

THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: January 2021



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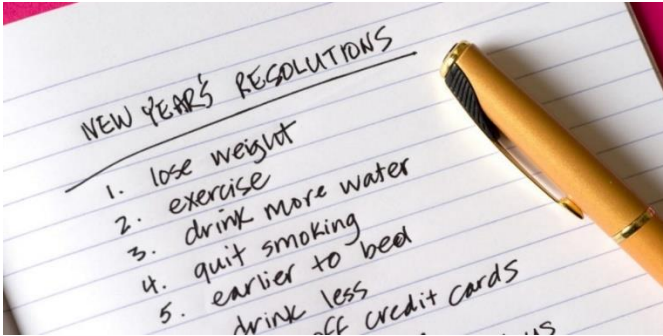
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MINISTER'S LETTER



With another year past and a new one stretching out before us, it seems a natural time to take stock of our lives.

What went well over the last year?

What was disappointing?

Where would we like to be in another year's time?

What would we especially like to do and achieve in the coming year?

With such thoughts in our minds, we perhaps begin to form our New Year resolutions. I wonder what yours might be?

To go on a diet; exercise more; take up a new hobby; seek a new job or a new house; learn a new language?

Depending on when you are reading this you might have already failed to keep your New Year's resolution and feel rather disappointed with yourself!

So many of these promises we make to ourselves are about improving ourselves, and there's nothing wrong with that, but in a culture that drives us to constantly succeed and achieve (most of the adverts on TV encourage us to

be thinner, faster, wealthier, fitter, more powerful, more intelligent etc. etc.) we can easily feel that we have fallen short in some way, that we have failed and so feel guilty and perhaps even slightly useless.

In a culture that values people primarily for what they've got and what they can do, we need to remind ourselves that we believe in a God who loves us simply for who we are – his children. Here is a reminder of some of the things God has to say about each of us;

'I made you in my own image and likeness, and when I made you, I saw that you are good.' (Gen. 1:27,31)

'I am silently planning for you in love.' (Zeph 3:17)

'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine.' (Isa. 43:1)

'I, Christ, loved you, and sacrificed myself for your sake.' (Gal. 2:20)

As we make, and perhaps break, our New Year resolution let's not be too hard on ourselves. Remember God loves you as you are, and that perhaps the best resolution you can make is to begin to love yourself too, rather than listen to the voices of a culture that constantly shouts, 'Could do better!'

Of course, we also need to remember that although God does love us as we are, he loves us too much to leave us as we are!

Every blessing for 2021

Pastor Steve

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

LETTER ABOUT CHURCH FINANCES.

Thank you to those of you, who have responded to the letter about our finances. If you have not as yet considered a response, please kindly give it prayerful thought, as we really are very badly affected and need an injection of funds. As they say every little helps.

Congratulations

On Saturday, 7th November Honey Rita was born to Molly and Joseph, a first, beautiful granddaughter for Anthea and a first great, granddaughter for Margaret (Buckey) Your prayers for Honey's well-being would be appreciated as she starts life in these difficult times.

BABY
GIRL

With love and prayers Margaret and Anthea



Congratulations to Jo Sharpen and her husband Rich on the birth of their baby daughter, Dottie, during lockdown on 21st July.

Many thanks. Ann Sharpen



Yet another heartfelt 'Thank You' from the Hawkins family to the thoughtful friends at Wesley who phoned, sent letters and cards to show they care when my sister Wendy died suddenly on 16th November. We knew she had a weak heart, but she was cheerful and coping in lockdown when we chatted two days previously, so it was a real shock to us all. Wendy was a member of Wesley's poetry group and helped at Mother and Toddlers group for many years until recently. Her funeral was held 2nd December and it still seems unreal that she is no longer here but being part of a truly caring church has given us strength when we needed it most.

With love and thanks - Joan

PASTORAL NEWS as at 18.11.20

Some excellent news on the pastoral front.

Miriam Gifford has been told she is in remission. She will continue with her chemo as advised.

Annette Jarvis was admitted earlier this week to Southend hospital to have a pacemaker fitted.

Joan Hawkins continues to make excellent progress following her new knee operation. Sadly, her sister Wendy has died, and we send our condolences.

Eileen Simmons
Pastoral coordinator

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

November Figures

November Giving	2019	£2,057.85		
	2020	£2,452.59		
November Income	2019	£11,462.29		
	2020	£11,990.09		
November Expend:	2019	£24,778.49		
	2020	£40,615.13		

(Boilers £27,226.80)

Year to Date

Income	2019	£26,573.70	2020	£19,658.67
Expend:	2019	£48,868.34	2020	£47,411.45
Net		-£22,294.64		-
£27,752.78 (excl boilers = £525.98)				

Now that the boilers have been paid for, our current situation, as at end November 2020 is:

Current account	£16,985.03
CFB a/c	£33,892.12
Innovations	£7,375.99
Total Funds	£58,253.14
(November 2019	£81,974.44)

Please note that with Covid restrictions changing regularly there can be wide fluctuations in income and expenditure each month, so the monthly figures provided need to be

taken in this context. The year-to-date figures give a longer-term view of the trend of our financial situation.

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

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.

A hand is shown in a prayerful gesture, with fingers slightly spread and palm facing up. The background is a warm, golden-brown color with a soft, hazy light and numerous small, sparkling particles, creating a dreamy and hopeful atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead,
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread,
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend,
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

The Daily Bible Verses

<http://thedailyverses.blogspot.com> - www.facebook.com/thedailybibleverses

Editors information

Please could I have all items for the February Clarion by Friday 15th January 2021

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.

