

THE CLARION



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Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: September 2021



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MINISTER'S LETTER



When we are young, we have a sense of awe and wonder at most of the things we see, whether that be an ant running across the pavement or a '99' ice cream with two flakes in it! But as we get older, we sometimes seem to lose that sense of awe and wonder.

We can too easily get caught up in our thoughts, remembering the past or worrying about the future, to notice the many amazing things going on around us. We're too focused on counting all the things we don't have, to notice the beauty, love and abundance that is already ours.

So, what is your first thought upon waking in the morning? If you're like a lot of people, it will be one of resistance. You don't want to get up. You don't feel like facing your to-do list!

Your first thoughts in the morning can have a *huge* impact on the attitude, feelings and energy you carry around with you for the remainder of the day. The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius once famously wrote: *“When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive — to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.”*

Imagine how different we would feel if we were to wake up with a similar attitude; if we greeted the day with thoughts like: “Wow, what a privilege it is to be alive. I’m so lucky to be here now, experiencing the wonders of life. I am blessed with fresh air, the beauty of nature, my loved ones, the ability to laugh, create and dance. I’m blessed with food and shelter, an imagination and the ability to do kind acts for others. I’m so grateful for today, and I’m going to relish the next 24 hours.”

Are you feeling inspired? It’s not easy to train your mind out of old habits, so to give you a helping hand, here are 10 positive morning thoughts that can help get you in the right frame of mind each day.

1. Thank you God for this gift of a whole new day.
2. How can I best serve God today?

3. I dedicate today to love and kindness.
4. I am going to give this day my very best, so that I may rest my head with deep satisfaction tonight.
5. I have everything that I need right in this moment.
6. I see the world with grateful eyes, and it fills my soul.
7. I will listen to God's voice today and allow Him to guide me.
8. Let me make the world a better place by shining my light today.
9. My life is a miracle.
10. I carry peace and stillness in my heart as I go about my daily activities.

And God's continual goodness to us is recorded in His Word:

Acts 14:17b says; '...he has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.' [NIV]

And Lamentations 3:22-23; ²²Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'
[NIV]

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve

Every blessing,

Pastor Steve

September 2021

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS

It's a
Girl!

Congratulations! to Phoebe and Spencer on the birth of a daughter, Clemency Joni, on 21st August. A second grandchild for Linda and Mike Parry and a second great grandchild for Joan and Geoff Hawkins.

NOTE FROM TREASURER

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the annual Gift Day / Month. As of 31st July, the total raised was £5,110.00 which included a very generous £4K donation from one person, Thank you!

Also, our Gift Aid claim has been received, which amounted to £6,891.91.

These much-needed funds will go towards our circuit assessment and some property repairs and maintenance and general church expenses.

Many Thanks

Tina

Afternoon Tea and Cakes 2021.

Afternoon Tea and Cakes will be held this Summer in the Canteen Room at Wesley. The next date is on Thursday between 2pm and 4pm on: -



September 30th

'Creative worship' also known as **'Informal Worship'**

On the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8pm we hold worship for about 30-50 minutes. This worship can take many forms. Here are just a few: -

Taize

Divine Reading (Lectio Divina)- simply reading scripture

Labyrinths based on Being 'God's Jewel' or The Book of Revelations

Using all our senses to explore the elements of an unusual French Cross at Easter

Adaptions of services from the Iona Community

A more traditional service with themes of:

Friendship

Journeying

The water of Life

Pebbles and Prayer

All the services are carefully and prayerfully designed and offered with the one aim of enabling those present to deepen their faith and feel the presence of God. There is probably more silence and time for thinking than a Sunday morning service and of course no sermon but each service is very different.

So, is it creative or informal? Do you want to come along? Please do join us or talk to Isobel, Sue, Jane or Gaye to find out more.

The dates are 26th October 23rd November in 2021 and 25th January 2022.

TALKING POETRY



September to December 2021 pm Wednesday at 2:30pm

Choose any poem by the given poet or subject

15 Sept – Two Limericks and plenty of catch-up chat

29th Sept – Mary Oliver

13th Oct – Jackie Kaye

27th Oct – William Blake

10th Nov – Dylan Thomas

24th Nov – Louis MacNeice

8th Dec – Any living poet

15th Dec – Any Christmas poem



Macmillan Coffee
Morning in the
Sanctuary Café

Saturday 25th. September 10am – 1pm



Please come, please invite, and bring your family, neighbours, and friends. Some Wesley individuals have already kindly offered to “bake a cake”; thank you. All offers to help in any way are welcomed. If you are not able to come and would like to make a donation please contact me.

Eileen Simmons

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

PASTORAL NEWS as at 20th. August.

Good news. On Wednesday 18th. August, I phoned David Cox on the day he was due to have his operation and had to leave a message. Yesterday I got a voice text message to say that he had had the operation and would let me know when he was coming home. We wish him a full recovery.

Janice Bertie is caring for her mother at home. We wish them well and remember, Janice, Rupert and all the Bertie family in our prayers.

Please continue to hold Jean Turner in your thoughts and prayers.

Eileen Simmons

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CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL JUMBLE SALE 2022

As you may remember it was with great regret that this event was cancelled because of the pandemic in 2021.



BUT THAT WAS NOT ALL

Pam and her family along with a few others walked 500 miles, socially distanced of course, to raise money for this very worthy organisation.



AND AN AMAZING £1,350 was raised.

This year Pam and her family are organising another sponsored walk for February 2022 and a Coffee morning on SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2022 at Wesley to show the work of CHRISTIAN HOPE INTERNATIONAL.

So DO NOT COLLECT ANY JUMBLE instead get your WALKING SHOES ON OR SPONSOR those walking and let's BEAT that amazing amount in 2021.

See you walking and see you on the 19th February 2022.

Pam and family

The Sanctuary Café

I am pleased to report that the café on a Friday and Saturday morning is proving to be very popular and we are seeing many new faces and getting to know the people in our local community and beyond! We are regularly asked what's going on at Wesley and now as we are easing out of lockdown it is wonderful to tell people of the worship services, clubs and other activities on offer.

New opening times – 10am to 1pm

We have learnt that most people coming into the café do so around 10am/11am and want to stay longer so we have changed our times on both a Friday and Saturday to 10am to 1pm.

Cakes

We are still desperate for cake makers! If you can make cake/s please let me know or leave in the church kitchen during the week. Also, we are still desperate for helpers on a Saturday – rota basis (once a month or once every 2 months whatever time you can spare). Please get in touch if you can.

Many thanks

Emma (077 665 888 77)



Pastoral Letter from the District Chair

Dear Friends,

The start of the Methodist Church year on 1 September provides a natural opportunity for circuits and churches to plan for the year ahead, as we look to the future with a mixture of hope and concern at what the autumn and winter may bring. Although the national vaccination programme has been a great success, it is unclear whether and to what extent future restrictions may still be necessary.

However, one of the most encouraging developments during the past eighteen months has been the way in which circuits and churches in the Bedfordshire, Essex and

Hertfordshire District have responded to the situation posed by lockdown and the need for social distancing. Detailed risk assessments have been carried out efficiently and effectively. Sunday services have continued by electronic means whenever restrictions have prevented congregations from meeting in person. At other times, church premises have been suitably adapted to allow safe access. I am immensely grateful to all those who have worked so hard to ensure that worship, fellowship, and mission can continue.

Already there has been much theological, political, and social commentary on the present and future implications of the pandemic for corporate and individual human life on a fragile planet. Clearly, far-reaching changes are presently underway and will likely continue apace. Yet the people of God are well placed to adapt and respond to changing circumstances. Our identity in Jesus Christ gives us an overarching story and a fixed reference point in which to assess and prioritise change. Holding fast to him means we need not be anxious when familiar and apparently stable

patterns of living, working, and worshipping must be reassessed in the light of changing circumstances. After all, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13.8).

Grace and Peace

David Chapman

TIME FOR HEALING/ TIME FOR PRAYER

The Time for Healing Prayer Group is now being offered as a Time for Prayer to be held on the third Saturday of each month. The format is evolving with each meeting and includes both communal and private prayer in line with prevailing Covid guidance. The next meeting will be at 11.30 on 18th September in the Sanctuary.

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 September 2021

Sunday 5th September at 11:00am – Preacher Rev Newman-
Communion service

Sunday 12th September at 11:00am - Preacher Mrs J Fulford.

Sunday 19th September at 11:00am – Preacher Mrs S Hockett

Creative Worship “Inspire” at 5:30pm – led by Mrs J Taylor.

Sunday 26th September at 11:00am – Preacher Mr B Briant.

Editors' information

Please could I have all items for the October Clarion by **Friday 17th September 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.

