

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 229

February 2025

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Thought for the month

Loving Father,
May all our experiences, conversation and thoughts
Be seasoned with salt
Be full of grace
Be alive with hope,
So the things of this earth
Might begin to taste of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord
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



I've always been one for a good voucher. After all, why pay more for something when you can get it cheaper!

Over the years I've used many different vouchers to save money on different things, from Groupon Vouchers to Tesco Club Card vouchers. But all these vouchers have something in common; they all have terms and conditions!

And with some of them, you just can't seem to win!

- A restaurant voucher; that can only be used on the 6th Sunday in Lent in a leap year!
- Parents go free holiday voucher, as long as both parents are over 100yrs old!
- Children eat free voucher; as long as your child is no taller than 2' 6", but older than 10yrs!

In February we probably think more about love than we do most other months because of Valentine's Day, and we take this opportunity to show our love for our husbands, wives or partners.

But how conditional is that love? Is there something that we could do which would stop that person loving us? Probably!

But with God, love is different. His love for us, unlike a voucher or human love, is totally unconditional. Nothing we can do will make God love us any more, and nothing we can do will make God love us any less. Our actions may separate us from God, but not from His love for us.

Scripture tells us of this love. 1 John 3:1 says; *'See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!'* [NIV] And Romans 5:8; *'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'*

So, whether you receive a valentine's card or not this year, remember God's amazing love for you; His unconditional love!

Every Blessing,

Revd Steve

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revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services February 2025

2nd 11.00 a.m. Eco Church - Mike Spaul & Tina Gowers
9th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion
16th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Steve Mayo - Parade Service
23rd 11.00 a.m. Mr. Archie McDowall

Other February dates for your diary

1st Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m. - Girls Brigade - Cake Stall, bring and buy stall and sausage/bacon in a roll
13th Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome.
14th Valentines Day
27th A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - all are welcome

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 2nd February

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

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

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 9th February

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - MIDI

Communion Stewards - Neeltje Charles & Jim Halstead

Flowers - V A C A N T - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 16th February

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Mike / MIDI

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 23rd February

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Pat Pace - arranged by Pat

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Letters Page/Church family news

Your letters

Dear Tina,

Thank you for donating an incredibly kind **£50.00** to Essex Wildlife Trust on behalf of Belfairs Methodist Church, your support gives wildlife a greater voice in our county.

We have entered the most vital decade for nature. We are dependent on the natural world in every aspect of our lives. The air that we breathe. The water we drink. The food we eat. Our physical and mental health. We need nature and we need wildlife.

From ancient woodlands offering a green lung in Southend-on-Sea, to Tiptree Heath, the last place in the county where all three species of heather grow together. Areas of significant natural heritage are protected in perpetuity thanks to your help. We all have a role to play in protecting what's important to us but with your support, we are working to create a wilder Essex. One where wildlife is thriving, every person has access to nature and our habitats are connected.

Your support is so gratefully received, and we do not take such acts of kindness for granted as they enable exciting projects to come to fruition. We will apply your donation with care and to the maximum benefit for wildlife conservation. It is thanks to people like you that we can continue our work to make this vision possible.

Thank you again for your generosity; we really do appreciate it.

Kind regards,
Becky

Becky Jedrzejewski
Legacy Officer
Essex Wildlife trust
Tel 01621735259



We are the county's leading conservation charity, committed to protecting wildlife and inspiring a lifelong love of nature.

This donation was made in relation to our Eco church award.



Community & Global

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” -the second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” -there is no commandment greater than these.”*

-The climate and nature crises are profoundly unjust, with the most devastating impacts affecting the poor and vulnerable who have done the least to cause the crises. We are called to love our neighbour, and so it is our responsibility to them and the places they live, wherever they are, to demonstrate love for people and nature by advocating for a more just world (Micah 6:8). While there is much that we can do as a church body, our impact will be even greater when we work with others to bring about local and global change.

There are a number of ways that we can campaign for local, national and global change eg.

- Joining Sustainability and Initiative movements
- Engaging with Community Projects and Local conservation works
- Help in a Community Clean up.

More ideas can be found at [Community and Global - Eco Church](#) or by clicking the link on our website Eco page [Our Eco Church webpage - Belfairs Methodist Church](#)

As a church, we regularly pray for our World but, maybe, we can do a little more? Not all of us have the skills, talents or time to act ourselves but we might be able to support action groups financially or in other ways. We are looking into ways that we can support TrustLinks, who are an independent charity for mental health, wellbeing and the environment in Essex. They offer therapeutic gardening, recovery classes, social activities, employability support, training, environmental workshops and more and they work with around 4,000 people per year, with sites in Southend, Castle Point, Rochford, Braintree and Basildon.

Not only would we be supporting our commitment to climate change, but also mental health. I think this is a 'win' for everyone.

Mike & Tina



**Bronze Eco Church
Award Certificate**

This is to certify that

Belfairs Methodist Church

has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

- Worship and Teaching
- Management of Buildings and Land
- Community and Global Engagement
- Lifestyle

Signed Andy Atkins Date 29 December 2024
CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



December 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!

F ulfilled be your life
E ternal God's life within you;
B lessings of God on your going out
R eturning, God bless your coming in
U ntil all darkness ends, Lord
A bide in your heart forever
R adiate your light , and may
Y our spirit be filled with His peace

Ed.

Every Morning,

We are born again

What we do today is

What matters most



The past is behind us, with its mistakes and regrets

And the future is yet to be written,

What we do today is what truly matters. It's

- The **choices** we make
- The **actions** we take, and
- The **intentions** we set

That shape our lives and create our reality.

As you rise with the sun, **pour your energy** into making the most of this precious day.

Ed.



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.



It's not **what** we have
But **who** we have.

Good friends are like stars.
You don't always see them, but you know they are there.

Life is short, live it
Love is rare, grab it,
Anger is bad, dump it
Fear is awful, face it
Memories are sweet, cherish them.

You deserve someone who understands how rare you are,
Love God x

Kindness is more than deeds. It is an attitude, an expression, a look, a touch. It is anything that lifts another person.

When someone speaks against you, speak well of them. When you are mistreated, treat them well. Repay evil with GOOD and let God fight your battles.

A strong friendship doesn't need daily conversation, doesn't always need togetherness. As long as the relationship lives in the heart, true friends will never part.

Remember to take care of yourself.
Sometimes you forgot because you were too busy taking care of other people.
You are important too.

You become your best self when you work on things people can't take away from you; mindset, character, integrity, authenticity, discipline and kindness.

One day you will look back and be thankful it went God's way and not yours.

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. (1st Sunday of the month)

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

March newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **16th February 2025.**

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