

THE CLARION

June

Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: June 2021



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MINISTER'S LETTER



My wife has just bought a hanging tomato plant which already has tomatoes on it as it was cultivated in a green house. [actual plant pictured above!]

This got me thinking about the fruit we produce as Christians and what it takes for us to yield good fruit. Here I don't mean fruit like bananas or apples, but spirit fruit as described in Galatians 5; spiritual fruit such as *'Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.'* [Galatians 5:22-23 NLT]

But, just as with tomatoes, if we have poor soil we will yield a small crop, if any, of spiritual fruit. So as Christians, we need to provide good 'soil' for our spiritual fruit to develop

and ripen. Our hearts need to be suitable places where good spiritual fruit can be grown.

A bad heart equals poor or no spiritual fruit.

A good heart, equals good and bountiful spiritual fruit.

The Bible supports these truths. Luke 6:45 says; *‘A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.’* [NLT] We can only produce from what is in our hearts.

So how do we get a good heart? By going to the Gardener of our hearts, God. He can take out the things which so easily entangle and stop us producing spiritual fruit for Him. This truth is exemplified in this illustration:

‘A minister would finish his morning message to his congregation. After preaching with passion and zeal, people would often comment positively on his service. One man would come and speak to him every week, but not to pass comment on his preaching, but to talk about his garden. This went on for some months until the minister went to see the man’s garden. It was completely dead. Nothing was growing there. You could see evidence of where the man had been trying, but to no avail. The minister didn’t know what to say, but before he knew what he was doing, he too was now

digging the garden. The minister was somewhat confused with the evangelical benefits of digging over a garden, but the man seemed so keen he didn't have the heart to stop. Then all of a sudden, the minister hit something hard under the ground. On further investigation, it proved to be a WWII bomb. After the police and the bomb disposal team were called, it turned out that the bomb had never exploded on impact, but had still spilt open and left shrapnel all over the garden. It had been a German bomb that was made with a high content of lead, and this lead had actually poisoned the soil in this man's garden, leaving it dead for the past 60yrs or so. Once the shrapnel had all been recovered, and the soil changed, the garden was back on its way to recovery.'

Maybe your heart needs digging over? Maybe there's things in your life you need God to remove? If so, go to the greatest Gardener ever, God, and He will cultivate in you a good heart enabling spiritual fruit to be produced.

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

01702 483827

NEWS FROM THE PEWS



For those who are interested, the Open Top Bus Service 68 has now returned for the summer. The service operates on weekends and bank holidays until 19 September. A daily service will operate

during school holidays from 29th May to 6th June and from 17th July to 3rd September.

Buses run half-hourly, leaving Leigh (Old Post Office) from 09.30 until 18.00 and returning from Southend Pier from 10.00 until 18.00. Full details and times are displayed at bus stops on the route.

Ken Cheeseman

Just before Easter, Caroline, the daughter of Ken and Beryl Cheeseman rang to tell me that Ken had died. Ken and Beryl had a long association with Wesley, Ken was in the Scouts under Tom Parrinder with David. There were married at Wesley and Ken and David were each Best Man at our Weddings'. Ken became a local Architect in practice at Rochford and he designed Wesley's Youth Hall and many

Methodist Churches. He was a local preacher and well known in the circuit. Beryl still lives in Sussex but is in poor health. Caroline lives nearby and I keep touch with them.

We send our condolences to both.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

WESLEY GIFT DAY will be Friday 2nd. July and Pastor Steve will be in the vestry (covid permitting) to receive gifts personally between 10:30am – 12:30pm.

It is Church Anniversary Weekend and Pastor Steve will preach on Sunday 4th. July.

The ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING will take place at 12 noon on Sunday 4th. July. Please come. All are welcome. We need to discuss post-pandemic Wesley and new ventures.

Worship Consultation and Mission and Outreach meeting

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the
gospel of
God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in
worship and mission

DATE: [Monday 7](#), June 2021

TIME: [19:30-21](#):00 via Zoom (Zoom room open from
19:15).

For Zoom safety and integrity, the link has not been
printed in this issue of the Clarion and will not be posted
on the Wesley Methodist Church website. The link will be
sent via email to the various church member e-mailing
lists.

19:30 Welcome

19:31 Devotions (1 min)

19:32 WORSHIP CONSULTATION (60 mins)

For discussion

- Sunday worship
- Memory worship
- Informal worship
- Inspire
- Anything else?
- * Time for Healing
- * Time for Prayer
- * Private Prayer
- * Fusion

Worship Consultation from February, next steps

In light of the survey results and discussion at the last meeting, we should discuss and create an action plan for the following areas:

- Worship promotional postcard entitled 'Worship at Wesley' – in progress
- Families
- Music
- Palm Sunday village walk in 2022 with Belfairs, Highlands and Wesley?

Any other business regarding Worship

20:32 MISSION AND OUTREACH (30 mins)

Mission Planning Workbook

- Wesley Questionnaire
- The Sanctuary Cafe

c21:00 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Share the Grace

c21:00 MEETING ENDS

All are warmly welcome to attend and contribute to this meeting and its agenda

Topic: Worship & Mission Consultation

Time: Jun 7, 2021 07:30 PM London

GETTING BACK TO NORMAL

As some of you will know, we are optimistically looking forward to bringing the Wesley buildings back to life again. We have contacted all the Church Groups that meet on the premises to see when they hope to start again. No doubt you will find out when your group will meet again.

By the time you read this, we will have been in touch with all those groups who were hiring rooms last March before the lock downs to find out when they wish to start operating.

We were never up to maximum capacity and it is likely that one or two may fall by the wayside so we will be trying to attract other organisations to start using our premises. If you are aware of any such group who is looking for a place to meet, then please refer them to Alan and he will supply them with details of what we can offer.

The Financial Advisory Group.

Contact for Lettings: Alan Severne –
lettings@wesleymethodist.org.uk

Tel: 01702 711851

News from The Treasurer

The end of March figures, in last month's Clarion, signified a whole year of being under the cloud of Covid-19. As such, it was a good place to stop comparing the figures of 2021 with 2020.

We have been unsuccessful in obtaining any kind of covid grant, from Southend Borough Council because, although our lettings income has been drastically reduced, they took into account all our other income i.e., your regular giving and donations. This seems a bit unfair, especially as everyone has pulled together to ensure our assessment, utility bills, insurance etc has been paid and we also received a legacy. Unfortunately, because our accounts run from 1st September to 31st August, they could only base their information on our accounts for 2019/2020 (comparing to 2018/19) which was only 6 months of lockdown. They appreciated that we were still under financial pressure but, as we do not have signed accounts for 2020/21 yet, this could not be considered. I am hoping that the council will still have some money in September, and that I can re-apply!

In completing the grant application, I roughly worked out that Wesley has lost over £40,000 in rental income but we had to have had a total loss of 20-25% and ours worked out around 15%.

At the end of April, our total available funds stood at £45,497.66.

Income for April 21	£4,045.09
Expenditure	£3,587.38
Net	£457.71

Many Thanks Tina

The return of Memory Worship to Wesley & Thorpe Bay Methodist Churches

Back in 2016 Rev Julia Monaghan and I set up a monthly church service for people living with dementia; we called it Memory Worship. Pre COVID 19 the afternoon would take a regular pattern of welcome; singing well known hymns, reading familiar passages of scripture, and saying the Lord's Prayer together. The formal part of the service would last 30 minutes before leading into a craft activity and hospitality, providing an opportunity for conversation to reinforce the theme of the service. Our dedicated team of volunteers were always on hand with tea, lovely homemade cake and Methodist fellowship. This grew very quickly and was then replicated by our friends at Thorpe Bay Methodist Church. So, every month there were two church services on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month.

This all stopped in March 2020 when COVID 19 gripped the world. This devastating blow compelled me to put together a 'Memory Worship at Home' service to be viewed on YouTube, initially, for the people that had been attending monthly service at Wesley and Thorpe Bay. A year on and Memory Worship at home YouTube service is watched at home and in care homes every month locally and all over the country. These monthly services have been viewed nearly 3,000 times.



This is Margaret watching Memory Worship at home in Yorkshire supported by her amazing carer daughter Heather.



The exit out of this current Corona Virus lockdown for the people that used to attend Memory Worship at both Wesley and Thorpe Bay needs to be very slow and steady but is very much needed. We have all struggled mentally and physically with isolation. This is also timely because both Thorpe Bay Methodist Church and Wesley Methodist Church are eagerly planning their first live Memory Worship services and would love to invite you to come along. If you have never attended before and would like to lend your support, we would love to see you.

1st Monday of the Month starting Mon May 4th Thorpe Bay Methodist Church 2pm

3rd Monday of the Month starting Mon 21st June Wesley Methodist Church 2pm

Every Blessing

Julie Peek – Mission Enabler for Older People, Highlands Methodist Church



Wesley **Methodist** Church 

Afternoon Tea and Cakes 2021.

Afternoon Tea and Cakes will begin again this Summer in the Canteen Room at Wesley. The booked dates are all on Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm on: -

July 29th

August 26th

September 30th



We hope you will encourage your family, friends, and neighbours to come along.

Nearer the time we will check any changes in the Government guidelines but really hope we shall be able to meet again soon.

With love from Janet Whiddett, Linda and Pam.

Sanctuary Café

As you will know, on Saturday 22nd May, we are opening our Sanctuary Café - 9am to 12pm - for the first time! This is such an exciting project for our church and a chance to build further relationships with our local community.

The café cannot run by itself and we really need more volunteers to come forward to help run it. It really will be simple and full training will be given to everyone. Anyone is welcome to help!

Without the support of our church family this project will fail at the first hurdle. If you can spare a Friday or Saturday morning to help serve teas and coffees then please, please contact myself or Gaye.

I am going to put together a rota - and a very big thank you to all who have volunteered already - starting with myself and my husband John running the first morning.

Also, we need you lovely cake makers (or bought cakes!) to supply the café with offerings to sell.

Many thanks and hope to hear from you.

Every blessing
Emma

Pastoral News as at 18th May 2021

We are very sad indeed that Marian Rumble died on Monday 3rd. May 2021. We send our condolences to Mike and family, Marian's son, and to Sue and family, Marian's daughter, who live in Germany and South Africa respectively. Jane Fulford was Marian's Pastoral visitor and she really appreciated Jane's care and concern. Mike Rumble joined us for worship on 16th. May. Marian's funeral has been arranged for 28th. May with a service at Wesley at 12.30pm.

Pastor Steve's mother died recently, and we send him, Dani and family our condolences.

Michael Wood-Wilson has moved away from Leigh and we wish him well. Michael enjoyed attending Wesley and was beginning to get to know us, when COVID stopped our refreshment time after services. He is an exceptionally talented photographer and has very generously given us some of his professionally produced postcards of Leigh and some Christmas cards for us to sell for Wesley funds. We shall miss Michael. He told me that he was always made very welcome and would probably join the Eastbourne Methodist church when he settles there.

Eileen Simmons

Tel: 472521 email: eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

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

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



Service Information for June 2021

Sunday 6th June at 11:00 – Preacher: Pastor Steve Mayo,
Communion Service.

Sunday 13th June at 11:00- Preacher: Mrs S Hockett

Sunday 20th June at 11:00 – Preacher: T Mthimkulu

Sunday 27th June at 11:00 – Preacher: Mrs J Fulford

Sunday 27th June at 5:30 – “Inspire”

There will be no 9am Communion Services until September
2021

Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the July Clarion by Friday 18th June 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.

