

THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: May 2021



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MINISTER'S LETTER



Last summer one of my daughters bought me a banana plant. I had never kept a banana plant before and I was impressed by the speed of growth; every few days a new leaf would appear!

But unfortunately, due to my lack of banana plant care, I left it outside for the winter and it has died.

Fortunately, this spring, one of my other daughters has bought me another banana plant, which, of course, I have been extremely careful with, keeping it indoors and *even* rotating windows sills so it gets the most sun!

But what has most caught my attention about this new banana plant, and I assume all banana plants, is the way they grow.

New leaves do appear very rapidly, but as they do, the oldest leaf dies off, but the plant still gets fatter and taller; it thrives.

This reminded me of our Christian journeys and what Christ tells us to do with the things which are wrong in our lives.

He says we are to die to these things then we will be able to thrive, to live life to the full. Romans 6:11 says; *'In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.'* [NIVUK]

Jesus isn't asking us to lose things which benefit us, but the things which hinder us in our relationship with Him. He doesn't want to take life away, but to give it to us. John 10:10b; *'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.'* [NIVUK]

So, just as the banana plant sheds the things which could hold back growth, may we shed the things which hold us back, and grasp that fulness of life which Jesus talks about in John 10:10.

I look forward to hoping seeing you all soon in person!

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve, May 2021

pastorstevemayo

01702 483827

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

March Figures

	2021	2020
Income	£5,334.07	£9,969.95
Expenditure	£4,940.48	£8,306.51
Net	£393.59	£1,663.44
Total Funds	£55,723.43	£97,476.09

Many Thanks

Tina

ACTION for CHILDREN SUNDAY: 11th. July 2021



I am preaching at Wesley that day and there will be a separate collection for AFC. Please give generously. We were in lockdown last year and no collection was made. Wesley usually fully supports Action for Children.

Eileen Simmons

Update from Revd. Julia

I am starting 6 months of weekly chemo, the week of the 19th of April. My caravan reopens on the week of the 12th of April, so I hope to be down there when I can. Leon is a star and good at maths (like his dad) and has been promoted at nursery to a new class, as he told me on Friday, "leaving the babies and joining the boys!" I tried to make it clear that there would be clever girls there too, but he didn't seem much impressed with that! The treatment regime sounds so awful, but we are still enjoying life!

With love, Julia

WESLEY FINANCES

During the Summer I became very anxious indeed about Wesley finances, as we were in lockdown and apart from the Playgroup our premises were not able to be hired. The same anxiety applied to Action for Children and Christian Aid as these were all included as legacies in my Will. Charities were furloughing staff and many of their fundraising activities could not take place.

I decided to change my Will and take out all legacies and give the money as soon as possible. At the end of October 2020, I sent Tina a gift aided donation. This was reported to Church Council on 12th. April.

Eileen Simmons 16.04 2021.

Another Local Preacher but not that local!

Wesley has a long tradition of encouraging and developing Ministers, Local Preachers and Worship Leaders. Now we can add another name to the list, that of Diana Bosman. Diana and her husband Ian were members from January 1977 leaving in September 2008 to move to the Midlands to be closer to their sons.

Diana and Ian were great hosts of a housegroup that met regularly on a Friday evening. During their time at Wesley, they served for just over three years as missionary partners in Ghana. When the opportunity came to become worship leaders Diana and Ian both responded and led services at Wesley. Diana also taught the older age group in Sunday School.

They often spent time explaining their work in Ghana and the school they support at N'kanfoa to various groups and for me it would be a natural step for Diana to become a Local Preacher in the 1990s. So why has it taken so long 2021?

Although having all the qualities to be a Local Preacher Diana shied away from it until recently, proving God works in a mysterious way!

We wish her well in her local preaching and assure her that she and Ian will always receive a warm welcome at Wesley.

The Sanctuary Café – Coffee for all

We are excited to announce the opening of our new Sanctuary Café on Saturday 22 May as part of Wesley's outreach project.

Why a café in the Sanctuary?

We are blessed with a wonderful, large and beautiful building in the heart of Leigh which is accessible to everyone – a rare quality in Leigh where most coffee shops are cramped and unable to accommodate wheelchairs and pushchairs. In fact, Wesley is a little behind the times as many Churches are already offering this.

Why move it from the concourse area?

To show a bigger presence in the community, provide a larger area for families with children and easier access for those in wheelchairs.

There is a need in our community to provide more than just a cup of coffee and at Wesley we have so much to offer. To serve tea and coffees to our community is a wonderful opportunity for us as a Church to meet, engage and listen to the needs of others not just our congregation.

The café will be a fantastic bridge into the community to not only raise the profile of Wesley but provide an evangelical opportunity.

To start with, the café will open on a Friday and Saturday and will be really simple to run - simple pod coffee machines, take away cups etc. anyone can be shown how to use the machines - it really will be quite simple. No one needs to be a professional barista!

Opening Times

Friday's 8.30am to 12pm (*why so early? So, we can be open for school and nursery parents*)

Saturday's 9am to 12.00pm

Volunteers!

We are looking for volunteers to run the mornings (on a rota basis) and again I will stress that it really will be a very simple system designed for anyone of any age to use.

Tables and chairs will already be set up in the Sanctuary and an area by the sound system set up for serving.

We will be serving – teas, coffees, homemade cakes, biscuits, and soft drinks – although if anyone wants to make bacon butties then that will be great too!

Minimum of 2 people on at a time. Nearer the time I will arrange for us to all meet to run through the process and show you how to put the pods in the machine!

Our goal is to eventually provide this facility every day!

If you want to be part of this exciting new project at Wesley, please let me know your availability to help or if you want to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Gaye.

Emma – 07766 588877

Gaye – 07733 173810

Please hold in your prayers the work we are all doing for Wesley and the valuable outreach projects we are planning.

Blessings, Emma Hearn

PASTORAL REPORT as at 16.04.21

- Good news from David Cox. He has a date for his operation on 23rd. April and all preceding assessments (by the time you see this the news will be out of date)
 - Shirley Mavin has been having stomach problems and continues with her treatment. As always, she remains “my Sister in Christ” and is optimistic.
 - Joy Milner continues to make a really good recovery after her fall.
 - Miriam Gifford went back into hospital recently for a different chemotherapy treatment and was exhausted and had to take anti sickness pills. We hope she is now much better.
 - I had a lovely, long chat with David Norman recently. His health is not good. He reminded me that he and Gerry Harnden met at North Street Infants’ School when they were 5 years old!
- Eileen Simmons

Containers of Hope

During lockdown Jean Turner has been busy knitting squares to make a blanket for Hope International (Containers of Hope).

Now completed with 48 colourful squares, photo of Jean with the blanket. Thank you, Vivien, for helping with the sewing up. It has been a team effort. Well done, Jean.

Keith and Marjorie



Well done everyone!!



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 June Clarion by Friday 21st May 2021

If you would like to contribute 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.

