

Content Page

Contact Information 3

Minister's Letter 4-5

News from the Pews..... 6-17

Coming up soon.....

Wesley Prayer Chain..... 18

Time for Healing 19

Editor's information 20

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MINISTER'S LETTER

Unfortunately, Pastor Steve and his family are all poorly at present suffering from Covid. We send our love and prayers to them all for a speedy recovery and pray that they will feel the power of the holy spirit's healing.

Please accept my offering instead of the Minister's Letter.



According to “My Year”, February in Roald Dahl’s eyes was a month that required you to batten down the hatches and wait it out. The “bitterest and fiercest month of all” wasn’t one to be welcomed!

But, despite the chill, rain and wind, February definitely brings with it with “some small blessings here and there” that

are worth celebrating, such as catkins on hazel bushes and hearing the blackbirds begin to sing. The thing that excited Dahl in the month of February was the peak of an errant molehill sitting in his front lawn, to most of us a sight that would not be greeted any degree of pleasure. Dahl was a keen gardener who grew orchids and prize onions as one of his many hobbies. Dahl writes in regard to his love of molehills.

“I love seeing molehills because they tell me that only a few inches below the surface some charming and harmless little fellow is living his own private busy life”
Roald Dahl, My Year.

This makes me think of our resident badger at Wesley and how oblivious he is to the trail of mess and destruction he leaves behind as he wanders through his domain of our car park and surrounding gardens. It is a moment of excitement in my house, when he is caught on the CCTV images, just scurrying down the drive completely in his own world. I count this as a “small blessing here and there” and not just for February.

I wonder what your “small blessings here and there” will be this month?

God Bless
Judy

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



Thank you to all my friends as Wesley who so kindly sent me Maltesers and cards for Christmas, also to Viv for bringing them to me.

Thank you and all good wishes for 2021 from,
Vanda Brockway



Congratulations to Andrew and Kathy Newnham on the birth of a son, Jake Robert, on 15th December 2020 - a brother for Meg, Maddie and Ivy, grandson for Alison and nephew for Jenny and Ellen.

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 are we doing well, and what things could we 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>

Alternatively, you can send your answers to the below questions to leighwesleymethodist@gmail.com or share your thoughts and ideas with any of the leadership team (if you would like to speak by phone, Anna Wratishaw can be contacted on 01702 557764)

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?
eg. 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?

PASTORAL REPORT 12.01.21

Pastoral care involves active concern, contact and interest between individuals and groups at all stages of life and in our wider Wesley family. There is massive evidence of this both informally and in our structured system. There is plenty of good news to share.

Jean Turner is pleased to have settled well into her flat. Miriam Gifford only has one more chemotherapy in January and then her course is finished. She looks forward to time on her allotment as the weather improves. Annette Jarvis's pacemaker was a life saver and has improved her quality of life, although its physical presence does not make her feel any different! Joan Hawkin's new knee is fine, as she has followed all advice and done the required exercises. Joy Milner continues to make very good progress.

David Cox is very frustrated as he is at the top of the list for his operation, but because of COVID there are no plans in place. Vanda Brockway has broken her hip but is making good progress towards recovery.

Congratulations to Andrew and Kathy Newnham on the birth of their son, Jake Robert, before Christmas. Another grandchild for Alison.

We are getting news of people having their vaccinations.

As you probably know I am an Anna Chaplain and I could have continued with my work at Memory House (only pre-

COVID) and currently with Age Concern; without the formal Chaplaincy recognition, but the shared experiences with other Chaplains are brilliant for new ideas. In this week's blog it was suggested that in praying for individuals it might help to use a 'holding cross' as you prayed. I was given such a cross at Wesley's Chapel several years ago by their South Korean link Minister and it is only now that it is in regular use. What are you missing most in lockdown? We are missing seeing you all, worshipping in Wesley without restrictions and not having people round for meals.

Eileen Simmons Pastoral Co-ordinator

From the Methodist Church

We have now added a weekly pastoral message from the President and Vice-President of the Conference to our free 'Dial-a-Prayer' phonedlines.

Please share these numbers locally with people who are not online and may feel very isolated and in need of spiritual comfort, especially during the latest lockdown.

You can download a print-and-cut-out sheet with details to send to others www.methodist.org.uk/dial-a-prayer

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to a pastoral message from the President and Vice President: 0808 281 2695

Listen to the Methodist Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Weekly envelopes

Due to the uncertainty of church services, and the fact that many of you now pay your weekly / monthly offering by bank standing order or direct payments, I did not order any new weekly envelopes for 2021 due to cost.

Now that the numbers are less, I am looking at various options that do not require a minimum order of envelopes or order cost.

I would like to know how many people would still like to stay in the envelope scheme and whether you would prefer weekly envelopes or just once a month.

If you wish to continue with envelopes, could you please let me know and what your preference is. We will then make a decision as to what type we get and when to re-start. For me, the ideal re-start date would be April as this coincides with the beginning of the tax year and, therefore, the claiming of gift aid for the previous tax year but we can re-start anytime, depending on when we can get new supplies. It may be that I amalgamate Wesley & Belfairs into one order, to keep down costs for both churches. This would mean that a) we may not have the church name on the envelope or b) both names will be on it and you will cross one name out.

My contact details are:

TinaGowers@sky.com

01702 528674 (sky talk shield)

07713 179111 (has an answer phone if I don't pick up.)

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Income	December 2019	£8,667.29
	December 2020	£7,633.19

Expenditure	December 2019	£6,170.96
	December 2020	£4,005.29

	2019	2020
1st Sept to 31st Dec		
Income	£35,240.99	£27,291.86
Expenditure	£27,039.30	£24,189.94 (excludes boilers)
Net	£8,201.69	£3,101.92

I just want to say a big **Thank You** to everyone who has gifted one-off payments to the church and for those who have set up regular standing orders with your bank, it really has helped Wesley.

If anyone wishes to set up a bank standing order, but does not know how, please contact me and I can complete the form for you. 01702 528674 or 07713 179111. For those who want to continue sending me cheques, that is also fine, but they will only get banked at the end of the month whilst we remain in lockdown.

For those making online payments, do not forget to quote "Offertory or Collection" or "Gift" for a one-off donation as a reference if you can.



Donations in November and **December**



Dear Friends,

Thank you for all your donations known and unknown.

Firstly, from the British Legion via Hilary Lemarie, fondly known to me as the poppy lady because of the wonderful Christmas Tree with reflective poppies. Hilary always asks if we would like poppies for Remembrance and we have never declined. As lockdown had eased a little, people could come to the church for Sunday morning worship and for private prayer. The collection box was by Keith Charnock's model for Remembrance beneath the memorial window. The sum raised was £32.72p

Secondly, thank you for your response to the donations for Action for Children as we could not safely go Carol Singing. The sum raised was £250. Thank you again.

Thirdly, thank you to those who sent Christmas cards to Wesley, (as the Christmas post box could not be used) to greet everyone. They were put on the balcony but alas COVID19 prevented many of you from seeing them. The amount raised for Nkanfoa School was £100.

At this difficult time may we thank everyone who has donated, your gifts will be used wisely by these organisations.

Stay safe. God Bless Jane and Geoffrey Fulford

The Gift of Giving

Give out of love, not obligation.

Give when it's least expected.

Give without strings attached.

Give from your heart.

Give of yourself.

Give to show that you care.

Give help without causing helplessness.

Give something that takes personal sacrifice.

Give to make a difference.

Give without keeping score.

Give for no reason at all.

Give a little if you can't give a lot.

Give without attracting attention to yourself.

Give without being asked.

Give of your experience.

Give to those who need it most.





Lent Course 2021

The Lent Course offered is based on the film The Greatest Showman and adapted from the book by Rachel Mann called From Now on.

An example of a suggested programme is below. It is a five-week course.

Week 1 Dreams and Visions

Opening Prayer

Discussion Have you ever had a dream that has influenced you?

Film clip

Scripture The Calling of Samuel 1 Samuel 3:1-9

Discussion Who are the people who have helped you on your journey of faith? What can we learn from Samuel's example?

Film Clip

Scripture Do not worry Matthew 6: 25-34

Discussion What is God's vision for this world and how can we get involved?

Film Clip

Scripture The calling of Levi Luke 5:27-32

Discussion What does this reading tell us about our call
as Christians?

Closing Prayer

The times to zoom on offer are:

Tuesdays beginning on 23rd February at 2pm to end by
3.30pm

Thursdays beginning on 25th February at 8pm to end by
9.30pm

You do not have to attend all the sessions. Each session
has a different theme but linked to the film. It would be
helpful to have watched the film but not essential. I do
have a spare DVD for anyone to have and I can deliver it
to you.

If you are interested, please email me -
fulford.family@btinternet.com

Looking forward to seeing you

God Bless

Jane Fulford

The Coffee Shop

During 'lockdown' the tea and coffee have been slowly going out of date, so I have donated them to One Love via John Stokes a member of Benfleet Methodist Church. He thanks us especially for the coffee and has given us information about One Love.

One Love Soup Kitchen

One Love's base is situated at Hollybrook, Great Eastern Avenue Southend on the perimeter of the Civic Centre east car park and, since moving to this site have become far more than a soup kitchen.

One Love's mission is to help the vulnerable and rough sleepers of Southend and twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays they are open to guests from 6pm-8pm. During this time the guests are served a multi choice 2 course hot meal, tea/coffee and soft drinks and offered shower facilities, clothing, and a carrier bag full of essentials of their choice from a relatively wide variety of available stock. There is also an on-site food bank which also operates on Mondays and Thursdays during the day. Food parcels are also delivered to any vulnerable families contacting One Love. There is a cabin on site where, by appointment, guests can be helped in confidence with any problems they might want to share or any life skill assistance they might need. They have recently acquired a van from which an outreach team operates around the town to offer support to any rough sleepers they find.

In the current situation the service offered is, of course, take-away only but as/when it will be possible there is

undercover tables/seating where guests are able to enjoy their meal.

God bless,
John

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

Editors information

Please could I have all items for the March's Clarion by Friday 15th February 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**



and part of the

Beds, Essex and Herts District the Methodist Church

**Church is a member of
Circuit**

www.southendandleigh.org

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.

