

THE CLARION



Wesley Methodist Church

Magazine Issue: December 2020



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MINISTER'S LETTER



Once again at this time of year we turn our thoughts to the birth of Jesus; but all too often the wonder of this awesome event is

obscured by the trappings of Christmas – holidays, presents, food, television, etc. and this year by the fear and anxiety of a global pandemic. But it is worth having a much closer look at the wonder of God coming to earth as a baby. Think of any photos you may have around your house of babies; maybe your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, or even babies your friends and families may have had?

When we consider the ‘life’ of a baby, what are the characteristics of babyhood? Total dependence for warmth, food and love; languageless; everything is ‘new’; inability to move where you want to; nappies, teething etc. And when we think about such things, we start to marvel that the eternal Son of God would submit Himself to the state of babyhood.

Christian author Philip Yancey once said; *“The God who roared, who could order armies and empires about like pawns on a chessboard, this God emerged in Palestine as a baby who could not speak or eat solid food or control his bladder, and depended on a teenage couple for shelter food and love.”*

- *You, Jesus, were willing to lay aside everything – your glory, your position, your power – for our sake.*
- *You were obedient to your Father in coming to earth.*
- *And in coming to earth as a helpless baby, not only were you trusting yourself to a young, inexperienced couple, but you were making yourself vulnerable to the attack of the devil through Herod. And yet you trusted your Father to keep you safe.*

The Bible says; ‘For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.’ [Isaiah 9:6 KJV]

Given this wonderful description, readers of the Old Testament could be forgiven for expecting a glorious, triumphant entry into the world for the Messiah. But Jesus chose the way of obscurity, of humility and servanthood; yet those who seek Him will find Him to be the glorious Messiah described in Isaiah chapter 9.

What a wonderful example to us today is the incarnation of God, setting forth the pattern that Jesus would grow up to present to us, a pattern for living, a pattern of gentleness, humility and love.

And what a challenge for us as Christians!

As this season unfolds for another year, may we not only give physical gifts to others, but also gifts of our own gentleness, humility, and love, as we follow the example of the baby in the manger.

May you be richly blessed as you celebrate the birth of Christ.

Pastor Steve Mayo

December 2020

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Telephone: 01702 483827

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Congratulations and Love to Lou Daniels who will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on Sunday 6th December 2020.



Can the members and friends of Wesley please save any postage stamps they receive at Christmas and pass them to Vivien Threadgold or someone who will be seeing her, also can you please leave a reasonable margin around each stamp because if you damage the little perforations they are of no value. Many thanks Vivien

A JOINT APOLOGY

I am very fortunate in having a husband, who kindly word processes work for me for the Clarion and other publications. I had written a brief article about the COVID-19 WORKING PARTY for the November Clarion, which now appears in this month's edition. Unfortunately, Geoff pressed the wrong button and a previous article about David Johnson was published.

We send our apologies and hope it did not cause any offence. Eileen Simmons and Geoff Nash (18.11.20)

COVID-19 WORKING PARTY

It was a Leadership Team responsibility to prepare Wesley for reopening for services and so there was an on-site meeting to organise, plan the logistics, etc. The Methodist Church guidelines follow government direction, and this has been and continues to be very hard work. On your behalf I would like to offer our thanks to those, who gladly prepare and follow on with sanitising and so on. Some members of Church Council have joined the team and act as stewards each Sunday.

Eileen Simmons 6.10.20

Ladies Open House

Dear friends I look forward to this every Christmas but because of COVID19 I think it best to cancel it this year. I will miss your company and chatter, but rest assured you will be in my thoughts and prayers as always.

God Bless

Jane

Circuit news

The Circuit now have a Circuit Facebook page and Anna is going to link our Wesley Facebook page to it.



I would like to say big 'thank you' to all my friends at Wesley for the cradle of love and care that has helped to support me during my ups and downs in the last few months-. In May I had a lump removed from my leg and then my knee op was cancelled at the last minute due to a heart scare. Heart scan and lump removal are now fine, and I had my knee replacement early November. I am now whizzing about with the sticks and hopefully will be back to a stronger version of my old self before Christmas. It will be so very good to all meet again but for now it's lovely feeling that we do still care for each other. With love and thanks Joan.

Co-op Local Community Fund for Fusion Youth & Kids and Fusion+

I am delighted to announce that **Fusion Youth & Kids and Fusion+** has been selected to take part in the Co-op Local Community Fund.

How the Fund Works

We are one of three causes in our community which Co-op Members can select to support between now and 23 October 2021. The more members who select us and shop with the Co-op, the more funds we will receive.

People can become Co-op Members and can then select us as their cause. You can join online at coop.co.uk/membership or by downloading the [Co-op app](#).

The link to our cause profile page is <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/53131>. Please check it out and read about the great work we are doing here at Wesley for the youth of the Church.

Money raised will go to much needed new equipment which is used on a Thursday night for both youth groups.

Our cause is linked to the following community stores:

Leigh Road, The Broadway and Funeral Care in Leigh.

Any further information about this funding or if you would like to get involved in the youth work at Wesley please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks

Emma Hearn

Fusion Youth & Kids and Fusion+ Youth Leader

07766588877 .



Carol Singing

This activity usually takes place on the Friday before Christmas but because of Covid19 we may not be singing, and we will still be cautious about mixing, let alone knocking on doors and collecting for Action for Children.

If you wish to donate to Action for Children do please contribute. If you wish to give me a donation, I will make sure it is donated. I have already received a very kind donation and have sent it to the charity. Thank you for all your support and hopefully Leigh-on-Sea will hear Wesley Carol Singers in 2021. Maybe zoom quiz and you supply your own soup!

God Bless

Jane and Geoff

Christmas Cards

We cannot organise the box this year but if you wish to send a card to WESLEY, we will endeavour to gather them and put them over the balcony as a decoration. Please just leave the cards when the church is open on Wednesdays between 11am - 1pm or post to the Church. The post monies normally go to Nkanfoa School in Ghana. If you wish to donate, please do so (contact Diana Bosman bosmandiana@gmail.com) or give to Jane or Geoff and we will ensure any money received reaches the school.



God Bless
Jane and Geoff

NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

October Giving	2019	£1,538.86	2020	£2,002.79
October Income	2019	£6,381.21	2020	£5,823.76
October Expend:	2019	£2,867.41	2020	£3,742.76

2020 Year to date

Income	£7,668.58
Expend:	£6,796.32
Net	£872.26

PASTORAL NEWS as at 18.11.20

By the time you read this there will be different news and the following is only accurate as at today. What will not have changed I am certain is that the Pastoral visitors will have continued to keep in touch with our Wesley family, encouraging, showing interest, keeping individuals up to date with our church news and caring deeply. We have members of the team, who themselves are not in the best of health and yet continue in their role. We thank them all.

This news is incomplete as some modest souls prefer not to see their names in print. Anyway, a mix of good news and disappointments.

Joan Hawkins has a new knee and is working hard with her exercises to good effect. Joy Milner continues to make very good progress; Miriam Gifford is back home after a short spell in Southend hospital and has been told she has a good prognosis. David Cox is still waiting for a date for his operation. Please include Jean Turner and all those above in your prayers.

There is a lot of Pastoral care that goes on outside the Pastoral visitors lists and all support to each other is valued. As someone recently commented:

“I am so much missing the welcome and warmth of the Sunday services since COVID changed everything”.

Eileen Simmons – Pastoral Co-ordinator

01702 472521

eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

Toy & Gift Service – NEW DATE!



As we are not able to hold worship in the church at the end of November, the new date for the Toy & Gift Service will be morning worship on **Sunday 6th December at 11am**. We will be collecting donations of toys and gifts which will be distributed to children at Southend Storehouse.

If you are not able to attend in person, but would like to donate Toys/Gifts, Southend Toy Drive is collecting donations for vulnerable children in Southend with a couple of donation options. You can purchase a gift from any of the following local shops, purchase the gift at the shop, leave it with them in store and the Toy Drive will arrange the rest.

Argosy Toys – 553 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 9LJ

Toys n Tuck – 1 Queens Road, Southend-on-Sea, and Essex, SS1 1LT

If you prefer online shopping or are unable to get to the shops, check out Argosy Toys website. At the point of check out you can choose the option of Toy Drive as your delivery option. This will allow your purchase to be sent direct to them without leaving your home or workplace.

The gifts will be left for 72 hours before being sanitised and expertly wrapped by the council's elves.

Christmas at Wesley

Services @ Wesley. [approx 30 mins each. Covid secure]

Booking Required

"Unsung" Carol Services

Sun 20th December
11am & 6pm

Christmas Eve Communion

Thurs 24th December
11.30pm

Christingle

Thurs 24th December
4pm

Christmas Morning Worship

Fri 25th December
10.30am

Book online at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/leighwesleymethodistchurch

Or call: 01702 557764

Christingle @ Home

"Click & Collect" Christingle packs to make at home. Order by 14th Dec - just email leighwesleymethodist@gmail.com
Collect from Wesley on 24th Dec between 10am-12pm

Online Services

Services available on YouTube - search 'Pastor Steve Mayo':

Carol Service - 20th Dec from 5pm

Christingle - 24th Dec from 4pm

Christmas Eve - 24th Dec from 11.30pm

Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road
www.wesleymethodist.org.uk



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 Wratishaw 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 January's Clarion by Friday 11th December 2020

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.

