

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 230

March 2025

Minister:

Rev Steve Mayo
1 Oakview Close, Leigh on Sea,
Essex SS9 4JN
Tel: 01702 483827
revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Editor:

Mrs. Sue Spaul
Tel: 01702 521344
E-mail: sue.spaul@hotmail.co.uk



Data Protection Privacy

By submitting an article for publication in the Belfairs Newsletter, you are **consenting** to your name being attributed to the article which is made **publicly available** via the Belfairs Methodist Church Website.

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



Lord, let me be the answer to someone's prayer today

Lord, help me to receive the answers to someone else's prayer for me today

Lord, use me as the answer to my own prayers today,
So I may encourage others with the stories of answered prayer every day.

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



Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *'lencten'*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry.

Traditionally, Lent has been all about giving things up, and over the years people have given up all sorts of things like chocolate, sweets, deserts, and even more recently Facebook and other social media activities!

I think giving things up can be helpful if it focuses our thoughts and prayers on our preparation for the arrival of Easter.

But I don't believe that Lent should be a time for just giving things up, but also for taking things up!

Sometimes, I think when we really look at our lives and the time we spend with our Lord, we can often come to the conclusion that we've fasted all year since the last Lenten season, or even longer; fasting our prayer life, fasting our daily devotional time, fasting our tithing? So, my prayer for all of us, myself included, is that this Lenten season we would take some things up, and really prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus.

As we grow in our knowledge and personal relationship with Him, Easter will be a far greater experience for us as we commune and bring ourselves into His presence in this time of preparation and confession.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us; ¹⁶ *Rejoice always,* ¹⁷ ***pray continually,*** ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* '[NIVUK]

Every Blessing,

Revd Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services March 2025

2nd	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Maureen Gutteridge
9th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion
16th	11.00 a.m.	Local arrangement—10 O'clock Club Anniversary - Parade Service
23rd	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Paul Saunders
30th	<u>10.30 a.m.</u>	United Service at Highlands Methodist Church - Rev. Heather Simmons Mothering Sunday

Other March dates for your diary

1st	Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m. - 10 O'clock Club - Cake Stall, bits and bobs stall and toasted tea cakes
1st	St David's Day
4th	Shrove Tuesday
5th	Ash Wednesday
13th	There will be <u>NO</u> Thirsty For?? meeting this month.
17th	St. Patricks Day
22nd	Church Council meeting at 10.00 a.m.
27th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - all are welcome
30th	British Summer time - clocks go forward one hour
30th	Mothers Day - (Mothering Sunday)

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 March

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

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

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 9th March

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards -Jim Halstead & Neeltje Charles

Flowers - Anthea Meek in memory of Eleanor McGrath - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 16th March

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Mike / MIDI

Flowers - 10 O'clock Club - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 23rd March

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

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

Coffee/tea stewards Reserve & Margaret Bailey

Sunday 30th March - Mothering Sunday

United Service at Highlands Methodist Church

Advance Notice - Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, 17th April

United Service at Belfairs Methodist at 7.00 p.m.

Rev. Steve Mayo



Good Friday, 18th April

United Service at Wesley Methodist at 10.30 a.m.

Rev. Steve Mayo

Easter Day, 20th April

Service at Belfairs at 11.00 a.m.

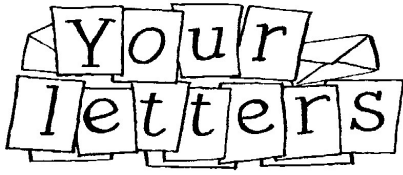
Ms Deborah Spinks

Easter Prayer & Praise Celebration Service at Belfairs at 6.30 p.m.

Circuit service including circuit worship band



Letters Page/Church family news



A very lovely Day!

On Sunday February 9th we were delighted to welcome Elly Austin and Len Pope into full membership of the Methodist Church. Both have been worshipping with us for some time and last year made the decision to formalise their membership. They had meetings with Rev. Steve to discuss their faith, and the Confirmation took place on Sunday.

They each chose their favourite hymn as part of the Service. They were each given a Pastoral Visitor, along with some gifts to commemorate the day.

We wish them every blessing, joy and happiness as they continue on their spiritual journey.



If anyone else feels they would like to do the same,
do speak to Rev. Steve

10 o'clock club news!

Over recent years we have been struggling with the number of young people attending and being able to recruit new members into the group. The leaders and parents have met with Reverend Steve and we have a plan!

We are going to trial a family 'Sunday school'! We propose one meeting each term and the dates are as follows: Sunday 6th April, Sunday 6th July and Sunday 5th October. The event will be from 3.00pm-4.30pm and will include worship, Bible stories, arts, crafts and refreshments! We want this to be a time for families to come together, learn together, worship together and create together!

Each meeting will have a 'theme' and Sunday 6th April will be a great way to start with Easter. We would ask that you support this new venture with your prayers, invite families who maybe live in your road or come along yourself!

We will evaluate after the first three meetings and happy to make changes that are needed or requested. We have the seeds we just need to scatter and sow for God's love to spread throughout our community.

10 O'clock Club Team

10 o'clock Club Coffee Morning

Our Coffee Morning this year is on Saturday 1st March between 10:00 and 12 noon. We will be serving Toasted Teacakes and we will have a cake stall and a "Bits & Bobs" stall.

We hope you will be able to come along and support and enjoy a good natter with friends. **All monies raised will be going towards this year's Youth Camp.**

Phil Gladman
10 o'clock Club Superintendent

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!

May God bless you

And keep you in his love

Reach out to you in need

Comfort you and guide you

Here and everywhere, Amen.

Ed.

Spring Concert featuring

Southend Band & West Leigh Boys' Choir



Sat 8th ²⁰²⁵ March 7 pm
Leigh Wesley Church
Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 1SJ

Tickets £10 (accompanied children free)
with refreshments afterwards

Disabled Access via ramp
Box Office: 01702 552668

Scan the QR code
for more details



Land & Nature

Psalm 24:1-2 (NIV) -The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters

Psalm 84:3 (NIV) Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young - a place near your altar, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

When churches manage land for nature, be it land owned by the church or land in the local community, they reinforce the whole mission of the church by caring for creation and serving the community - increasing access to nature for human wellbeing, building climate resilience and pointing people towards our Creator God.

-Through the Land and Nature category of the Eco Church survey, it is recognised that churches have a significant contribution to make to the UK government's target of 30% of the land protected for nature by 2030.

Be it land owned by the church, even if only around the church building itself, or land in the local community, churches need to manage land for nature. Caring for land reinforces the whole mission of the church, not only by protecting nature but also serving the community: increasing access to nature for human wellbeing; action for land-based climate resilience; and pointing people toward our Creator God. We are very blessed to have Belfairs Woods on our doorstep and Jan Andrews does a wonderful job of looking after our 2 shrub / flower borders that encourage wildlife.

-The Wildlife Trust explains that it's very hard to protect wildlife if you don't know much about it. Citizen science projects are a great way to learn more about our wonderful wildlife, at the same time as helping to protect it and, if you're on Facebook, our church page tries to share events that are going on in Belfairs Woods by the Essex Wildlife Trust. We may not have much land ourselves but, if you are able, you can volunteer to help Essex Wildlife Trust, to help maintain our local area of nature.

It is often difficult to give our support physically, health and time play an important role in whether we can offer our help. But we can, offer financial assistance, and Prayer goes a long way too. As a church we have given a small financial donation to both Essex Wildlife Trust and TrustLinks Charity which is a mental health charity that uses working with nature to help those who are struggling. I hope that this is a commitment that we, as a church, can continue, especially as we have so few members who can truly commit to helping physically.

The Eco Church site has lots of resources and reading material a) to help us at church, but also in our own gardens and local community area. <https://ecochurch.arochoa.org.uk/resources/land> Encourage native wildlife, birds, moths & butterflies, bats, bees and hedgehogs. Plants for pollinators or avoiding harmful chemicals. In fact, the Land & Nature section, on Eco church, has the largest number of resources of any of the categories. It's worth looking.

A Rocha UK's project, T25, is a project to help a range of declining species, taxonomic groups, and threatened habitats and I'm going to share more about this project, and see how Belfairs can get involved, in coming weeks / months.

Tina Gowers

Acting Eco Champion



Let's unite against litter

We're excited to announce that sign ups for **Spring Pickers 2025** are now open!

Last year, almost 500 individuals, businesses, schools, walking groups, litter-picking groups and other community groups across Essex took on the challenge of picking up **5 pieces of litter, every day for 10 days**.

This year, Spring Pickers will run from **10 - 19 March**, ready for spring's arrival on 20 March. 🌸

Grab your gardening gloves, bring your bags, find your fellow pickers and spring into action by signing up below.

[Join the challenge](#)

Sign up by 7 March to receive a **digital activity pack** before Spring Pickers begins.





Lingering effects of litter

Find out why discarded rubbish can be so harmful to our beloved wildlife.

[Read our blog](#)



Top tips for litter picking

Follow our 'how-to' guide to get ready for Spring Pickers on 10 March.

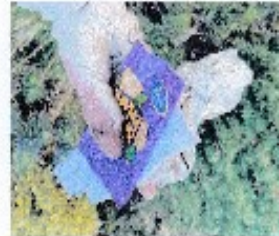
[How-to guide](#)



Litter picking events

Join forces with other Spring Pickers at one of our litter-picks across Essex.

[Find a litter pick](#)



Tackling pollution

Here's how Essex Wildlife Trust is fighting against plastic pollution.

[Find out more](#)

[Take part in spring picker](#)



© Essex Wildlife Trust: Registered charity number 210065

A little Poem for Seniors

Another year has passed and we're all a little older,
Last summer sure felt hotter and winter seems much colder.
There was a time not long ago when life was quite a blast,
Now I fully understand about "living in the past".
We used to go to weddings, football games and lunches,
Now we go to funeral homes and after-funeral brunches.
We used to go out dining and couldn't get our fill
Now we ask for doggie bags, come home and take our pill.
We used to often travel to places near and far
Now we get sore bottoms from riding in the car.
We used to go to nightclubs and drink a little booze,
Now we stay at home at night and watch the evening news.
That, my friend, is how life is and now my tale is told,
So enjoy each day and live it up.....
Before you're too damned old.

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.



Everything will happen for you all of a sudden and you'll be thankful you didn't give up.
Blessings are coming. Believe that.

Patience and Silence are two powerful energies.
Patience makes you mentally strong.
Silence makes you emotionally strong.

A parent will only ever be in 1 of 3 places:
In front of you to cheer you on,
Behind you to have your back,
Or next to you so you aren't walking alone.
This is the same with God.

Daughters are like boxes of chocolate,
You never know which one of their personalities they're going to give you next.

Always remember that your present situation is not your final destination. The best is yet to come.

You only live once.....
So choose to be happy. Love unconditionally.
Be good to yourself. Always be grateful.
Smile more.

A good friend is like a warm blanket on a cold day,
Offering comfort and security.

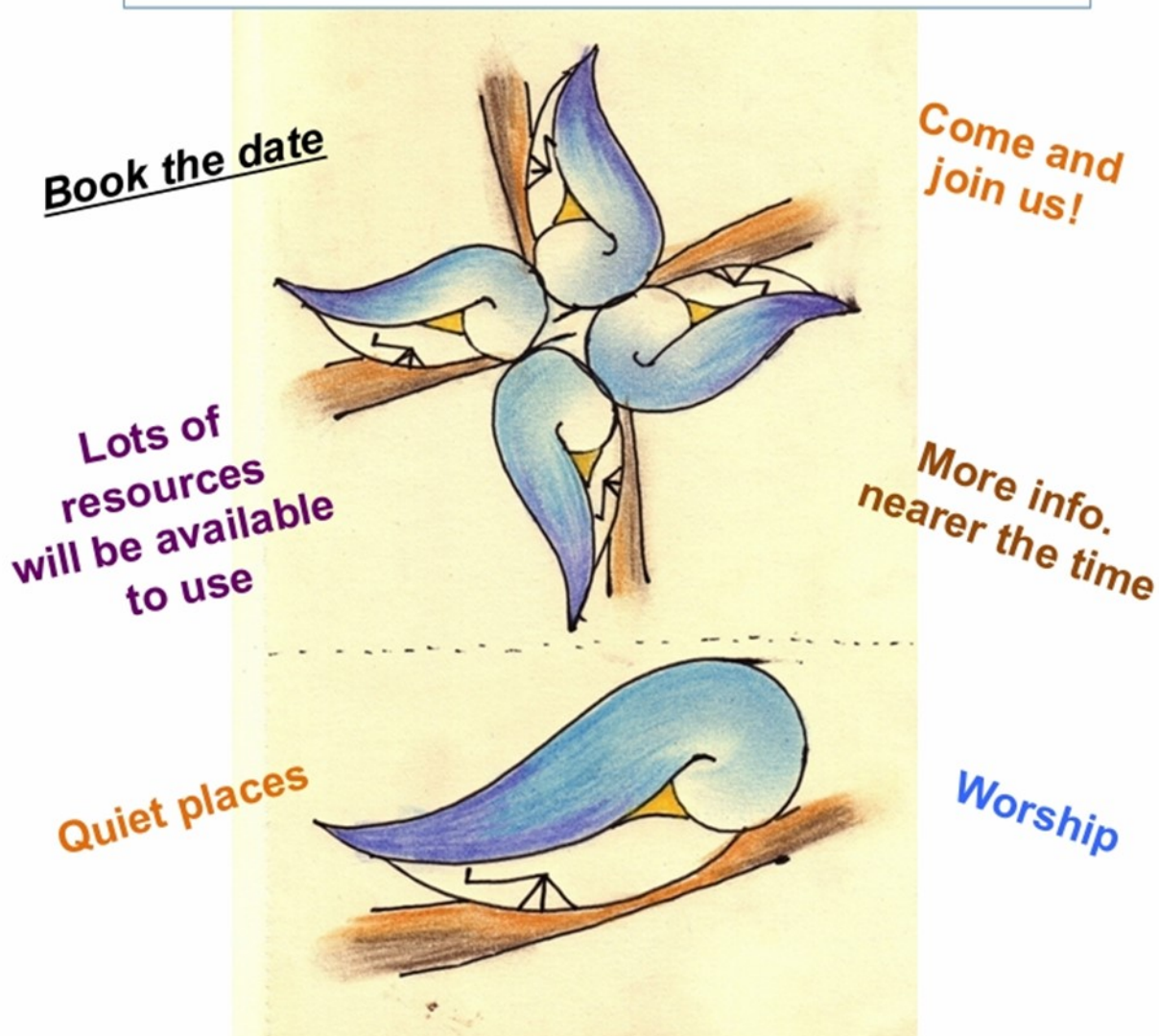
Being a good person does not depend on your religion,
status in life, race, skin colour, political views or culture.
It depends on how you treat others.

A hug to say I love you, A hug to say I care, A hug just to let you know, I will always be there.

It's okay to cheer for the kids who come in first, but always make sure to stay to cheer for those who finish last.
They ran the race too.

Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit
Quiet Day 10am - 2pm
Saturday 21st June 2025
Hadleigh Methodist Church

Theme: "In the Stillness"



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

