

# Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet  
and strangers feel at home



Issue 242

May 2026

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## Thought for the month

*Jesus walks with us in our sorrows, unrecognised.  
Christ touches us in our confusion, unexpected.  
Jesus burns within us in our longing, unseen.  
Christ sits with us in our loneliness, unknown.  
Jesus eats with us in our home, untroubled.  
Christ reveals through his hands and side.  
Sin undone and love unimaginable.  
Christ Jesus keeps us on life's journeys,  
Under the shelter of His love.*

*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](http://www.belfairsmethodistchurch.org.uk)





I often meet people who don't feel that they have anything to offer the church in way of gifts and talents; disheartened people who have very little hope and positivity about their role within God's church. I think its probably human nature to look at others and wish we had their gifts or talents. But God's has made us all individuals, all different, all for a purpose and necessary for the smooth working of the church. We are all important cogs in the workings of the church.

1 Corinthians 12:14-22 tells us; <sup>14</sup> *Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? <sup>18</sup> But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. <sup>19</sup> How strange a body would be if it had only one part! <sup>20</sup> Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." <sup>22</sup> In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary.* [NLT]

So, if you're feeling that you don't have a role or don't seem to fit in anywhere in church, then think again. YOU are important to God and to the smooth working of His church. You are a cog! Vital and important.

Take strength and encouragement from the reading above from 1 Corinthians, and find where you fit in your church. If you're struggling to find that place, then please fell free to contact me and we can have a conversation.

Every blessings,

*Revd. Steve*

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

## Sunday Services May 2026

3rd	11.00 a.m.	Mike Spaul and Phil Gladman
10th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion
17th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Paul Saunders - Parade Service
24th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Colin Turner
31st	11.00 a.m.	UNITED SERVICE AT FISHERMANS CHAPEL - Rev. Heather Simmons

## Other May dates for your diary



2nd	Plant Sale and Spring Fayre - various stalls and refreshments (see poster for more information)	
4th	Early May Bank Holiday	
10th	Annual Church Meeting after service - all are welcome to attend	
14th	There will be <b>no</b> Thirsty For?? Café style worship	
25th	Spring Bank Holiday	
28th	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 3rd May**

Sunday Steward - a.m. Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Sue and Mike Spaul/Midi Box

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

### **Sunday 10th May**

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole/Backing tracks

Communion Stewards – Neeltje Charles & Jim Halstead

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

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

### **Sunday 17th May**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Small band

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

### **Sunday 24th May**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Alan Pace

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

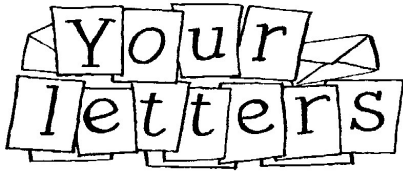
Flowers - V A C A N T - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards -Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

### **Sunday 31st May**

**United Service at Fishermans Chapel - Rev. Heather Simmons**

# Letters Page/Church family news



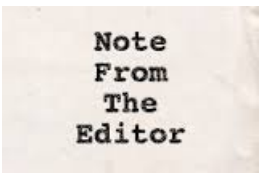
## Update on the alleyway conversion (phase 2).

Despite our initial investigations leading us to think that the alleyway conversion would be straightforward, following meetings with our builder and surveyor, it now seems that there are issues that we will need to address before this project can move on.

The critical windows in the fellowship hall are not fire compliant, the corridor itself would need fire doors fitted each end, revised ventilation would need to be considered for both the church and hall as access to natural ventilation would be restricted, and all the work in the end would need building regulations sign off and possible planning permission. This now means we are in conversation with a local architect to see how we can move forward with this project.

Unfortunately, if the overall costs become too excessive, we may need to rethink our plans and find another scheme that will work for the life of Belfairs. We will keep you all posted on developments and hopefully a more positive course of action can be shared with you in the future.

**Mike and Sue Spaul (on behalf of the 'Tomlin' project).**



**Note  
From  
The  
Editor**

Please note the last day for items for the June newsletter is **Sunday 17th May** as the June edition will be issued on 24th May as there is a united service at Fishermans Chapel on 31st May,

## 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!

**M**ay your young shoots grow under God's protection

**A**nd your buds unfurl in God's light

**Y**our 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.



## Beautiful Words

“Fall” has 4 letters, but so does “Rise”.

“Curse” has 5 letters, but so does “Bless”.

“Ignore” has 6 letters, but so does “Listen”.

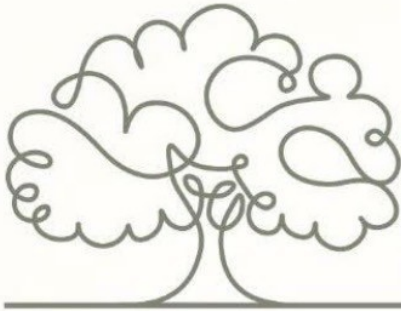
“Enemies” has 7 letters, but so does “Friends”.

“Immature” has 8 letters, but so does “Maturity”.

“Ignorance” has 9 letters, but so does “Knowledge”.

“Negativity” has 10 letters, but so does “Positivity”.

Ed.



Belfairs Methodist Church  
Eastwood Road North.  
Leigh-on-Sea.  
SS9 4NG



# Spring Fayre & Plant Sale!

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

10am - 12pm

in aid of

Christian Aid

& Church Funds



Rayleigh Methodist Church  
Testimony Service for

**REV STEVE MAYO**

Preacher

Deacon Sarah McDowall

Sunday 7th June 4PM

Rayleigh Methodist Church  
78a Eastwood Road  
Rayleigh SS6 7JP

Car parking is available at the Church



Support Pollinators! Nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But these precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20th May is World Bee Day, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators.

Read more about bees, butterflies and habitats that support them in A Rocha UK's Target 25 resources. Sow a pollinator-friendly seed mix, make or buy a bee hotel, let some wildflowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides. Pray that our pollinator populations will increase.

<https://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25/>

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-bee-day/>

Tina Gowers



British Heart Foundation Coffee/Bazaar June 6<sup>th</sup>

### “HEARTS and CRAFTS” STALL

#### CAN YOU HELP????

Do you knit, sew, paint, create in any way?



Could you consider a heart themed craft creation?



There's time to get into action!!

Please give to Anthea or Alix any time from now until June so we have a wonderful array of “hearts and crafts”!!

## Thank you!



**BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER**

**ANTHEA and ALIX'S ANNUAL  
COFFEE MORNING AND MINI BAZAAR**

**in aid of**

**THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION**

**is on**



**SATURDAY JUNE 6th**

**From 10.00-12.00**



**A TOMBOLA ....from basics to luxuries.  
A CAKE STALL..... always delicious  
“HEARTS & CRAFTS” .....from scarves to bunting  
A BOOK STALL ....anything from Ladybirds to Dickens  
A PLANT STALL.....last chance to stock up for summer**

**And SOME PRIZES, GAMES AND PUZZLES ?????**

**If you could contribute to any of the stalls, boxes will be in  
the vestry as soon as the May Fayre is over.**

**Please support this worthy cause!!!**



## Me? Behave? Seriously?

As a kid, I watched:



Tarzan running around nearly naked,



Cinderella sneaking home after midnight,



Pinocchio lying non stop,



Aladdin stealing everything,



Batman speeding at 200 mph



Unmarried Snow White living with 7 guys,



Popeye smoking a pipe with tattoos,



Pac-man eating pills to enhance his performance while listening to techno,



And Shaggy and Scooby solving mysteries while constantly chasing munchies!

The fault is not mine!

Ed.

Life becomes more meaningful when you realize the simple fact that you will never get the same moment twice.

Life is too short, Hug a little longer  
Love a little stronger, forgive a little sooner  
And smile a little sweeter.

To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or prefer, you just have to care.

A smile is a sign of joy  
A hug is a sign of love  
A laugh is a sign of happiness  
And a friend like me ..... well.... that's a sign of good taste.

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" she asked. "Hunting flies," he replied. "Oh, killed any?" she said. "Yep, 3 males, 2 females," came the answer. Intrigued, the wife asked, "How can you tell them apart?" Husband: 3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

Two things I know for sure:  
Struggling doesn't last for ever and God is always on time. Amen

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with very limited memory, just 1 byte, and everything crashed.

You are strong when you know your weaknesses.  
You are beautiful when you appreciate your flaws  
You are wise when you learn from your mistakes.

God is working things out, even when you don't feel it. Have faith.  
Be thankful. Where faith and hope grows, miracles happen.

Most people are at the age where they use their phones to document the good times in their lives. I'm at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels that I can't read and use my phone to enlarge the print.

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)

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

**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

#### **June newsletter:**

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **17th May 2026.**

Articles can be e-mailed to [sue.spauill@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sue.spauill@hotmail.co.uk) or placed in the newsletter box in the front foyer. Thank you