

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 2015

July/August 2023

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SUMMER



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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 all that you do
be done in Love

1 Corinthians 16:14

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,

In the recent warm spell, I have been sleeping with my bedroom window open. Consequently, I have also been woken up at the breaking of dawn by the singing of birds. I recalled one of the first things I noticed when we moved to Essex namely, in this region you are blessed by having many differing types of bird. This is especially true in the many river estuaries. Indeed, as I write there is a cooing of a turtle dove, a blue tit gathering seeds and up till a week ago some sparrows were nesting in my toilet extract fan (just as well we never use it). Apart from keeping the insect population down to manageable proportions (very useful), they serve to bring colour and joy to life. Dr Samuel Johnson once quoted "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford". He is wrong and is making his observation from a self absorbed and limited perspective. I am afraid that birds are tired of much of London as all, but the scavengers have largely disappeared from everywhere but the huge parks. In Stepney, where we lived for 7 years, our local bird population comprised some scraggy pigeons, two magpie (plus offspring living in the Tree of heaven located in our garden) and the occasional horde of starlings. All the sparrows had disappeared and if any other species came it caused comment in the community. All that remained of the animal kingdom were these few birds, pets, and rats; all living off the gift or waste of humans. Is that an indictment on our society?

The other example is more disturbing, I spoke to someone who had been to Germany on a holiday. I was shown some photographs, depicting the usual tourist attractions and then we came upon one very different. It was of Belsen, the site of one of the Concentration camps where the Holocaust was carried out. The person remarked that there was an absence of birds and none of them ever sang at this site.

During periods of light, birds awake, and we hear the morning chorus greet the light and warmth of the new day. They spend the day in ceaseless activity because in flight a considerable amount of energy is consumed. However, they are blessed by being free to escape into the air and to roam the countryside and enjoy that which is about them. At night, silence comes where only a few predators such as the owl go about their business. Is there a parable in this? Ecclesiastes used the birds amongst other images to remind us of the vanity of man and of course Jesus used them in a couple of instances to illustrate faith in God. However, I will be content for you to draw out of these images whatever you will in your relationship with God and the world in which we live. Meanwhile I wish those who will be taking their holidays, rest and replenishment of body, mind, and spirit; for the rest of us contentment and pleasure in what they are called to do.

Yours in Christ

Rev Clifford Newman

Bible Study – 2pm on Wednesday 12th July – Revelation 17 to 21
Church Council – 7pm on Tuesday 4th July

Sunday Services July 2023

2nd	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Mike Spaul
9th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Clifford Newman - Holy Communion - Church Anniversary
16th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Sanya Strachan - Parade Service
23rd	11.00 a.m.	Miss Susie King
30th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Clifford Newman

Other July dates for your diary



- 1st Mike & Sue coffee morning 10.00 a.m. This will include our annual gift day, please see letter included in this newsletter
- 4th Church Council at 7pm
- 12th Bible Study at 2.00 p.m.
- 13th Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome
- 23rd Youth Camp departs at 10.00 a.m. for Littlehampton (Please see article for more information)
- 27th 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 musicians relevant for this month.

Sunday 2nd July

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Sue & Mike Spaul

Sunday 9th July

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

Communion Stewards - Jim Halstead & Geoff Box

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Mike & Sue Spaul for wedding anniversary - arranged by Marion

Sunday 16th July

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician - Anthea Meek/Mike Spaul

Sunday 23rd July

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - **Musician needed**

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

Sunday 30th July - United service at Belfairs

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul/MIDI Box

Sunday Services for August 2023

6th 11.00 a.m. Mr. Phil Gladman

13th 11.00a.m. Rev. Norman Hooks - Holy Communion

20th 11.00 a.m. **UNITED SERVICE AT WESLEY** - Eileen Simmons, Songs of Praise
(Please see article in the newsletter for more information)

27th 11.00 a.m. **UNITED SERVICE AT HIGHLANDS** - Pastor Steve Mayo

Other August dates for your diary

5th Coffee Morning - Pam and John Plummer for MND

10th Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m.

28th Summer Bank Holiday



Point of Contact

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

Sunday 6th August

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul

Sunday 13th August

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Communion Stewards - Mike Spaul & A N Other

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole or MIDI Box

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

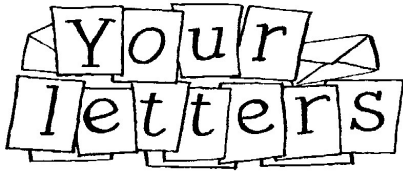
Sunday 20th August

United service at Wesley

Sunday 27th August

United Service at Highlands

Letters Page/Church family news



We wish to say a very big thank you to Paul and Paul who gave up their time of Fathers Day to complete our outside drainage so our new foyer kitchenette could be fully completed.

Property Committee



Dear Friends,

Church Anniversary – 9th July 2023
Receipt of gifts – Saturday 1st July 2023 from 10a.m. to Midday.

When I talk to people about the Church, it is apparent that the image most people have is of a building. Indeed, much to my surprise, some Methodist members have even told me that their faith is encapsulated in the place where they worship. It seems the building itself is the foundation of their faith in God. I appreciate and understand why this image pervades most people's understanding of Church as it is a physical presence which represents the Christian Faith. The building is where people mostly come to worship God as revealed by Jesus the Christ. However, that is not the early Christians and apostles understanding of Church. In Greek, the word is "ecclesia" and this means "a gathering"; specifically those following the gospel of Jesus. Since that period, many people have indeed gathered in all sorts of places. Most Methodist fellowships met and worshiped in a member's house before they built Chapels. In other words, Church means people not buildings.

Throughout my ministry, I have always appreciated the support of many people who offer their time and talent, as well as money. It is together that we promote the work of the good news of Jesus the Christ. This is not only in the Stewardship of where we worship but, also the many acts of kindness and ministry within the local community. At Belfairs, we have several organisations that reach out to people of all ages and of course, many act out their faith in where they work and live.

This work requires volunteers to help in a variety of ways, so if you can assist in any capacity, please consider what you can offer in time or talent. I am sure that most groups would appreciate support and help.

I offer many thanks for your support during past two years and give thanks for your witness to this locality. In all we do, let us give thanks for God's grace and peace and rely upon that wisdom and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ.

Rev Clifford Newman

Planting your Spring Garden

For the garden of your daily living

Plant three rows of peas

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash

1. squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce

1. lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

No garden is complete without turnips

1. turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden we must have Thyme

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

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.



Me: Hey God.

God: Hello.....

Me: I'm falling apart. Can you put me back together?

God: I would rather not.

Me: Why?

God: Because you aren't a puzzle.

Me: What about all of the pieces of my life that are falling down onto the ground?

God: Let them stay there for a while. They fell off for a reason. Take some time and decide if you need any of those pieces back.

Me: You don't understand! I'm breaking down!

God: No - you don't understand. You are breaking through. What you are feeling are just growing pains. You are shedding the things and the people in your life that are holding you back. You aren't falling apart. You are falling into place. Relax. Take some deep breaths and allow those things you don't need anymore to fall off of you. Quit holding onto the pieces that don't fit you anymore. Let them fall off. Let them go.

Me: Once I start doing that, what will be left of me?

God: Only the very best pieces of you.

Me: I'm scared of changing.

God: I keep telling you - YOU AREN'T CHANGING!! YOU ARE BECOMING!

Me: Becoming who?

God: Becoming who I created you to be! A person of light and love and charity and hope and courage and joy and mercy and grace and compassion. I made you for more than the shallow pieces you have decided to adorn yourself with that you cling to with such greed and fear. Let those things fall off of you. I love you! Don't change! ... Become! Become! Become who I made you to be. I'm going to keep telling you this until you remember it.

Me: There goes another piece.

God: Yep. Let it be.

Me: So ... I'm not broken?

God: Of course Not! - but you are breaking like the dawn. It's a new day. Become!!!

Supplied by Tina Gowers

So, many of you will have noticed that my son, Steve and I have disappeared every May day bank holiday weekend since 2013, that's because we go down to Wiston House in Steyning (just outside Worthing in Sussex) for the what used to be called 'BigChurchDayOut' but is now called 'Big Church Festival'. The event runs from the Friday to Sunday every year in these wonderful grounds, where there are many events all over the place and several thousands of people camping together for the whole event.

Initially, it was just Steve and I attending each year from Belfairs but over the years others have started to join us too, including some from other churches in this area and also our Methodist district enabling officer and her son have become a part of our party.

Angela from Belfairs has provided a write up below outlining her family's joy of the event and I can only concur with everything she says, it's a wonderful time for Christians of many denominations to get together to share and praise our one and only Lord.

If you want to know more, please ask, we have a group booking form in place for 2024 which will help keep the costs down for all who attend and we already know that we have some others joining us then.



In the group photo, from left to right, is: Jessie (Thorpe Bay), Angela (District Enabling Officer), Matthew (her son), N'Taniel, John, Angela (Belfairs), Steve and myself behind them (Belfairs).

It really is a wonderful time to be with others, sometimes reflective, sometimes energetic but always sharing in the living energy of our Lord.

Mike and Steve Spaul

Ever since started I started going to big church festival in 2018, everything about it had this energy, and vibrancy that is almost palpable even during covid lockdown when it took place on YouTube. The festival offers a time for Christians from different cultures, churches as well as different part of the world to come together to praise and worship God. It also offers an array of activities for families to take part in activities such as archery, cycling and amusement rides, all of which have made it a weekend to look forward to every year. The gathering brings together over 25,000 people each year, however it brings with it a sense of peace. A state of security you can only get in the presence of God and this year was no different. We had a very memorable time, praising and worshipping with fellow Christians and cannot wait till the next Big Church Festival! A festival where all are truly welcome

Kind regards. Angela.



Youth Camp 2023

We will be travelling to Littlehampton on Sunday 23rd July and returning on Friday 28th July. We would ask for your thoughts and prayers during this time of fun, food and fellowship with our young people. We have lots of activities planned for them including a visit to Weald and Dowland Living Museum (where they film BBC Repair shop), crazy golf, the beach and activity centre where they can do climbing and sno-tubing.



If you would like to wave us off, we will be leaving at 10.00 a.m. approximately and it would be lovely to know we have your support during this time.

Youth camp staff



We urgently need:

small / medium woman's
and men's underwear,
pants and knickers
specifically.

We also need razors,
toothbrushes, toothpaste,
deodorant, sun cream,
bottled water and the
clothing shed is running
very low on small medium
clothes.



www.harpsouthend.org.uk • admin@harpsouthend.org.uk • 01702 815 000
CENTRAL OFFICE: Dencora Court, Tylers Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2BB

**Please reply to our office at:
4th Floor, Dencora Court,
Tylers Avenue,
Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2BB
Tel: 01702 415834**

6th June 2023

Dear Mike and everyone from Belfairs Methodist Church,

I am writing to thank you for the donation of food. It really is very kind of you to think of HARP.

Below I have included some of our stats, so you can see how grateful we are for the kind donations we receive and how needed they are.

In March:

We provided 550 breakfasts and provided 15 food parcels.
We helped a total of 463 people in March 28 of these were new to the service.
23 People moved into HARP accommodation.
We served 4,650 meals to all our residents.

If you would like us to come and give an updated talk on HARP, then please do get in touch on the email below.

Charlotte.earwaker@harpsouthend.org.uk

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

PP Charlotte Earwaker
Lisa Walton
Community Fundraising Coordinator

PATRONS

• The Noel Reed: AFB • Mrs. Stephen Cobbett, Archbishop of York • The Rt. Revd. Dr. Cull Francis Dargatzis, Bishop of Chadwell • Alan Pizzoli
• Emma King • Doreen Helen Martin • Kate Jordan • Mark Foster • The Mayor of Southend • The Revd. Canon Stephen Burted

HARP is the trading name of Homeless Action Homeless Project

10 GENTLEMAN CREED • 14th Floor, One, 148 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0AW

REGISTERED PROVIDER OF SOCIAL HOUSING No: 1742 • CHARITY No: 1056426 • COMPANY No: 4991405



Church Anniversary



We have 2 celebrations this year:

Saturday 1st July we have our Coffee morning and 'Gift Day'. Come and join us for some refreshments and a chat and also an opportunity to meet with Rev Clifford to make your donation to Belfairs. Please see letter from Rev. Clifford regarding this in the newsletter. There are also copies of this letter together with gift envelopes at the back of the church for your use.

Sunday 9th July we will share in worship together at 11.00 a.m. and our service will be led by Rev Clifford Newman.

We hope that many of you will join us for both these times of celebration.

Mike Spaul



Refreshments after worship
COFFEE & TEA STEWARDS

1ST SUNDAY	Ann Kendall and Sue Spaul
2ND SUNDAY	Jan Pope and Jackie Heinrich
3RD SUNDAY	Mike Spaul and Phil Gladman
4TH SUNDAY	Sue Spaul and Margaret Bailey
5TH SUNDAY	Anthea Meek and Jan Andrews
RESERVES:	Mike Spaul, Sue Spaul, Ann Kendall, Margaret Bailey, Phil Gladman

Leadership Rep: Mike Spaul (01702 521344)

**If you are unable to fulfil your duty,
please endeavour to swap your duty
with another person or ask one of the reserves.**

This rota will commence on 2nd July
If there are any issues, please contact Mike Spaul.

Guidelines of duty BEFORE the service.

Please set up the urn or kettle and coffee machine and also set up the 'disposable' cups, together with sugar, biscuits etc.
Make sure we have MILK for the refreshments.

Guidelines of duty AFTER the service.

Please serve people as they request drinks,
seating is available for them to drink in but
we also have 'sleeves & lids' for the cups
should they wish to take away their drinks.

Please make sure the foyer area is left tidy at
the end and all equipment is emptied and
turned off.



**Many thanks as always for your service to
the worship here at Belfairs.**

**THE UNITED SERVICE at WESLEY at 11am on 20th August 2023
FAVOURITES**

I first thought up and introduced this style of service at Wesley in 2021 and repeated it in 2022, both times it seemed appreciated and enjoyed. I am planned at Wesley on 20th. August this year and will use the 'favourites format' for the service, but this time it is a united service for Highlands and Belfairs at Wesley.

The invitation goes out this time to all three congregations to make your requests and offers for consideration. Looking back at the 2022 Order of Service we had favourite bible readings, worship songs, stories, prayers, hymns, poems, Christian quotations and pieces of music. You are encouraged to actively take part, but others are willing to read on your behalf or explain the significance of your choice to you. Be specific eg. if you want Psalm 120 in the King James authorised version you need to say so !

We hope to have the Wesley Music Group to sing for us as well as musicians with their own instruments. Previously some people have given their own testimony as a natural outcome of their contribution.

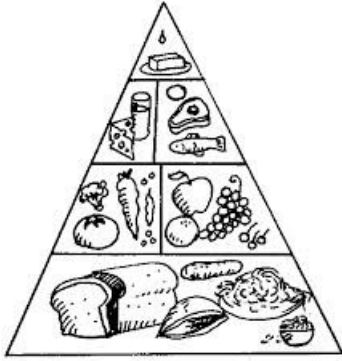
I would hope to include as many people/requests as possible from all three churches so there is a limit of five minutes per item.

Please contact me during June and July with your requests/offers/ queries.

Eileen Simmons

Tel: 472521 email: eileen.kester.simmons@gmail.com

Belfairs Youth Camp



We will be having a Youth Camp at Littlehampton Baptist Church, Littlehampton, West Sussex starting on Sunday 23rd July until Friday 28th July and we would like to ask for your support regarding items of food as this has greatly helped with finances in previous years.

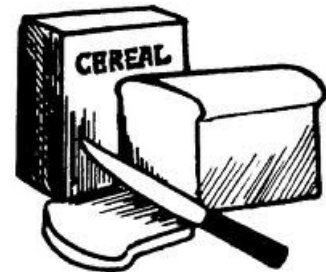
There will be a list of foods in the foyer together with an approximate cost against each item and we would ask you to write your name against a food item and put the money in the box duly marked Youth Camp 2023.

We are taking 18 children and 9 staff who need to be fed. This means 5 days of breakfast, lunches and dinners which amounts to a large shopping bill!

To give you some idea of the types of food required, below is an example of some of the meals provided.

Breakfasts: Fruit juice, cereals, toast, spread, jam, marmite, chocolate spread etc.

As alternatives on some days we provide croissants and on one morning bacon sandwiches.



Packed lunches: Rolls, eggs, ham, tuna, cheese, crisps, fruit, mini biscuit packs.

Dinners: BBQ (Burgers/Sausages), Meat balls, sausages with Yorkshire puddings, vegetables, chicken dippers, salad.

One night we give them a takeaway from the fish and chip shop - Cook gets a night off, well almost, still pudding to prepare!

This is just an idea of the meals provided while we are away and the amount of shopping we have to do. Although we take the majority of food with us, we obviously need to buy some foods almost daily for freshness.

We thank you in advance for your support and we will be thinking of you as we tuck in at meal times!!



Youth Camp Staff

Barry, Andrea, Mike, Sue, Steve, Jan, Matt, Tony and Siobhan

**PS Thank you for your support it is very much appreciated.
There are still some items outstanding and your continued support would be greatly appreciated.**



BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER

Anthea and Alix would like to thank everyone for the tremendous effort in raising money for the British Heart Foundation in June.

Once all the various monies were added together we were able to send them a cheque for

£746.50

A brilliant effort!!

Many, many thanks!!



One day you will realise that after all the battles you've fought, all the storms that you've survived and every mountain that you've climbed, you've always had the strength to make it through life's journey.

Kindness is loaning someone your strength
Instead of reminding them of their weaknesses.

One day at a time is all we should be dealing with.
We can't go back to yesterday, we can't predict
Tomorrow, so let's live for today and make it beautiful.

When people throw stones at you,
You can choose
to throw them back,
to stumble on them,
To climb over them
Or to build with them.

A strong marriage doesn't always have two strong people at the same time.
It is a husband and wife who take turns being strong for each other in the
moments when the other feels weak.

If you're struggling today, remember this:
You have survived everything you have gone through up to this point.
The best day of your life is still yet to come, There are still people you
haven't met, and things you haven't experienced, You can do this!

A few things your Mum may not have told you:

1. she loves you more than herself
2. She has watched you while you were sleeping
3. Every time you are upset, her heart sinks
4. You make her life meaningful
5. She thinks you're one in a billion
6. You are the best thing that has happened to her.

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
House Groups	7.30 p.m.	2nd Tuesday - Please speak to Stewards for more details.

September Deadline:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **20th August 2023.**

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