

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 233

June 2025

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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

Pentecost

Holy Spirit of God
As you come alongside
To convict, counsel and comfort us,
Bring to mind your words to us,
Pour into our hearts your love toward us,
Fill our lives with your gifts to share with others
And be a never-failing presence within us,
On our journey through life
For your name's sake. 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



As I've been driving around recently, I've notice that the Horse Chestnut trees are all out in flower, and this has reminded me of times gone by when I have collected conkers with my daughters.

As I have reflected on this annual outburst of blossom, I had a thought about the potential of each individual flower to become a conker, or Horse Chestnut. This got me thinking about *our* potential in Christ as His disciples.

As we read our Bibles, we come across many characters who may have started out small, but over time, with God's power and the Holy Spirit working through them, *did* fulfil their full potential.

People like Gideon, Moses and King David, but to name a few. They all may have started out small and weak, and even stumbled on their journeys through life, but eventually each of them fulfilled their potential because they allowed God Himself to use them.

So, what about us?

How can *we* fulfil our full potential in Christ?

In Matthew 19:26 Jesus tells us that; '*... with God all things are possible.*' [NIVUK]

So, as we strive to become more like Jesus in our lives, may each one of us open ourselves up to God, allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and empower us so that each of us too, will be able to fulfil our full potential in Christ.

Every Blessing,

Revd. Steve

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Sunday Services June 2025

1st	11.00 a.m.	Ms. Deborah Spinks
8th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion - Pentecost
15th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Parade Service - Trinity Sunday
22nd	11.00 a.m.	Local Arrangement
29th	11.00 a.m.	United Service at Wesley Methodist Church led by Mrs. Eileen Simmons

Other June dates for your diary

7th	Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m.—In aid of British Heart Foundation (please see poster in newsletter for more information)
12th	Thirsty For?? Café worship at 7.00 p.m. - All are welcome
15th	Fathers Day
26th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - all are welcome

Advance Notice:

12/13th July - Church Anniversary weekend.

Saturday between 10.00 a.m.— 11.30 a.m. Rev. Steve will be at the church to receive your gifts for our Anniversary gift morning, Coffee will be available during this time.

At 12 noon the Southend Brass Band will be entertaining us during our lunchtime BBQ

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 1st June

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

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

Flowers - Dawn Howard in memory of her sister Maureen and friend Joan -
arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 8th June

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards – Jim Halstead & Neeltje Charles

Flowers - Anthea Meek - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 15th June

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Mike / Band/MIDI

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 22nd June

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Sue & Mike Spaul

Flowers - Smitha Thomas - Wedding Anniversary- arranged by Jan

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Sunday 29th June

United Service at Wesley Methodist Church



BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER

**ANTHEA and ALIX'S ANNUAL
CAKE SALE AND COFFEE MORNING**

in aid of

THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

is on

SATURDAY JUNE 7th at Belfairs Methodist Church

10.00-12.00

There will be.....

A TOMBOLAfrom basics to luxuries.

A CAKE STALL..... always delicious

A BOOK STALLanything from Ladybirds to War and Peace

A PLANT STALL.....last chance to stock up for summer

And.....SOME GAMES AND PUZZLES

?????

AND



some fabulous cakes will be raffled at 12.00 pm!!

**Many of us have reason to be grateful
for the research carried out by the BHF,
and our donations keep this work going.**



The Summer of '76

The days of platform shoes, the golden age of television
They launched the Ford Fiesta even won the Eurovision
Wore string bikinis, drank martinis, styled their hair in flicks
That everlasting summer back in 1976

The beaches were jam-packed, they didn't need to go abroad
From sun up til sun down the kids were rarely ever bored
Rode large space hoppers, Raleigh choppers, raced on roller skates
Then jumped into the reservoir to cool off with their mates.

But soon the rivers all ran dry and standpipes were installed
And if they used their hosepipe then the council man was called
There was a drought, the beer ran out and no-one had air con
But they were pretty tough back then, so they just soldiered on.

A plague of angry ladybirds descended in a swarm
And forest fires were commonplace because it was so warm
They'd recommend, bath with a friend— I know that sounds quite risky
But heat exhaustion soon kicked in if folk were feeling frisky.

They headed for the seaside with warm pop and soggy snacks
Got stuck for hours in traffic jams in whopping great tailbacks
As they all sweltered, tarmac melted in relentless heat
Sitting in a Ford Cortina, sticking to the seat.

It lasted ten long weeks but pretty soon it came to pass
The days and nights turned cooler and the kids returned to class
The wind and rain came back again the days were grey and wet
But they recall that summer as the one they won't forget



Eco Church - Silver Award



2nd April 2025 and we gained our silver eco award, just 3 months after receiving our bronze. To be fair, we were halfway to silver, when we got our bronze but needed to do a few more things to get us to silver. So what did we need to do?

We do not have much land of our own and so we need to show support to groups who are able to manage their land for eco purposes i.e. plants and habitat to encourage endangered species, conservation areas etc. Unfortunately, not many of our congregation are physically able to support these groups but we were able to help with financial gifts and sharing support via our Facebook group, website and newsletters etc. We have been supporting Essex Wildlife Trust, who manage Belfairs Woods and Trust Links who use gardening etc as therapy for people with mental health issues. We also share information from A Rocha UK (Eco Church), RSPB, Belfairs Discovery Centre and other groups who can carry out the work that we are unable to do. All conservation groups need financial support as well as physical support from volunteers and whilst we might not be able to fund every conservation group, we can spread the word so that individual donations are received, and their work can continue.

We've also been encouraging people to recycle, especially using our local charity shops like St Vincents' and Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. Not only using these shops for recycling, but the money raised helps these two charities to continue their work too.

Some of our members participated in the Big Garden Birdwatch and we encouraged everyone to "switch off" for Earth Hour. At the time of writing, Earth Day is approaching which encourages everyone to do something to help the Earth i.e. buy locally sourced produce, use less electricity and water, cook a sustainable meal or eat vegetarian or vegan meals

We are fortunate to have a bit of land which is planted with shrubs, wildflowers etc. However, both areas need a lot of watering, and we would encourage everyone, if you're at the church, to please water these plants (there is an outside tap in the car park). Once or twice a week, for 15 minutes is not enough but, if we all pull together, we can ensure that they are kept watered and healthy and help us to keep our Eco Church Silver Award.



Tina Gowers

Data, Photographs and Consent

Keeping your personal data and taking photographs is a natural way of recording church life. We love looking back at photos from past years. We also have a pastoral responsibility to you, as members and regular attendees, so we need to hold some data so that we can fulfil these responsibilities. The Methodist Church provides a Privacy Policy so that you know how we look after and use your data. Under Law, we are allowed to keep certain data as legitimate interest.

However, if we pass your data to a 3rd party, we need your written consent. This includes using your photos on church advertising that is seen by members of the public i.e. our 3-fold-leaflet, coffee morning promotions or even passing details of events onto the local newspaper. Any data, that could be seen by members of the public, we must have written consent for.

It is good to advertise what is going on at Belfairs Methodist Church. It is part of our Calling, to spread the love of God and what better way than inviting people to our church. What can start off with a simple coffee or joining the Anchor Boys or Explorer Girls, can lead to full Christian life and Methodist membership.

To ensure that people know how vibrant and fun our church life is, it's good to use photographs of people enjoying church life i.e. a church anniversary barbecue, a harvest barn dance or Boys' Brigade & Girls' Brigade coffee mornings with cakes and bacon rolls. Photos of an empty church are not very inviting.

Therefore, as we start to use more photos in the public domain, we require each of you to complete a form, giving us consent to use your photo and other data, if you are happy for us to do so. We will never use both name and photo in public publications. There is no obligation to give us your consent and, your consent can also be withdrawn at any time.

To cut down on the number of forms we ask you to complete, we have also added the Emergency Contact details to this consent form. This is just in case you are taken ill on our premises and again, there is no obligation to give us this information.

The forms are checked annually, to ensure that we only hold current data, and any out-of-date data is destroyed. Please complete a Consent Form, from the back of the church, and pass back to a Steward or a Pastoral leader. You may also be asked to complete a form but, please feel free to say "No!" if you would prefer. We thank you for your co-operation with this.

The privacy Policy can be viewed on our notice boards or on our church website along with photography information sheets and Safeguarding Policy.

Tina Gowers

Belfairs Youth Camp



We will be having a Youth Camp at Littlehampton Baptist Church, Littlehampton, West Sussex starting on Sunday 27th July until Friday 1st August and we would like to ask for your support regarding items of food as this has greatly helped with finances in previous years.

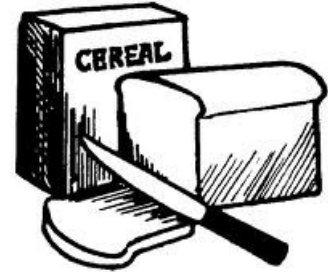
There will be a list of foods in the foyer together with an approximate cost against each item and we would ask you to write your name against a food item and put the money in the box duly marked Youth Camp 2025.

We are taking 26 children and 8 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 and Martyn

Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit

Quiet Day 10am - 2pm

Saturday 21st June 2025

Hadleigh Methodist Church

Theme: "In the Stillness"

Book the date

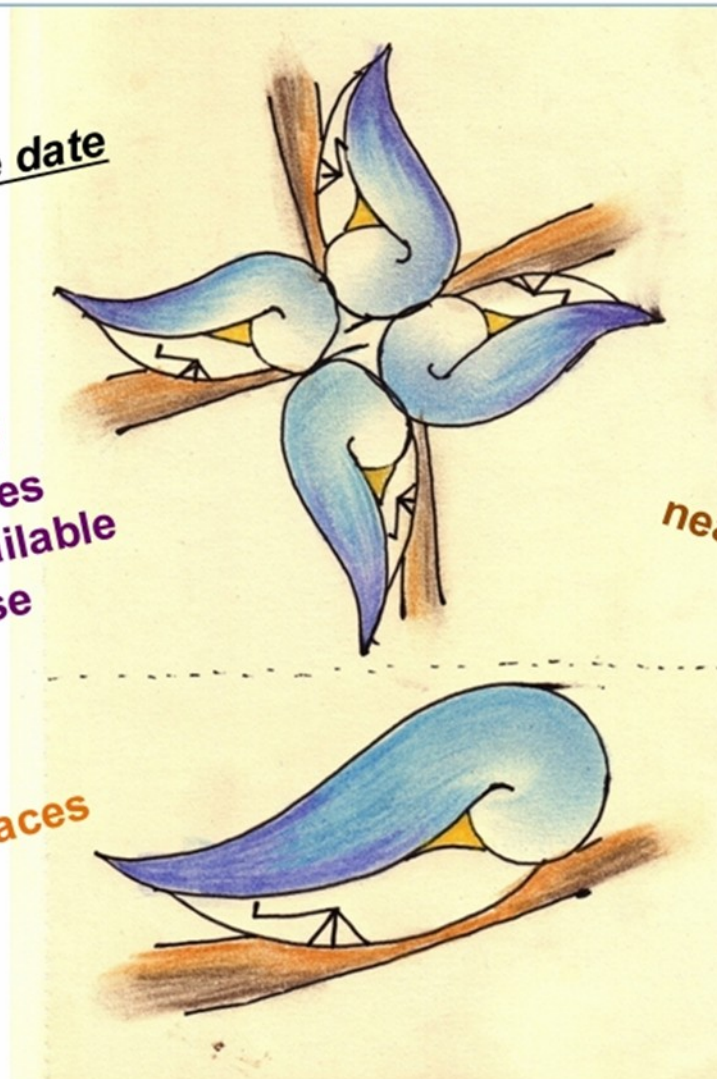
**Lots of
resources
will be available
to use**

Quiet places

**Come and
join us!**

**More info.
nearer the time**

Worship



**Please bring your own Packed Lunch.
Feel free to bring along a note book
or journal, pens and your Bible.**

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!

Joy from God's laughter be with you

Understanding from God's word guide you

Nurturing you in His loving care

Evermore and evermore.

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.



God, please take me by the hand and lead the way. I'm trusting you to lead me where You want me to be.

Sometimes, you're so busy being everything for everyone else that you forget you can't be everything to everyone. You realize that in trying to be enough for others, you've forgotten to be enough for yourself.

Your smile is your logo. Your personality is your business card and the way you make others feel is your trademark.

Friendship is not about who you've known the longest, it's about who walked into your life, said "I'm here for you" and proved it.

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

Sometimes, the hardest part of healing is letting go of the idea that you need to be strong all the time. Real healing happens when you allow yourself to feel, to break, and to rebuild at your own pace.

When asked how they managed to stay together for 65 years. The woman replied, "We were born in a time when if something was broken we would fix it,not throw it away."

Be a reflection of what you'd like to receive. If you want love, give love. If you want truth, be truthful. If you want respect, give respect. What you give out with return to you.

Everyone has bad days. Don't give up. Pause. Rest. Reset. Restart. But, never quit. Always pick yourself up and keep going.

Happiness is not about getting all you want, it is about enjoying all you have.

Love yourself, respect yourself, value yourself, take care of yourself. You are your best friend, no 1 fan, and all-time best company to be around. Always choose positivity and believe in yourself.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN
ESSEX & EAST LONDON
BRADWELL
PILGRIMAGE
AND GATHERING

people of hope

5th july 2025

Join us for a day of inspiring talks & reflections, workshops, live music & worship, time for prayer & contemplation, refreshments & fellowship. Starting from St Thomas's Church. **10:30am - 3:15pm**

For more information bradwellpilgrimage.co.uk



With special guest,
theologian, writer and
broadcaster
Elaine Storkey

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS :

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

TUESDAY 8.00 p.m. Badminton Club

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

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

Thirsty For??	7.00 p.m.	2nd Thursday
A.C.T.I.O.N	2.00 p.m.	4th Thursday

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **22nd June 2025**.

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