

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 227

November 2024

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Thought for the month

Game-changing God

Turn our 'we are weary' into 'we are ready'
Turn our 'we are fearful' into 'we are faithful'
Turn our cry for help into a call to hope.

Amen

BRF book of 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



I'm really not a big fan of this time of year. The days are getting shorter, the weather colder, trees are losing their leaves and the outlook is pretty bleak as we tumble on towards the shortest day of the year.

I think, at times, life can leave us with very similar feelings; darkness can seem to surround us and the cold reality of life comes upon us as a harsh winter, sometimes even cutting us to the bone.

But in creation there is a promise of new life. Even as the trees drop their leaves, already we see evidence of new life in the form of fresh buds; a promise and a hope of things to come.

As we look forward in our lives, we also have a promise of new things to come. Isaiah 43:18-19a says; ¹⁸ *'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.* ¹⁹ *See, I am doing a new thing!* [NIVUK]

Here we have the opportunity to either look back at what has been, or to look forward with a freshness to what is still to come.

And as we step out into this new fresh future, we don't step out alone. Jesus Himself says in Matthew 28:20b; ^{20b} *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* [NIVUK]

So let us step out in confidence knowing that our Saviour, our living hope, walks with us into a bright, new tomorrow.

Blessings,

Revd Steve

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Sunday Services November 2024

- 3rd 11.00 a.m. Mr. John Phillips
- 10th **10.45 a.m.** Rev. Steve Mayo - Remembrance Sunday - Holy communion
- 17th 11.00 a.m. Mr. Neil Keeble - Parade Service - Boys Brigade Rededication Service
- 24th 11.00 a.m. Mr. Mike Spaul

Advance Notice

8th December 5.00 p.m. - Circuit Service - 'Modern Christmas Songs of worship' accompanied by the circuit worship band, followed by refreshments.

Other November dates for your diary

- 2nd Coffee morning at 10.00 a.m. - Boys Brigade
- 5th Guy Fawkes Night
- 11th Remembrance Day
- 14th Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome.
- 16th Extra Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.- Pam and John Plummer (please see article for
more information)
- 28th A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - All are welcome
- 30th 'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' Southend Brass Band 5.30p.m.-7.30 p.m.
Tickets available from any of the stewards

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 November

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

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

Coffee/tea stewards a.m. Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 10th November

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole/MIDI

Communion Stewards - Jim Halstead & Geoff Box

Flowers - Pat Pace in memory of loved ones - arranged by Pat

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 17th November

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Mike or MIDI

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 24th November

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul

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

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Letters Page/Church family news

Your letters

Peggy Grant would like to say a huge thank you for her lovely plant and kind thoughts for her birthday. Everyone is so thoughtful.

Kim (Peggy's daughter)

Note From The Editor

Please note that the next edition of the Belfairs Newsletter will be for the combined months of

December and January. The closing date for items for this edition is 17th November.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Sue

Margaret Tomlin 1934-2023



In 1967 the 1st Belfairs Girls Brigade started here at Belfairs Methodist Church by Margaret Tomlin. Margaret ran the company with the help of two other officers and some helpers until 1980 when she stepped away from her lead role. After some restful years away from Girls Brigade, although always an avid supporter in person and prayer, she came back into company having just celebrated her 80th birthday, as we were in need of some extra helping hands. This also entailed buying some jeans and trainers to 'fit in' with the other leaders and helpers. The company continues strongly in the capable hands of Andrea Clarke. At the joint awards evening on Wednesday 23rd October, Andrea had arranged for a new cup to be presented in memory of Margaret and I was given the privilege of presenting this new trophy in memory of my Mum.

Mum was immensely proud of all the girls and leaders in the company and would feel very honoured to be remembered in this way. I am incredibly grateful to Andrea for arranging this so her legacy lives on in this new award.

Sue Spaul

November 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!

N ever leave us wherever we go

O ldest and gentlest friend, dear God

V ery great be God's faith in us

E verlasting the light of God for us

M orning by morning God renew our hope

B e our strength drawn from the power of God

E very day and everywhere

R eceive our thanks.

Ed.

EXTRA!!!!!!

Coffee Morning
Saturday 16th November 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m.

Pam and John are organising a coffee morning, as above, to raise funds for the Church and South Essex Motor Neurone Disease Association.



The plan is to run a few stalls, if possible. Any help, on the day, would be very welcome.

So, please put the date in your diaries. Then come along to view the wares, whilst enjoying a coffee and a mince pie.

Pam and John Plummer



**Church
Fundraising**

A very big **THANK YOU** to all who supported the MacMillan Coffee morning, by helping on the morning, donating cakes and other items to sell and for all those who came and bought the cakes and drank tea and coffee and had fun, food and fellowship in the Belfairs way.

The magnificent sum of **£931.30** was raised for this amazing charity.

Mike & Sue Spaul



When days of sadness seem to swallow you whole
And feelings of depression kick at your soul,
Here is some advice from sufferer to another
Do not fight this emotional war— learn to take cover!
Always wrap around you the people you love
Family, friends and our Father above.
Surround yourself with warmth, beauty and calm
These feelings will pass, so do not be alarmed
Light always shines at the end of dark tunnels
No matter your heartaches, illness or troubles
For our heavenly God created us to be strong and resilient
To shine like him, so wonderfully brilliant.
Be strong my friend and hold on fast
For the troubles you have will all soon pass.

Supplied by Sylvia Smith



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.



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas with The Southend Band

*An informal entertainment of Carols &
Seasonal Singalongs with a Brass Band
Admission by Ticket Only – £5 each*
(light refreshments included)*



Saturday 30th November 2024

Starts 5.30pm (ends around 7.30pm)

Belfairs Methodist Church (Rear Hall†)

EASTWOOD ROAD NORTH SS9 4NG

* **Box Office: mike.spaul@hotmail.co.uk** † **access via car park**



BELFAIRS CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 7th December 10am- 1pm

Please note this date in your diaries.

There will be various stalls and refreshments including Bacon or Sausages in rolls will be available.

I will be leaving a list of suggested stalls in the foyer so if you feel you can help man one of these please add your name.

Naturally I will also need help on Friday between 11am- 2pm to set up the stalls. If you have any items to donate, please can you bring them along on Friday 6th December between 11am- 2pm.

Apart from raising much needed funds for the church coffers, the Christmas Fayre provides a great opportunity to open the doors to people from the community so a chance to reach out to strangers.

Looking forward to your support.

Neeltje Charles



Happy is the one who learns to wait as he prays and never loses his patience. God's time is the best time.

Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start now and make a brand new ending.

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

God is never late. We're just impatient.

A child is like a butterfly in the wind, some can fly higher than others, but each one flies the best it can. Why compare one against the other? Each one is different! Each one is special! Each one is beautiful!

If you can't get someone off your mind, pray for them. You might be the only one who cares enough to do so. Amen.

The longer the tea bag sits in the cup, the stronger the tea. The longer you sit in God's word, the stronger your faith.

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too
I walked around the corner and someone saw me grin
When he smiled I realized I had passed it on to him.
I thought about the smile and then realized its worth
A single smile like mine could travel round the earth
So if you feel a smile begin don't leave it undetected
Start an epidemic and get the world infected.

Spike Milligan

When you UNDERSTAND that God is never late, you wait DIFFERENTLY.

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. (1st Sunday of the month)

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

December/January newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **17th November 2024.**

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