

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 232

May 2025

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If you do **NOT** want your name to be published, please advise the Editor when submitting the article.

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Thought for the month

Forgive us Lord,
For turning caring for your world into a competition
as to who is the best,
and for pursuing that rivalry with violence
that has broken your heart and damaged our earthly home.
Refashion weaponry as wind turbines,
repurpose bombs as bio-energy.
Recycle guns as green technology
as we seek peace and pursue it.
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 we step into the heart of spring, we are reminded of God's promise of renewal. The trees bloom, the days lengthen, and creation seems to sing of resurrection and hope. May is a month that mirrors the spiritual journey—where what was once dormant begins to flourish again.

This season, I encourage each of us to reflect on where God is calling us to grow. Maybe it's in deepening our prayer life, stepping into a new ministry, or simply trusting Him more fully in uncertain circumstances. Just as the earth responds to the sun and rain, our hearts respond to God's presence and His Word.

Scripture tells us in Proverbs 3:5-6; *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'* [NIVUK]

As we journey together through this season, may we be people of resurrection, bringing life, joy, and grace wherever we go. Let us sow seeds of faith and love, trusting that God will bring the harvest in His time.

Every blessing,

Revd. Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services May 2025

4th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. John Phillips
11th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion
18th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Parade Service
25th	11.00 a.m.	Local Arrangement

Other May dates for your diary

3rd	Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m.—Plant Sale, cakes, crafts, various stalls, including Bacon or Sausage in a roll in aid of Christian Aid
5th	Early May Bank Holiday
8th	There will be <u>NO</u> Thirsty For?? Café worship
11th	General Church Meeting after service - all are welcome
18th	Testimony service at Rayleigh Methodist Church for Rev Heather Simmons and Rev Agnes Sam
22nd	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - all are welcome
26th	Spring Bank Holiday

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 4th May

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

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

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 11th May

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards –Jim Halstead & Geoff Box

Flowers - Jan Andrews in memory of Colin and Veterans - arranged by Jan/Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 18th May

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Mike / Band/MIDI

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 25th May

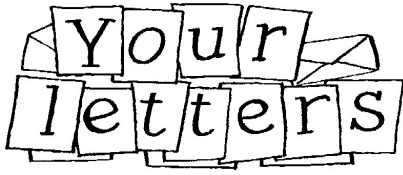
Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - A.C.T.I.O.N in memory of past members- arranged by Marion

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Letters Page/Church family news



Thank you everyone for the lovely Easter gift, a lovely surprise .

God bless

Happy Easter

Peggy Grant

Belfairs Methodist Church

Eastwood Road North



**COFFEE, CAKES
& PLANT SALE
10-NOON**



SATURDAY 3rd MAY

SUPPORTING

christian
aid



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11 - 17 MAY

For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. With generous support of churches they have been able to offer support to communities in crisis.

Tragically, so much that's been achieved is under threat. Climate change is destroying lives, lands and livelihoods of many communities. Extreme weather is ravaging farms and killing precious crops. Half of all children are chronically malnourished, leading to stunting that permanently affects both physical and mental development. These communities have done the least to cause climate change, yet they suffer the most. As farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical. The crops on which they depend, wither and die before their eyes. With the help from Christian Aid they are hopeful to combat extreme weather by planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertilisers.

During Christian Aid week, please help fund vital training and tools so these communities can escape hunger.

Envelopes will be distributed during Christian Aid Week.
Please be generous.

Neelje



PLANT SALE AND BRUNCH Sat. 3rd May 10am - 12noon In support of CHRISTIAN AID

On **Saturday 3rd May** there will be a **Plant Sale** at Belfairs which will include cake stalls and various other stalls as well as **Brunch** consisting of sausages or bacon (or both) in a roll.

If you have any good quality items to donate please bring them along to the church on **Friday 2nd May** between **11am - 1 pm**.

Looking forward to your support.

Neeltje



PLANT SALE

IN SUPPORT OF
CHRISTIAN AID

SAT 3rd MAY

10 am - 12 noon

CAKES, CRAFTS,
VARIOUS STALLS

INCLUDING

**BACON OR SAUSAGES
IN ROLLS**

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

11 - 17 MAY

Christian Aid supports people's rights, fighting poverty and injustice. They work for climate change injustice, challenging the structural causes of the climate crisis, and supporting farmers to increase resilience. **Christian Aid** offers humanitarian support when disasters strike, such as hurricanes and earthquakes.

I invite you to use the following daily devotionals, during Christian Aid week.

Sunday - *'Serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received.'*

(1 Peter 4 : 10)

Consider the gifts you've received. Pray over these with thanksgiving.

Loving God, Help us to serve one another, sharing gifts and talents. Fill us with generosity and compassion. Amen

Monday - *'Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.'* (Amos 5:4)

Today give thanks to God for life-sustaining water and make a commitment to act for justice.

Lord, you love justice and righteousness. As we quench our thirst for you in prayer, refresh our commitment to doing your will. In Jesus' name. Amen

Tuesday - *'The earth dries up and withers... The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant.'* (Isaiah 24:4-5)

Call upon the government to repair the damage caused by climate change?

Gracious God, the earth lies polluted. We have failed to care for your world. Forgive us. Give us strength to raise our voices and challenge the powerful. May we work together for the healing of creation. Amen

Wednesday - *'The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and live on it securely.'* (Leviticus 25:19)

Next time you're shopping or preparing a meal, take time to pray. Think of those who are worried about where their food will come from in future. Pray that we will see a time, when the voices of the marginalised will be heard and those who are hungry will eat their fill.

Holy Lord, feed our determination, and nourish our spirit. Sustain us as we put our faith into action.

Thursday - *'...Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and do good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another...'* (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Can you recall a time when you put your whole heart into something and use your passion to inspire others?

Jesus, give us tender hearts, make us encouragers. Fill us with compassion for our global neighbours. May we be inspired by passionate changemakers. Spur us on to do your work of love. Amen

...../2

Friday - *'This is my commandment, That you love one another, as I have loved you.'* (John 15:12)

How will you show love to those you meet today? What could you do to show love to your global neighbours?

Jesus, you love us beyond measure. Help us grow into your likeness, showing love to one another. Bless those facing an uncertain future. Open our eyes to the challenges our global neighbours face each day. Amen

Saturday - *'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'* (Romans 15:13)

Today, share the words of blessings from Romans with someone who matters to you. Consider what gives you hope and how you can put the gift into action.

God of Justice, Pour out your Spirit, that we may abound with hope. When we feel defeated, give us courage, and remind us that nothing is impossible with you. Amen

Neeltje

A.C.T.I.O.N.

Afternoon Club on Thursday In Our Neighbourhood

On Thursday 22nd May @ 2pm A.C.T.I.O.N. is pleased to welcome Mike and Sue Spaul for a musical afternoon. We are looking forward to their interpretation of music from the Carpenters, Seekers and other artists. I'm sure it will be a really enjoyable afternoon, so come along and bring a friend for a time of friendship and fellowship.

Neeltje

V.E.DAY 2025

V.E. Day was declared on May 8th 1945, celebrating the end of the Second World War in Europe.....it carried on the Far East until August 14th.



80 years on, at Belfairs, we want to acknowledge this event and will be installing a display in the foyer. In addition, Rev. Steve will be alluding to it in his service on May 11th and we hope to have a slice of V.E. Day Cake for everyone at the close of the Service, which coincides with the Church GCM. The recipe, orange and ginger, has been provided by the W.I. and designed by Nancy Birtwhistle, winner of The Great British Bake-off 2014, using methods of the times!



Can you help?

Have you any memorabilia, photos, cuttings etc. of the time you could lend for the display?

Have you any memories you could write for the May Newsletter?

Would you like to bake the cake? I can give you the recipe!



Please see Anthea or Jan if you can.

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 your young shoots grow under God's protection

And your buds unfurl in God's light

Your blossoms open to the warmth of God's love

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.





**UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH, HIGH STREET,
GREAT WAKERING**

**COME AND JOIN US
FOR A V.E. DAY
CELEBRATION**

**SATURDAY 10TH MAY AT
2.00 PM**

**TEA, ANECDOTES,
SING-A-LONG ETC.**



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Chalkwell Park Methodist
Corner of Eastwood Lane Stn. (off
Southbourne Gro.) & Kingsway SS0 9XF

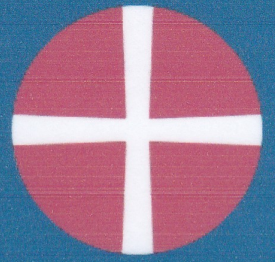
**Church Anniversary
Exhibition
'Gift of Colour'**

**Saturday 17th May
10 a.m. ~ 1 p.m.
Exhibition of Crafts
with light refreshments - free entry**

Shut your eyes and
think of the world in black and white
then open them and see
all the glorious colours around you.

chalkwellpark.co.uk

TESTIMONY SERVICE



REVD
**AGNES
SAM**



REVD
**HEATHER
SIMMONS**



**SUNDAY 18TH MAY
7.30PM**

**RAYLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH
78A EASTWOOD RD, SS6 7JP**





Thorpe Bay Methodist Church

Quiz Night

Saturday 17th May 2025
7.30 p.m. start

Tickets £5.00 each

Bring your own soft drinks
(no alcohol please) and nibbles

Make up your own team of 6 - 8
or come along and join with some others



To book telephone or text Judith Randall on 07742 705109
or contact Maria in the Church Office on 01702 589263
office@tbmchurch.org

In aid of Church Mission Funds

WESLEY THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS

When The Lights Go On Again

Wesley THEATRE GROUP

Afternoon Tea & Entertainment
to mark the 80th anniversaries of
VE Day & VJ Day

Sat 7th June
5pm

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

TICKETS: £10 **BOX OFFICE** **BUY** **WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK**
BOOKING ESSENTIAL **07813 553080** **ONLINE: /WESLEY-THEATRE-GROUP**

f X

Tribute to The Millions

80 years on



Let us remember those who selflessly gave their lives
at home and abroad, whose sacrifice enable us
to enjoy the peace and freedom we have today.

Let us remember those who came home wounded,
physically and mentally, and the friends
and family who cared for them.

Let us remember those who returned to restore
relationships and rebuild their working lives
after years of dreadful conflict and turmoil.

Let us remember the families that lost husbands,
sons and sweethearts,

Let us remember the servicemen, merchant seamen,
miners, brave civilians and others from Commonwealth
and Allied countries who fought and suffered
and died during those years of war.

Let us remember the reserved occupations
and brave people who kept us safe on the home front,
the doctors and nurses who cared for the wounded,
the women and men who toiled in the fields,
those who worked in the factories, who all played
such a vital role in the war effort at home.

[Sadly unable to acknowledge the author of this moving tribute from VE Day 2015]





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.**



Life is short
Spend it with people who make you laugh and
feel loved.

Life is like a book.
Some chapters are sad, some are happy and some are
exciting. But if you never turn the page, you will never
know what the next chapter holds.

The older you get the more you realize how precious life is. You
have no desire for drama, conflict or stress. You just want good
friends, a cozy home, food on the table and people who make you
happy.

The life in front of you is far more important than the life
behind you.

Friendship isn't about people who act true to your face. It's about
people who remain true behind your back.

Don't be disappointed if people refuse to help you. Remember the
words of Einstein:
"I am thankful to all those who said No. Because of them, I did it
myself.

With so many old trends coming back into style, I can't wait for
common sense, morals and intelligence to become cool again.

You can't start a new chapter if you're still reading the
same one. So let go of your past, because there is a better
and brighter chapter waiting for you.

Never forget that walking away from something unhealthy is brave,
even if you stumble a little on your way out the door.

Sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall
together.

Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit

Quiet Day 10am - 2pm

Saturday 21st June 2025

Hadleigh Methodist Church

Theme: "In the Stillness"

Book the date

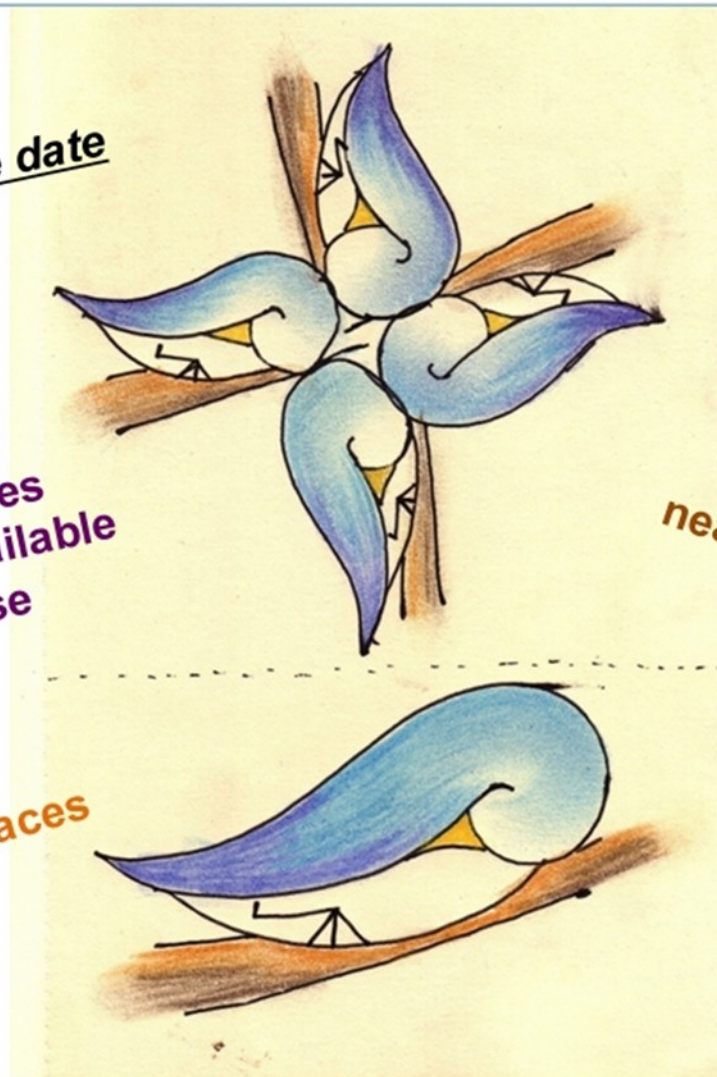
**Lots of
resources
will be available
to use**

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.**

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

June newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **18th May 2025**.

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