

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 2018

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Thought for the month

The giving of gifts is not something we invented, God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son.

A New Year -

**Renewed Hope, New Opportunities, New Adventures,
New ways to give and love.**

**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



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. 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. 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 by the Messiah. Nevertheless, 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

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Sunday Services December 2023

3rd	11.00 a.m. 5.00 p.m.	Pastor Steve Mayo - including dedication of gifts for Southend Family Centres Circuit service - See poster in newsletter for more information
10th	11.00a.m.	Mr. Bob Briant - including Holy Communion
17th	11.00 a.m.	Phil Gladman & 10 O'clock Club - Parade Service - including Nativity
24th	11.00 a.m.	United Service at Belfairs - Pastor Steve Mayo
31st	11.00 a.m.	United Service at Wesley - Pastor Steve Mayo

Please see Christmas Services page for more information.

Other December dates for your diary

2nd	Christmas Coffee morning at 10.00 a.m. - there will be various stalls and bacon/sausage in a roll
14th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship including Christmas Crafts - all are welcome.
24th	Christmas Eve
25th	Christmas Day
26th	Boxing Day
31st	New Year's Eve

Point of Contact

Below is shown details of the Sunday Stewards, Communion Stewards, Musician, Flower Rota and coffee/tea stewards relevant for this month.

Sunday 3rd December

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

p.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Midi Box

p.m. - Circuit Worship Band

Coffee/tea stewards a.m. Sue Spaul & Ann Kendall

Sunday 10th December

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul

Communion Stewards - Jim Halstead and Dawn Howard

Flowers - Jan Andrews in memory of Jeanne, Tony and Colin - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 17th December

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

p.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Anthea & Mike Spaul

p.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Margaret Bailey - for Peter's Birthday - arranged by Margaret

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 24th December

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Christmas Arrangement - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Sunday 31st December

United service at Wesley



**You are invited to a
Circuit Service
where we shall be sharing
'Modern Christmas Songs of Worship'.
Music will be led by the Circuit Band
with contributions from others
in leading worship.**

**Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 5.00p.m.
hosted by Belfairs Methodist Church.
Light Refreshments to follow.**

**We look forward to this time of
worship together.**

Christmas Services

**Sunday 17th December at 11.00 a.m.
Nativity Service**



**Sunday 17th December at 4.00 p.m.
Carols by Candlelight service
Pastor Steve Mayo
(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 at
Wesley Methodist
Pastor Steve Mayo**



Sunday Services for January 2024

7th	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Steve Mayo - Pastoral Visitors Dedication
14th	11.00a.m.	Mr. Bob Briant - Holy Communion
21st	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Jane Fulford - Parade Service
28th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Pam Smith

Other January dates for your diary

1st	New Years Day
6th	Coffee Morning
11th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m.
25th	Burns Night
26th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - Holiday talk by Phil Gladman



Point of Contact

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

Sunday 7th January

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Sue & Mike Spaul/MIDI Box

Coffee/tea stewards a.m. Sue Spaul & Ann Kendall

Sunday 14th January

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

Communion Stewards - Neeltje Charles & Geoff Box

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - V A C A N T

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 21st January

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Anthea Meek/Mike Spaul

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 28th January

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - V A C A N T

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Christmas Cards

Once again the Christmas Post Box will be available in the foyer from 3th 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 16th 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



Pound shillings and pence

Two farthings would make a ha'penny
Two ha'pennies a penny for you
Three pennies would come to threepence
Or a threepenny bit as we knew
Six pennies would make up sixpence
Two three penny bits did as well
All were known as a tanner
As any old timer would tell
Twelve pennies were worth one shilling
Four threepenny bits two tanners a bob
Four tanners eight pence two shillings
All would make a florin job
Two and six or a florin and sixpence
Would then become half a crown
Four half crowns made a ten bob note
Two ten bob notes a pound
A pound note and a shilling into a guinea grew
This is old money pounds shillings and pence
I remember it well do you?

Supplied by Marion Hammond, who said,
"This made me feel very old, and my children very confused".

BELFAIRS CHRISTMAS MARKET
Sat 2nd December 10 - 12 noon.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help.

If you would like to set up the your stall you can do this on Friday 1st December from 1 pm onwards.

Any goods or items for the stalls can be brought along that afternoon.

Looking forwards to your support and a lovely day working together.

Neeltje Charles



A.C.T.I.O.N.

Afternoon Club on Thursday In Our Neighbourhood.

A.C.T.I.O.N. will not be meeting in December but will resume in January when we look forward to a holiday talk presented by Phil Gladman.

This will be on Thursday 26th January at 2 pm.

All are welcome for a social afternoon in fellowship.

Neeltje Charles

Macmillan Coffee Morning 2023

This certificate is presented to
Belfairs Methodist Church
& friends

For your kind contribution of
£475.00

To help support those affected by cancer. Thank you.

Celine

Celine & the Coffee Morning Team

7 Nov 2023

A very big thank you to all who supported this event, we couldn't have done it without you.

Mike and Sue Spaul

Christmas Choir Practices

The choir will be taking part in the Carols by Candlelight service at 4.00p.m. on Sunday 17th December. If you would like to join us as we prepare to celebrate Jesus birth please come and join us for the following practices.

Friday 1st December at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 8th December at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 15th December at 7.00 p.m. (mince pies will be available)

If you would like to know more please speak to Mike Spaul. We look forward to you joining us for this time of celebration.

Mike Spaul



Wishing you a merry Christmas from
Belfairs Methodist Church

Eastwood Road North Leigh on Sea Essex SS9 4NG



Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home.

December 2023

2nd – 10am – noon Christmas Fayre and coffee morning. Fun for all ages!

3rd – 5pm Modern Christmas songs led by the Methodist Worship band.

17th – 11am Children's Nativity during our 11am service.

17th – 4pm Carols by Candlelight. A reflective service of readings and carols.

24th – 11am Sunday service, with other local Methodist Churches, at Belfairs.

24th – 4pm Children's Christingle service for all the family!

24th – 11.15pm Midnight Communion at Wesley Methodist, Elm Road, Leigh.

25th – 10.30am Christmas Day at Wesley Methodist, Elm Road, SS9 1SJ

Find us at www.belfairsmethodistchurch.org.uk

Or on Facebook

Annetta's Challenge 24 for Pancreatic Cancer

I've very recently had a close friend, Mark, who had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. His wife, Elizabeth, is one of my closest friends and they all treat me as family, even their 3 adult sons. With his type of cancer and how far along it is he has only been given 2-3 months to live which is heartbreaking! I saw an advert to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness in November by completing a distance of 24 miles over the month; I've decided to make mine 30 miles so it's a mile a day. Any donations towards this would be greatly appreciated. You can donate via the link below:

<https://fundraise.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/fundraisers/annettaspaul>

The above challenge may not sound that difficult, but many of you will know that Annetta snapped her Achilles tendon in May this year and is still recovering. She is progressing well now but is still restricted on what she can do.

Also for those of you who don't know, Annetta is Mikes and my daughter. If you wish to make a donation but don't wish to do so on line, we will be happy to accept your donation and do the necessary for you to ensure this is received.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

Sue Spaul



****UPDATE****

Unfortunately since first publishing this article, Annetta's close friend Mark has passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mark's family and friends at this difficult time.

I am pleased to say that so far Annetta has raised over £420 but there is still time to make a donation so we can continue to support this very worthwhile cause. Although unfortunately it is too late to benefit Mark, there will be many others that may be able to benefit from this support.

Christmas to do List

Buy presents
Wrap gifts
Send Gifts
Shop for food
See the lights

Be present
Wrap someone in a hug
Send peace
Donate Food
Be the Light

Which side is your priority?



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.



1st Corinthians 13 (A Christmas version)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies and mince pies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love the most, I have missed the point.

.....In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse or partner.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure.

Ed.



When it's hard to keep going, just take one step at a time.

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.

Be thankful for yesterday.
Be grateful for today.
Be hopeful for Tomorrow.

No one knows how long we will stay here on earth, so let's
just stay calm, humble, do good to others and let's always
pray to our God. Amen.

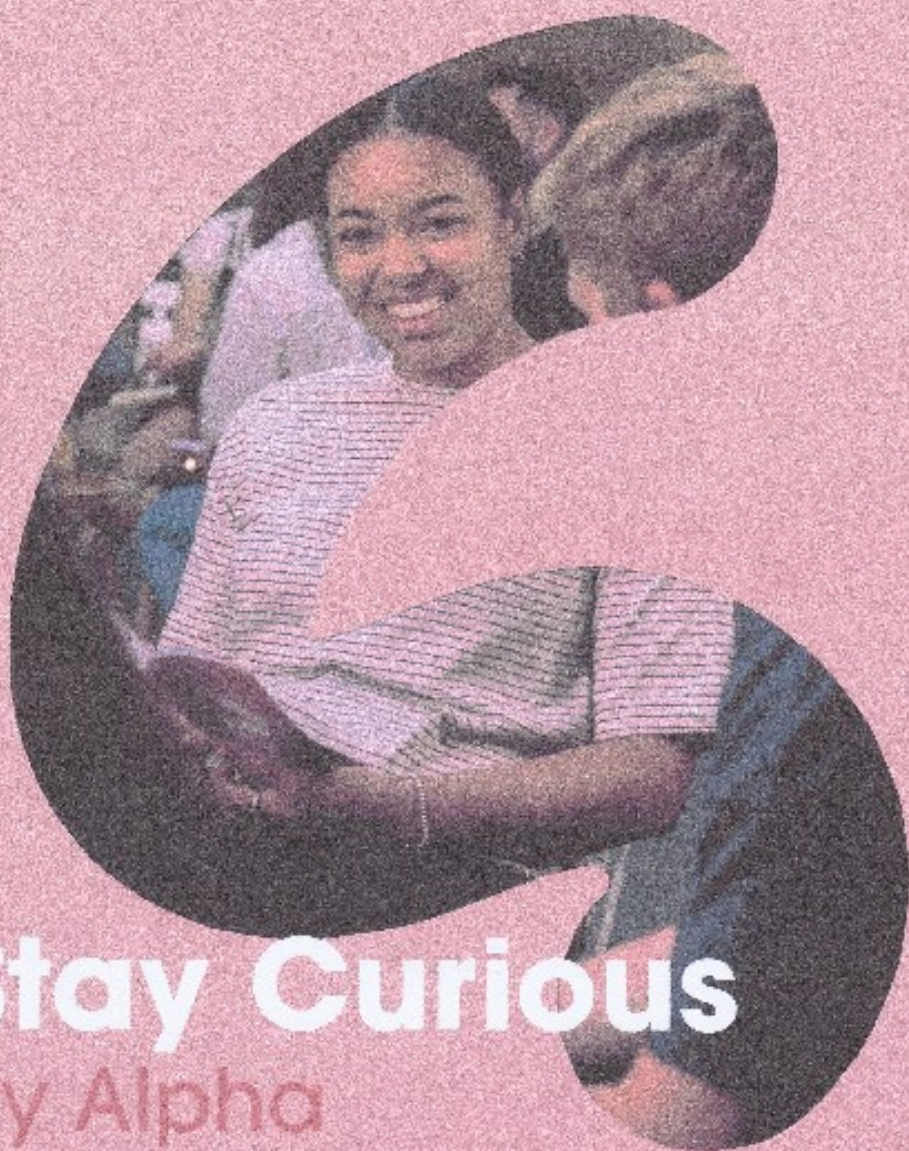
One of the most important things you can do on this earth is to let people know
they are not alone.

Ships don't sink because of the water around them.
Ships sink because of the water that gets in them.
Don't let what's happening around you get inside you and weigh you
down.

Sometimes.... When things are falling apart they may
actually be falling into place.

Love the people God gave you because he will need them back one day.

Worry is a conversation you have with yourself about things
you cannot change. Prayer is a conversation you have with
God about the things He can change.



Stay Curious

Try Alpha

Rayleigh Methodist Church

7pm from 12 January 2024

rayleighmethodistchurch.org.uk



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
6.00 p.m. Boys' Brigade Anchor Boys
6.00 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

February Deadline:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **21st 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