

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet
and strangers feel at home



Issue 238

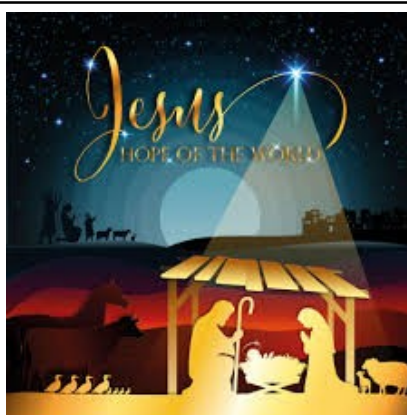
December 2025/January 2026

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Thought for the month

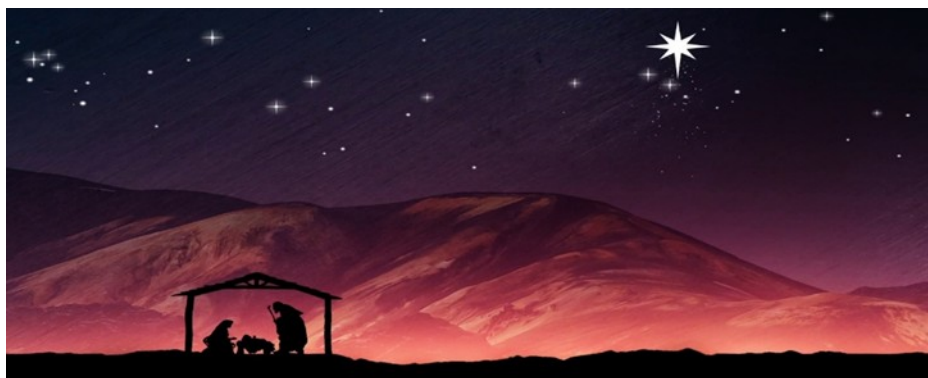
*May you have the spirit of Christmas which is Peace,
The gladness of Christmas which is Hope,
And the heart of Christmas which is Love.*

*God of new beginnings
God of a new heaven and a new earth
God of new creations
God of yesterday, today and forever,
We come to you to start again
There is no better place to be.
Amen
The BRF Book of 100 Prayers*

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. 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 home of babies; maybe your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren, or 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 this year.

Revd. Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services December 2025

7th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Sue Hockett
14th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion
21st	11.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.	Mr. Phil Gladman - Young Peoples Nativity Carols by Candlelight
28th	10.30 a.m.	UNITED SERVICE AT HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Other December dates for your diary



6th	Christmas Fayre - 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.
11th	Modern Christmas songs of worship at 7.00 p.m.
21st	Christmas cards available for collection from the foyer, from the church post box
24th	Christmas Eve
25th	Christmas Day
26th	Boxing Day

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 7th December

Sunday Steward - Alan Pace

Musician a.m. - Sue and Mike Spaul/Midi Box

Flowers - Chris Shepherd in memory of John - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 14th December

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole/Backing tracks

Communion Stewards – Dawn Howard & Geoff Box

Flowers - Jan Andrews - arranged by Jan

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 21st December

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

p.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Small band

p.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

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

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve

Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Sue and Mike Spaul

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day

Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Sunday 28th December

UNITED SERVICE AT HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Services for January 2026

4th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Archie McDowall
11th	11.00a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Pastoral Visitors Dedication - Holy Communion
18th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Parade Service
25th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Bob Briant

Other January dates for your diary



1st	New Years Day
3rd	Coffee Morning -
8th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m.
23rd	A.C.T.I.O.N - 2.00 p.m. - all are welcome
25th	Burns Night

Point of Contact

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

Sunday 4th January

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

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

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 11th January

Sunday Steward a.m. - Alan Pace

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards Neeltje Charles & Jim Halstead

Flowers - information not available at time of print

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 18th January

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Small Band

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 25th January

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - information not available at time of print

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Christmas Services



Thursday 11th December at 7.00 p.m.
Modern Christmas songs of worship
(followed by refreshments)



Sunday 21st December at 11.00 a.m.
Nativity Service



Sunday 21st December at 4.00 p.m.
Carols by Candlelight service
Rev. Steve Mayo
(followed by refreshments)

Christmas Eve at 4.00 p.m.
Christingle Service
Rev. Steve Mayo
(followed by refreshments)



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

Christmas Day at 10.30 a.m.
Family Service
Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman



You're invited to
“Modern Christmas
songs of worship”

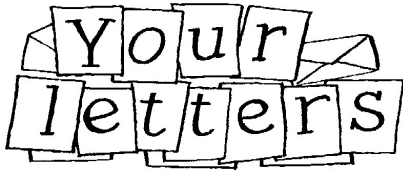
Thursday 11th December 2025 Belfairs
Methodist Church at 7.00p.m.



Led by the Circuit worship band
and others from across the circuit.

All are welcome to join us,
refreshments to follow.

Letters Page/Church family news



Dear Belfairs friends

I wanted to thank everyone for the gift voucher that was presented to me by Rev. Steve at the October church parade. It was unexpected and a surprise, but very much appreciated.

As Rev. Steve said in the service I am stepping down from the role of Secretary of the Property and Finance committee after 50 years. I was invited to join the Finance committee by the late Cyril Robinson and Len Johnson, when I started work at 18 with Barclays Bank. Shortly after that I found myself on the property committee. Some years later the two committees merged and I took on the role of secretary.

During those 50 years, it has been a privilege to see the church premises evolve and grow to support the variety of groups and activities undertaken at Belfairs to help share the gospel in the area.

One of the highlights has to be the building of the John Wesley hall, at the rear of the church, over 40 years ago. At the time the BB had to meet at Blenheim junior school, as our premises were too small to accommodate us at the church. Being able to meet back at Belfairs again was great for the company and has helped to strengthen the bond the Brigades have within our church family.

Once again thank you for your kind gift.

Gods Blessings

Tony



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.





HARP Harvest Appeal 2025

www.harpsouthend.org.uk

Thank you Belfairs Methodist Church

This year we've been blown away by the generosity of our community.

58 schools, churches, and community groups took part in Harvest 2025, **making it a record-breaking year for HARP!**

Together, you've filled our pantries with over **1,000 tins of beans, 900 bags of pasta, and countless other essentials**, helping to keep our community fed and cared for this autumn.

Your kindness means we can continue to provide warm meals, comfort, and hope to those who need it most.

From everyone at HARP, thank you for making a real difference in Southend!



Registered charity number 1098126

Christmas Cards

Once again the Christmas Post Box is available in the foyer 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 21st 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 Little Havens which will enable you to not only remember your friends but to support this charity. **Please put your envelopes in the Sunday Collection - DO NOT leave it on the board in the foyer.**



Choir Practice

We will be practicing for our carols by candlelight service on Sunday 21st December at 4.00 p.m. and if you would like help us celebrate our Saviour's birth, and enjoy a good sing, then please come to the rehearsals as shown below, if you can't make them all, you are still welcome to join us for the ones you can.

Friday 5th December at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 12th December at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 19th December at 7.00 p.m. (including mince pies)

If you require any more information, please speak to Mike Spaul.



Birthdays

For all of you who celebrate birthday/anniversaries, or remember loved ones during this month, the following is for you, although of course everyone can read it!

Diligent be God's care for you

Enduring be God's love for you

Christ of the manger be born in you

Every day and evermore

May Jesus, who is himself the true way,

Bless you

Every moment of every day

Richer may you be through the gifts of God.

Ed.

Birthdays

For all of you who celebrate birthday/anniversaries, or remember loved ones during this month, the following is for you, although of course everyone can read it!

Jesus bless you with his risen life

And keep you in his love

Never ending unconditional love

Unselfish and understanding towards others

At each need a blessing from God

Refreshment when you are weary

Year after year God keep you in his love.

Ed.

The Second book of the Chronicles of the Parent

Chapter 6. The child and the Cast of Thousands

1. And it came to pass in the twelfth month that Miss Beelzebub did tell the class of the child that the Head teacher did order that a nativity play be performed by the class. For the parents and the parents' parents do expect there to be a nativity play and, indeed, it is the turn of Miss Beelzebub's class.
2. Then the child did say to the parent, surely I will play the part of the mother of the baby, for Miss Beelzebub dost say that I am her favourite.
3. And the parent did search her attic for that old blue curtain which she did save for this day and did not find it for male parent had used it to clean his paintbrushes and did not tell the parent for fear of her wrath. And the parent did shop for a piece of blue cloth and did pay many talents with the tablet of plastic for such a piece.
4. The parent did say to the male parent, verily thou shall not go to the inn that day, for thy child will play the mother of the baby and thou must watch her therein. Indeed it dost open for two hours later than before and thou can go there afterwards. And lo! Even the mother-in-law did say, "Behold, I will come and view the performance, for indeed will not the child exceed the talents of the Blessed Dame Judy."
7. And behold, it came to pass that the child came back from the temple of learning and did go to her room and did not come out of her room for many hours, even though her favourite programme was on the box of Satan.
8. The parent did ask of the child, wherefore art thou staying in thy room, for indeed thy favourite programme is on the box of Satan and I have cooked thee Turkey Twizzlers, derided by St Jamie, but loved by thee.
9. Then the child did cry many tears and did tell the parent that Miss Beelzebub did tell the class the part they had in the nativity play. The parent did say, "Art thou the mother of the baby as thou said?" And the child said "No, for the part of the mother was given to my best friend Jezebel and I hatest her."
10. "And I am the camel" said the child. And the parent did comfort the child and say, surely thou wilt be an excellent camel. The camel is very important. And the child did say "But I am the back end of the camel and no-one will see me therein."
11. And the next week the spare room had new curtains, and, behold, they were blue.

'The Little Bird Gave me a Call in my Garden

By

Susan Heinzelmann (Nee Linton)

A quiet moment in my garden to pray
To both of my parents on this day
they are gone to heaven's above
To our dear Lord they so loved.
Through the gates of heaven is paradise
And I wish I can embrace then
But I know they'll always be around
As a little bird gives a sweet sound.
So I cling onto my church
They have really helped me through
For my strong faith, ministry and congregation
God bless you!
As I see a white feather floating by from the air
The same little bird telling me my parents
Still care
So I raise my head to the sunshine
As it lights up my face
And Jesus is all around me
With his love and grace.



A Christmas Letter from Jesus

When you look for me at Christmas
You won't need a special star
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem
I'm right here where you are
You may not be aware of me
Amid the celebrations
You'll have to look beyond the stores
And all the decorations
But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do
So close your eyes and say a prayer
I'm waiting here for you
You're the one I want to be with
You're the reason that I came!
And you'll find me in the stillness
Where I'm whispering your name.



The difference between school and life?
In school you're taught a lesson and given a test.
In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson.

When I am alone, God is my comforter.
When I am weak, God is my strength.
When I am nothing, God is my everything.
If God has been good to you, Amen

Accept what is
Let go of what was
Have faith in what will be.

The seven wonders of the world.
To see, to hear, to touch, to taste, to feel, to laugh, and to love.

Once a man was asked, "what did you gain by regularly praying to God?" the man replied, "Nothing.... But let me tell you what I lost: anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity and fear of death.
"Sometimes the answer to our prayers is not gaining by losing, which ultimately is the gain. Prayer has Power, Amen

I've been gooder, I've been badder, Many times thinner, many time fatter. There's stuff I remember and stuff I forget, but I've always been ME and watcha see is watcha get!

She is strong, she is fierce
She is smart, she is tough
She is happy, she is sad
She is polished, she is rough
She is vulnerable, she is insecure
She doesn't always know what to do
But, she learns, she grows
She's a force to be reckoned with
She is YOU

Senior Citizen texting Code:
LOL - little old lady
BFF - Best friend fell
ATD - at the doctors
BTW - bring the wheelchair
FWIW - forgot what I was
BYOT - bring your own teeth

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)

Family Crafternoon 3.00 p.m.-4.30 p.m. (Dates as announced)

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 newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **18th January 2026.**

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