

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 209

December 2022/January 2023

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Christmas
BEGINS WITH
Christ



2023



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If you do **NOT** want your name to be published, please advise the Editor when submitting the article.

Please read our Privacy Policy for further information. This can be found on the church website or on our church noticeboards.

Thought for the month

Let us travel to Christmas by the light of a star
Let us go to the hillside right where the shepherds are
Let us see shining angels singing from heaven above
Let us see Mary cradling God's holy child with love.

Thank you Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead
Help me remember that behind me are all my memories
Before me are all my dreams, Around me are all who love me
And within me, with you beside me, is all I need.

Our mission is to provide an open, welcoming and accepting, living place of Christian worship and service in our community, in which we seek to serve and follow Jesus Christ.

www.belfairsmethodistchurch.org.uk

Dear Friends,

It often appears that industry and commerce “borrow” ideas that were introduced by the Church. One such idea is the “Festival of Light” or “Light up a Life” fundraising events held by Hospices at Christmas. Churches in Scandinavia, in particular Sweden, have had such events for a long time; these are held on Saint Lucy’s Day on December 13th. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. It is said that to vividly celebrate St. Lucy’s Day will help one live the long winter days with enough light. There are several stories attached to St Lucy (Lucia), in one tradition she helped the Christians trapped in the Catacombs of Rome where they were being persecuted by the Emperor Diocletian. She attached candles to a wreath on her head and with both hands free she could bring food.

I have spent most of my life living close to the sea and one of my pleasures has been to walk along the promenade or shoreline. I have been out in all weathers and enjoyed the fresh air. As I walk, I look out to sea and watch the ships moving slowly across the waters; at night, you see their lights slowly sink beneath the horizon. Light even a small amount travels a long way and lifts the heart. Light is a symbol of life that overcomes darkness. Jesus in St John Chapter 1 – “In him was life and the life is the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Jesus is called the light of the world and is the one who brings life to everyone. In the dark days of winter and as we celebrate Jesus on Christmas day let us bring life and light to others that they may know the Love Peace and Joy of abiding in the fullness of God’s Grace.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Rev Clifford Newman

Sunday Services December 2022

4th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Clifford Newman - Holy Communion

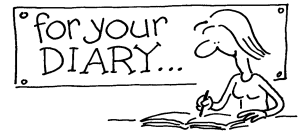
11th 11.00 a.m. Mr. Bob Briant

18th 11.00 a.m. Nativity service

4.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight service

25th **10.30 a.m.** Rev. Clifford Newman

Other December dates for your diary



3rd Coffee Morning - Christmas - please see article for further information

8th Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome

Point of Contact

Below is shown details of the Sunday Stewards, Communion Stewards and musicians relevant for this month.

Sunday 4th December

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Communion Stewards - Jim Halstead & Neeltje Charles

Musician - MIDI Box

Sunday 11th December

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Sylvia Smith in memory of Diane and Mick- arranged by Smitha

Sunday 18th December

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

p.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Anthea Meek /Mike Spaul

p.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Margaret Bailey in memory of her husband Peter - arranged by Margaret

Sunday 25th December - Christmas Day

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Christmas Services

**Sunday 18th December at 11.00 a.m.
Nativity Service**



**Sunday 18th December at 4.00 p.m.
Carols by Candlelight service
Rev. Clifford Newman
(followed by refreshments)**



**Christmas Eve at 4.00 p.m.
Christingle Service
(followed by refreshments)**



**Christmas Eve at 11.15 p.m.
Holy Communion at
Wesley Methodist
Pastor Steve Mayo**

**Christmas Day at 10.30 a.m.
Family Service
Rev. Clifford Newman**



Sunday Services for January 2023

1st 11.00 a.m. **UNITED SERVICE AT WESLEY** - Pastor Steve Mayo

8th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Clifford Newman - Holy Communion

15th 11.00a.m. Mrs. Jane Fulford - Parade service

22nd 11.00 a.m. Rev. Clifford Newman

29th 11.00 a.m. **UNITED SERVICE AT HIGHLANDS** - Pastor Steve Mayo

Advance Notice - Circuit Service at Belfairs on Sunday 5th February at 6.30 p.m.

This will include a talk by Anna Turner (daughter of Colin Turner, Local preacher) about her work in Lebanon.

Other January dates for your diary



7th Coffee Morning - Pam and John Plummer for MND

12th Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m.

26th A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m.

Point of Contact

Below is shown details of the Sunday Stewards, Communion Stewards and Flower Rota relevant for this month.

Sunday 1st January

United Service at Wesley

Sunday 8th January

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Communion Stewards - Neeltje Charles & Geoff Box

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - details unavailable at time of going to print

Sunday 15th January

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Anthea Meek/Mike Spaul

Sunday 22nd January

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

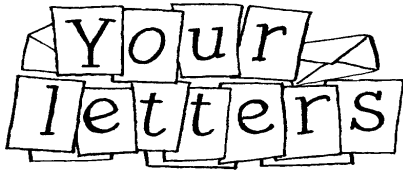
Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - details unavailable at time of going to print

Sunday 29th January

United Service at Highlands

Letters Page/Church family news



Thank you to everyone who attended Peters Thanksgiving Service and sent cards and messages to us all. Thank you also to those who prepared the wonderful spread for the refreshments after the service.

The support we have received over the last months has been so much appreciated and has helped us greatly. Belfairs is a really caring church and looks after the whole church family whatever and whenever help and support is needed and for that we as a family are so thankful.

You might like to know that the total raised from the gifts given for the charities is £600.00 thank you for your generosity.

Margaret, Sue, Mike, Annetta, Steve



The choir is back



After a few years break due primarily to Covid, we are hoping to reinstate the choir to share in worship occasionally. We are looking to help take part in the 'Carols by Candlelight' service due to be on Sunday 18th December at 4 p.m.

So rehearsals will be on **Friday evenings** for about 30 minutes starting at **7 p.m.** on the following dates: **25th November, 2nd, 9th and 16th December**. This is an open invitation to anyone interested in singing with a group, no specific skills are necessary as we never try anything too clever.

We look forward to sharing once again in the worship here at Belfairs.

The Choir team.



Please remember you are free to put your prayer concerns on the board at the back of the church. If it is not for you, please make sure you have the named persons consent .

Please add your name and date to the request on the reverse of the white cards provided which are by the board. These will be removed after two months, but can be updated if necessary (please make sure you re-date the update).

If you have any questions or queries, please speak to Sue.



A.C.T.I.O.N.
Afternoon Club on Thursday In Our Neighbourhood

At our last meeting John Plummer gave a talk entitled Tony versus Motor Neurone Disease. The members were given an insight of the devastating power of this debilitating disease. How Tony was able to retain an optimistic outlook and tackle it with his sense of humour was amazing. At the end of John's talk a collection for MND raised £96.00. John and Pam wish to thank our members for their generosity.

A.C.T.I.O.N. will not be meeting in December but like to welcome Ladies and Gentlemen to our meeting Thursday 26th January at 2pm. Philip Gadman will be giving a talk about his recent holiday to the continent. I'm sure that he will be able to share many photos too, which promises to be a very interesting afternoon. Do come along, bring a friend to an afternoon of friendship and fellowship



Christmas Coffee Morning and Mini-Market
Saturday 3rd December 2022 10.00 am – 12 noon

Please come along for a tea / coffee, a chat and a chance to get some items for Christmas.

These stalls will be in the Fellowship Hall:

Cake Stall

Craft Stall

Tombola

Cards/Wrap/Tags etc.

Nearly New/Unwanted Gifts

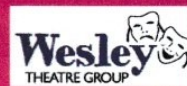
Bacon/Sausage in a roll

This is your chance to buy those items you have forgotten or didn't know you needed.

We look forward to seeing you.



WESLEY THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS



MISSING MISS CHRISTMAS

BY GEOFF FULFORD



FRI 2ND DEC

7.30PM

SAT 3RD DEC

4.30PM

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD | LEIGH-ON-SEA



Recommended age: 6+

BOX OFFICE

01702 480968

BUY ONLINE:

**WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK
/WESLEY-THEATRE-GROUP**

TICKETS: £6.50

CHILDREN: £5

**FAMILY TICKET
(2A & 2C): £20**

Christmas Cards

Once again the Christmas Post Box will be available in the foyer from 4th December for you to send cards to members and friends who attend Belfairs.

The cards will be sorted and available for collection after the morning service on Sunday 18th December. Please make sure that you only send cards to people who attend Belfairs, as we regret we cannot deliver cards for you. The cards, when sorted, can be collected from the tables in the foyer and we would ask you to check to ensure that your cards are collected. Perhaps you could make a donation in the offertory bag of a percentage of the savings made by sending your cards this way.

There will also be a board in the foyer where you can place one greeting card for ALL your friends at church. You will find envelopes provided for your donation to MHA (Methodist Homes Association) which will enable you to not only remember your friends but to support a charity who 'enable people to live later life well'. **Please put your envelopes in the Sunday Collection**

- **DO NOT** leave it on the board in the foyer.



All the support
All the laughter
All the community
All the care, together



We are, finally, getting the church carpet replaced, carpet tiles in the ministers vestry and new carpet tiles in the front foyer in the new year. The work is being carried out during the first week of January.

There's bound to be some dust and cleaning to be done afterwards so we thought it would be good to come armed on the Coffee Morning in Saturday 7th January 2023.

All help will be gratefully received!

Many thanks
The Property Committee





Southend Bach Choir

Registered Charity No: 274370

CAROL CONCERT

IN AID OF

HARP

**Saturday, 17th December 2022
7.00 p.m.**

**St Andrew's Church, Southview Dr,
Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9PW**

Admission is free but donations, which will go exclusively to **HARP** Southend's Homeless Charity, would be greatly appreciated.

Further information: 01268 772842 or
secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk



What's the future for Belfairs? 'Dare to dream'

So, calling all people aged between 15 (ish) and 50 (ish) who are either associated or interested in the growing life of Belfairs Methodist Church here within this community.

We have held 2 meetings in 2022 where we discussed and agreed upon various courses of action to help Belfairs grow within this community by using your skills and so far, we have actioned on a couple of these but feel perhaps momentum has slowed. So, in order to boost our thoughts and efforts, we are proposing on hosting a further meeting, this time on:

Saturday 14th January 2023, between 9a.m. and midday, here in the Fellowship Hall.

Please, please, please, make every effort to attend or, if you're unable to be here, send a delegate or share your ideas with a colleague who you know will be attending. We're happy to provide a light breakfast and refreshments again to make the meetings more relaxing, so please let **John Annim** or **Mike Spaul** know if you will be with us on the day so we can make sure all is ready for a positive step forward for Belfairs.

Don't forget - Saturday 14th January 2023 - 9a.m. to midday
(put it in your diaries)

Thank you.

John Annim and Mike Spaul

Life isn't meant to be easy, it's meant to be lived.
Sometimes happy, other times rough
But with every up and down you learn lessons
That make you strong.

The most wonderful places to be in the world are:
In someone's thoughts, someone's prayers and in someone's heart.

Life is like a book
Some chapters are sad, some happy, and
some exciting, but if you never turn the page,
you will never know what the next chapter has
in store for you.

You may not always see the results of
your kindness.....
But every bit of positive energy you
contribute to the world makes it a better
place for all of us.

Women's magazine:

Page 9: how to lose weight fast.
Page 10: you're beautiful the way you are.
Page 11: Cake recipe

If you want to go fast, go alone,
if you want to go far, go together

To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have
to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect,
You just have to care



Southend & Leigh
Methodist Circuit

CIRCUIT SERVICE

WITH

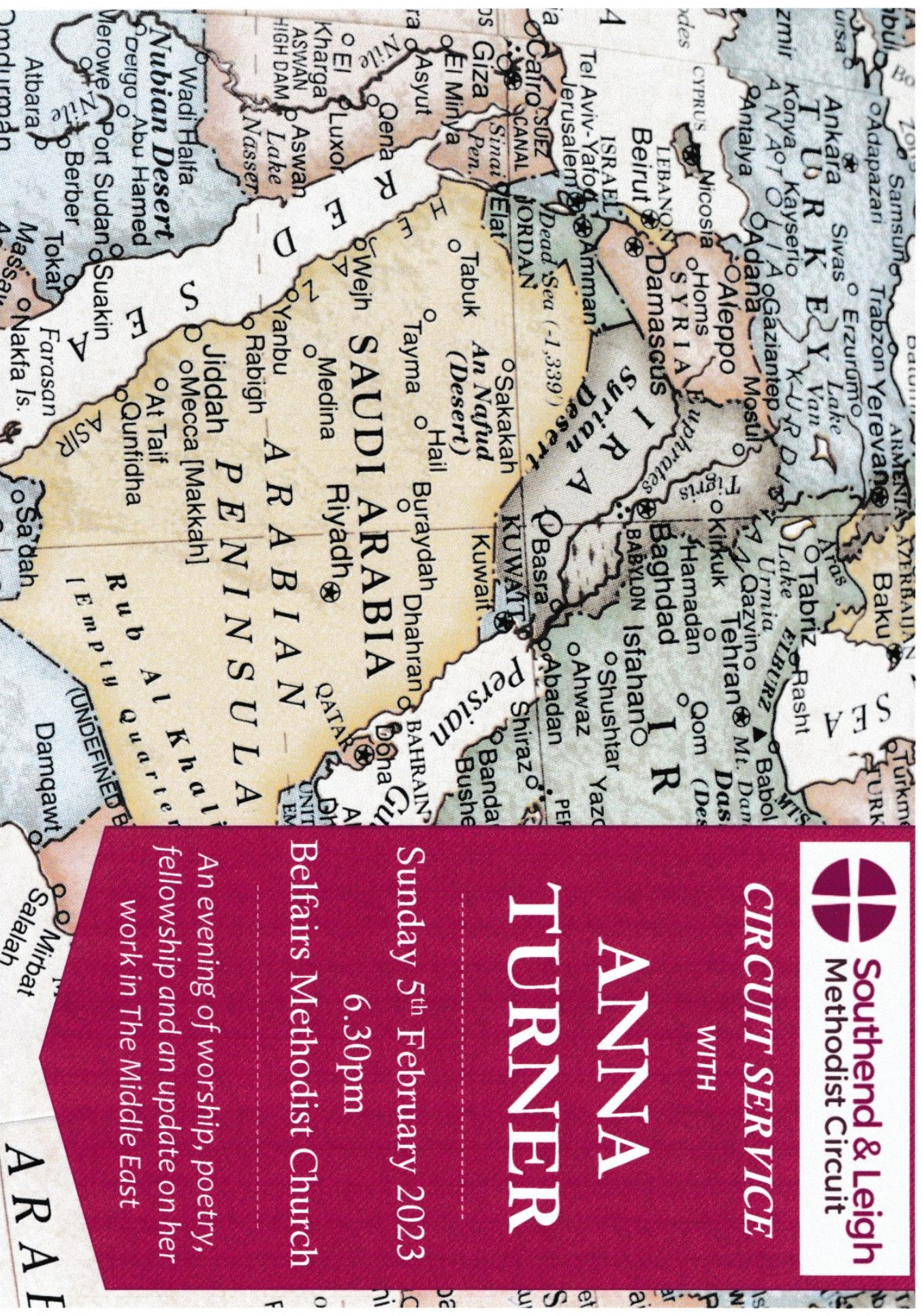
ANNA TURNER

Sunday 5th February 2023

6.30pm

Belfairs Methodist Church

An evening of worship, poetry,
fellowship and an update on her
work in The Middle East



BELFAIRS METHODIST CHURCH Eastwood Road North, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS :

SUNDAY SERVICES 11.00 a.m. (6.30 p.m. as announced)

10 O'clock Club 10.00 a.m. (except 3rd Sunday Parade Service)

MONDAY
5.30 p.m. Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys
6.30 p.m. Boys' Brigade Junior Section
7.30 p.m. Boys' Brigade Company Section

TUESDAY 8.00 p.m. Badminton Club

WEDNESDAY 10.00 a.m. Parent & Toddlers
5.30 p.m. Girls' Brigade Explorers & Juniors
7.00 p.m. Girls' Brigade Seniors & Brigaders

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY 10.00 a.m. 'Open House' Coffee Morning - first Saturday of the month

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thirsty For??	7.00 p.m.	2nd Thursday
A.C.T.I.O.N	2.00 p.m.	4th Thursday
House Groups	7.30 p.m.	2nd Tuesday - Please speak to Stewards for more details.

February Newsletter Deadline:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **15th January 2023.**

Articles can be e-mailed to sue.spauell@hotmail.co.uk or placed in the newsletter box in the front foyer. Thank you