paul would like to thank all, for the many kind letters of condolences, cards and flowers they received.

DAVID JOHNSON

My husband and I joined this Church only five years ago at the time when the Church Council were still discussing changes to this Sanctuary. Isn't it beautiful? David was passionate about Equality and diversity issues and ensuring things were relevant to the Younger Generation. It was a controversial scheme as some people preferred to keep the raised pews, but until they were removed wheel chair users could not enter the church through the front entrance and move anywhere in here and the rest of our buildings.

For this phase 3 work the Building Development Group was formed with David invited to take the lead following his heavy involvement with the two earlier phases for the redevelopment of the church buildings from 1990 to 2002. David had contacts on both Leigh Town Council and Southend Borough Council and liaised with both.

David was a visionary and worked so hard, with others, to bring about the changes. This new sanctuary was officially opened in January 2017 and as you can see the architecture of the roof, the stained-glass windows and the balcony balustrades are all enhanced by the light and airy feel and flexible space.

David had a great sense of achievement and when all of this was completed and shortly after he stepped down from the Property Committee and Church Council after nearly 30 years Christian Service in such an important role. However, he continued to advise on property matters.

David had come back to Leigh in the early 1990's after many years working abroad and took up a role on the Property Committee which lead on to an elected post at circuit and later District level.

The booklet called Our Wesley Stories, is a gift to all of us and typically David insisted upon sharing the cost of producing it.

Let me read you snippets from his own story:

In our conversations David always told me that 'Wesley is our family church'. When I arrived Wesley a new House

Group, called Cameo was being formed and David and I both joined. We shall miss him at our discussions. We became friends and recently he joined the 'football group' that meets at our house to have a meal and watch the televised games, the meal, and Cup Semi- Final on April 6th. were not the same without him.

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

Given Covid19 restrictions we cannot organise the Christmas Tree Festival, Carol Singing and the Christmas post box. Geoff and I are expecting to be in Cornwall so we may not be around. That said it is



CHRISTMAS

Wesley is in a central position so can we not create a vision of the Advent and Christmas at the front of the Church????????? I have had some informal discussions but as time is passing, I put some to you either to inspire you to think of more and superior ones or how to implement mine!

Suggestions:

Advent Railings - Banners or posters one for each day of Advent.

Advent Garden- Objects placed in the Church Garden for each day of advent

Christmas – Tableau in the church garden

Christmas Tree in the Church Garden

Christmas Carols – one hour on certain days to be played and a charity box out for Action for Children

How to go forward – please contact me if you have an idea and know how to implement it or want to help either physically or financially. Please telephone/email me. I am going to suggest a zoom meeting sometime between Tuesday 3rd – 10th November to make decisions and then that leaves us basically just over 2 weeks to implement.

Please, please, please contact me

God Bless

Jane Fulford – 01702 714213

email fulford.family@btinternet.com



REMEMBRANCE

WESLEY'S ROLL OF HONOUR

To the glory of God and in grateful memory of the men of
this church who made the supreme sacrifice: -

1914 – 1918

H. BLAKER, JOHN WALTER BONALLACK

HARRY WALTER CHINERY, ALEC FREDERICK
COLLINS

CLAUDE DRAPER, ARTHUR GEORGE DYER,
GEORGE EMERY

ROBERT FEAKINS, RICHARD CHARLES LEONARD
FILBY, LEONARD ARTHUR GALER

HERBERT CHARLES HIBBLE, GEORGE WILLIAM
HARRISON,

VICTOR OLIVER HULBERT, REGINALD BERTRAM
MOSS

WILLIAM GEORGE NOKES, STEPHEN JOHN
OSBORNE,
ALFRED STEED, WILLIAM HAROLD SUTHERLAND,
J.WALLER, JAMES R.WILDER.

1939 – 1945

GERALD EDWARD BLANDFORD,
ARTHUR THOMAS COLE, RONALD THOMAS HAYES,
DOUGLAS ERNEST HIPSEY
VICTOR ARTHUR REGINALD LANGFORD, DENNIS
ARTHUR RAWLINGS, KENNETH HENRY RAY, ERIC
WICKENS ROBERTS, LESLIE ALFRED MAURICE
WILLIAMS,
WILLIAM FREDERICK WORSLEY.

“Greater love hath no man than this”.

KLC

Remembrance Day Poems

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
**WE SHALL NOT SLEEP,
THOUGH POPPIES GROW
IN FLANDERS FIELDS.**



We Shall Keep the Faith by Moira Michael

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.



Created by Flickhappy

WESLEY COMMUNITY SURVEY

As we plan for the future post-Covid, we want to make sure that Wesley is working for our community and providing what you need - both in worship and services, and more broadly. What we are doing well, and things we could look to add, improve, or adapt. We have created a survey which consists of 8 questions - this can be filled in anonymously online

at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F8VPZQY> or alternatively, you can send your answers to the below questions to leighwesleymethodist@gmail.com

1. Do you currently go to a church (either Wesley or a different church) or access any online services?
2. What would make church more appealing to you? e.g. services at different times/days/content of services
3. What are the most important things to you with regards to a church? Please choose all that apply.

Church culture / Inclusivity / Service content and style / Church involvement in the community / Youth provision / Service length /

Location / Church community / Biblical teaching / Other (please specify)

4. What type of worship services most appeal to you? Please choose all that apply.

Contemporary / Family-focused / Traditional Liturgy (eg a set service from a worship book) / Youth-led / Meditative / Contemplative / Small-group / Discussion-based / Formal / Informal / Participatory / Creative or Craft-based / A Service of Holy Communion / Traditional Morning Worship (Hymns/Sermon/Prayers) / Other (please specify)

5. What type of music do you like in church services?

Please choose all that apply.

Traditional hymns (e.g. played on the organ)

/ Contemporary music and worship songs / Songs you remember from school / A mixture of styles / Other (please specify)

6. In terms of childcare & youth provision, which of the following statements apply to you? Please choose all that apply.

I am interested in family-focused services and events / I am interested in services aimed at adults, with childcare or youth provision /

I am interested in services aimed at adults, without childcare or youth provision / Childcare or youth provision is important to me at church or during services / I would need creche facilities

7. What is your current view of the church/Wesley

Methodist in particular? Please be honest!

8. Any other comments?

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

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.

REGULAR SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday 8th November “Remembrance Sunday “at **10:45 am** led by Jane Fulford.

CHRISTMAS AT WESLEY

Christmas will be a bit different this year at Wesley, however we are working hard to make sure that we can still focus on the heart of Christmas and be a welcoming place for our community. All our usual Christmas services will be going ahead (subject to any changes to Covid guidelines), adapted to 30 minutes, and with booking required for all services with the exception of the Toy & Gift service.

Please see the attached poster for details of all the services that require booking, and how to do this. Unfortunately, due to limited numbers, places will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

In addition to the details on the poster:

❖ **Toy & Gift Service – Sunday 29th November at 11am (booking not required)**

Toy & Gift will take place during morning worship on Sunday 29th November. We will be collecting donations of toys and gifts which will be distributed to children at Southend Storehouse.

❖ **Christingle @ Home (pre-ordering required)**

We know how popular our Christingle service is, and social distancing requirements will unfortunately mean that we aren't able to accommodate everybody within the service. For those who aren't able to attend, Christingle packs will be available which can be used to celebrate Christingle at home. These will need to be ordered in advance and can then be collected from the church. Full details will be advertised shortly.

Any queries, please speak to Anna on 01702 557764.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Christmas services will be different this year, and as part of this **booking will be required for each of the services below.**

Carol Services

Sunday 20th December
at 11am & 6pm

Christingle

Thursday 24th December
at 4pm

Christmas Eve Communion

Thursday 24th December
at 11.30pm

Christmas Morning Worship

Friday 25th December
at 10.30am

Book online from 1st November at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/leighwesleymethodistchurch

Sign-up sheets will also be available at Sunday morning services from 1st November.

Editors information

Please could I have all items for the December Clarion by Friday 20th November 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.

