

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 237

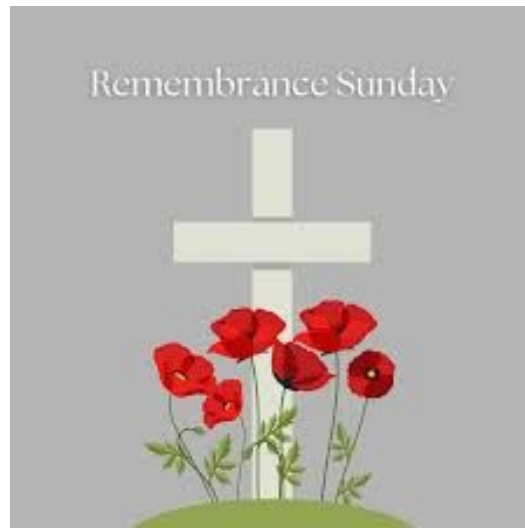
November 2025

Minister:

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

Editor:

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



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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

God of resurrection and hope
As once again the last post sounds on this Remembrance Day
And we name all those who have died before their time
In wars and pandemics
Help us also to look forward to the sound of the last trumpet
That will awake the dead
And will welcome us and them into everlasting life
Through Christ our Lord. 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



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 sometimes 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.

And 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 could be.

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 walks with us into a bright, new tomorrow.

Every blessing,

Rev'd. Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services November 2025

2nd	11.00 a.m.	Local arrangement - Mr. Phil Gladman
9th	<u>10.45 a.m.</u>	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion
16th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Sam Monaghan - Parade Service including Boys Brigade re-dedication service
23rd	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Paul Saunders
30th	11.00 a.m.	UNITED SERVICE AT WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Other November dates for your diary

1st	Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m.
5th	Guy Fawkes Night
11th	Remembrance Day
13th	Thirsty For?? Café worship at 7.00 p.m. - All are welcome
16th	Light lunch after service, please put your name on the list in the front foyer if you wish to attend
27th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - all are welcome
29th	Southend Brass Band ' it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas again' (Tickets available from any of the stewards, or see poster for further information.)
30th	St. Andrew's Day

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 November

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Sue and Mike Spaul

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 9th November

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Backing tracks

Communion Stewards – Neeltje Charles & Dawn Howard

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

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 16th November

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Small band

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 23rd November

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

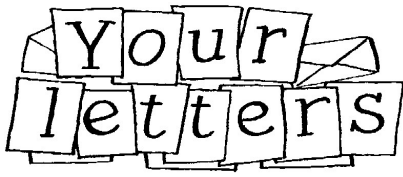
Musician a.m. - Midi box

Coffee/tea stewards Margaret Bailey & Sue Spaul

Sunday 30th November

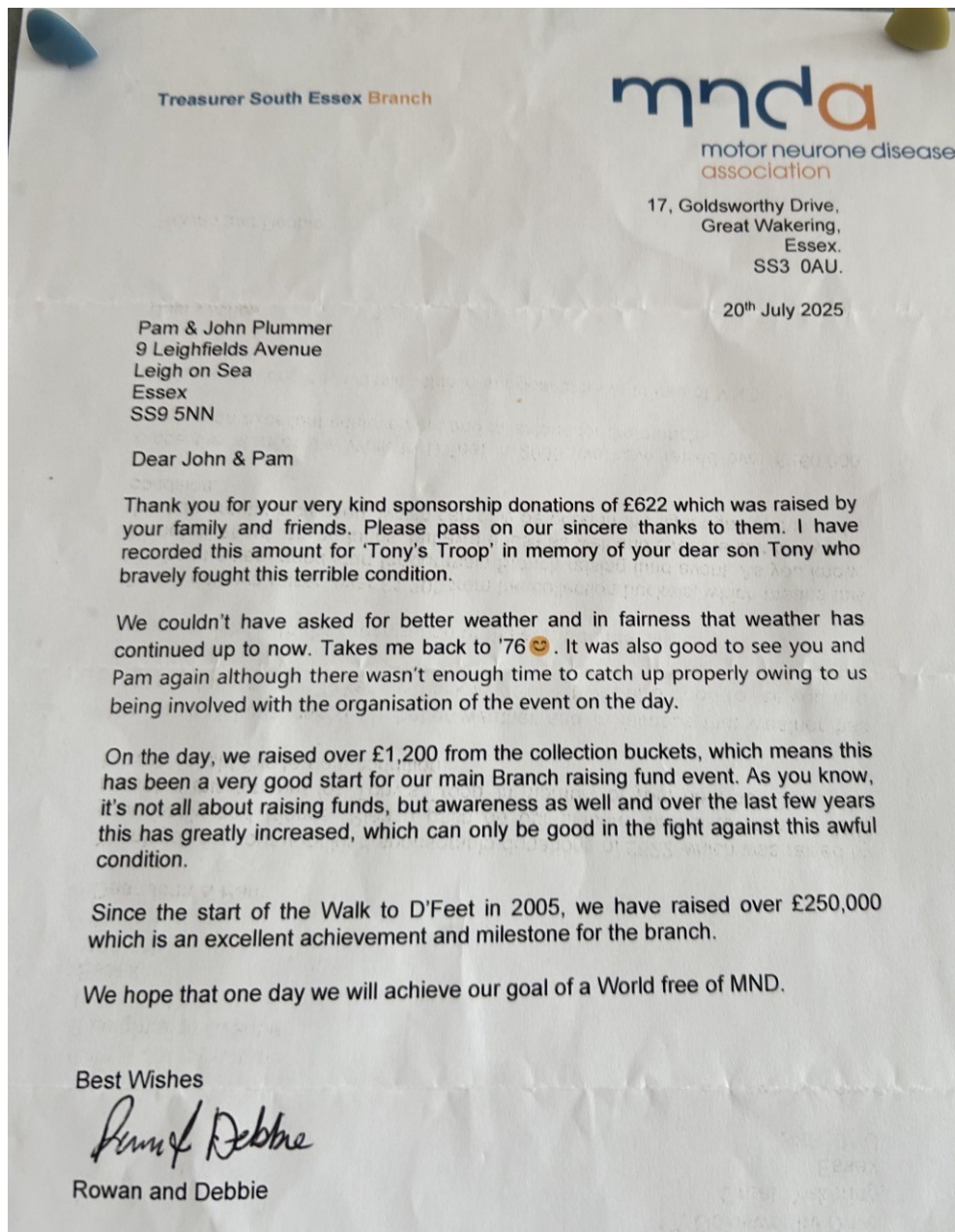
UNITED SERVICE AT WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Letters Page/Church family news



Coffee Morning Saturday 4th October in aid of Motor Neurone Disease Association

Pam, John and Steven wish to thank everyone who made it such a successful morning for the local Association for MND. We are so grateful for the contribution of time, lovely cakes and financial donations. This all helped to raise £350 toward the cost of equipment and services for local people suffering with MND.



Letters Page/Church family news cont.d/2

Poppies for the PierLest we forget.

As you probably know, Southend plans to install a display of poppies all along the Pier to honour Remembrance Day. Thousands of poppies have been knitted or crocheted by local people as well as many from further afield. Some of our congregation have contributed, and last



week Margaret and I went to Kent Elms Library to help sew some onto the garlands from which they will hang. It should be spectacular. Do watch out for them throughout the Remembrance period as I think they will be world famous!!

Anthea Meek

Choir Practice

We will be rehearsing for our Carols by Candlelight service on Sunday 21st December at 4.00 p.m. and would welcome anyone who would like to join us to celebrate our Saviour's birth.

The rehearsal dates are as follows:

Friday 5th December at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 12th December at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 19th December at 7.00 p.m. (including mince pies)

If you have any questions regarding the choir please speak to Mike Spaul.



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!

Now may the blessing of God be upon you

Over you may his rainbow shine the promise of peace

Vaster than oceans, God's grace to you

Even deeper than space, God's peace

May God bless you and

Be for you a rock of refuge

Every moment of every day

Rich be God's blessings upon you.

Ed.

Personal Safety

The Belfairs Methodist Church Council take your safety very seriously. We have recently taken actions to ensure this by reviewing the Safeguarding Policy, the Health & Safety Policy and various other policies and carried out risk assessments. We have also ensured that several of our members have undergone Emergency First Aid at Work training and Fire Marshall training.

HOWEVER, you also have a responsibility for yours, and others, safety. **Please.....**

1. Ensure you know where the Fire Alarm points are – you might be the one to discover a fire!
2. Ensure you know where all the Fire Exits are, and the Routes – one may be blocked by fire!
3. If you need assistance, **ASK** – we won't leave you behind!
4. Know that the meeting point is outside the Launderette.
5. If you feel unwell, tell someone.
6. If you come across an emergency (be it fire or someone unconscious) call 999.
7. If you are worried about any Safeguarding issues, please report it.

Keep Safe!

Belfairs Church Council



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 (again!)

*An informal entertainment of Carols &
Seasonal Singalongs with a Brass Band*

with The Southend Band

Admission by Ticket Only – £5 each
(light refreshments included)*



© David Humell 2025

Saturday 29th November 2025

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 6th December 10am - 1pm



As most of you will know, Belfairs Christmas Fayre will soon be here.

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

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to help running stalls. Without your help, we would not be able to have the Fayre.

Naturally I will also need help on Friday before the event between 11am - 2pm to set up the stalls.

If you have any items to donate, like books, cakes, toys, bric@brac, new or nearly new clothing and tombola stuff, please can you bring them along on Friday 5th 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



Advance Notice - Christmas Cards

Once again the Christmas Post Box will be available in the foyer from 30th November for you to send cards to members and friends who attend Belfairs.

The cards will be sorted and available for collection after the morning service on Sunday 21st December. Please make sure that you only send cards to people who attend Belfairs, as we regret we cannot deliver cards for you. The cards, when sorted, can be collected from the tables in the foyer and we would ask you to check to ensure that your cards are collected. Perhaps you could make a donation in the offertory bag of a percentage of the savings made by sending your cards this way.

There will also be a board in the foyer where you can place one greeting card for ALL your friends at church. You will find envelopes provided for your donation to Little Havens which will enable you to not only remember your friends but to support this charity. **Please put your envelopes in the Sunday Collection - DO NOT** leave it on the board in the foyer.



PRAISE AND PLAY

Playful worship for under 5s

Fridays (once a quarter)

7 November 2025, 6 February 2026,

8 May 2026, 7 August 2026

09.15am-09.45am

Followed by refreshments in the cafe



At Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ

www.wesleymethodist.org.uk



Once again, this Christmas, we want to support **Little Havens** with some much-needed financial giving.

Little Havens provides specialist care and support for babies, children and young people living with complex or incurable conditions, from Essex and the surrounding boroughs.

They offer care and support for each child or young person, and their whole family, in their homes and at their hospice in Rayleigh, Essex.

This year it will cost **£50,519** to provide one week of care at Fair Havens or Little Havens.

They must raise over £207,000 each week to be there for everyone who needs them. Every gift, no matter how large or small, means so much to the families they care for.

Please put your donation in an envelope, marked Little Havens, and either give to a Steward or place in the weekly offering bag.

As the song goes;

"The greatest Gift they'll get this year is Life."

Many thanks

Leadership Team

You're invited to
“Modern Christmas
songs of worship”

Thursday 11th December 2025 Belfairs
Methodist Church at 7.00p.m.



Led by the Circuit worship band
and others from across the circuit.

All are welcome to join us,
refreshments to follow.

Dear God, I come before you at this moment. Please enlighten what is dark in me, Strengthen what is weak in me, Mend what is broken in me, and revive whatever peace and love that has died in me. This prayer is for me, my family, my friends and even those who hate me. Amen

No matter what you are going through today Don't quit. Don't feel defeated. You are doing the best you can. Remember, giving up is not who you are. You may pause, take a long breath, pivot or find solutions, but, always keep going!

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 has in store for you.

Life doesn't allow us to go back and fix what we have done wrong in the past, but it does allow us to live each day better than our last.

Always notice the people who are happy for your happiness, and sad for your sadness. They are the ones who deserve special places in your heart.

There are friends, there is family, and then there are friends who become family.

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

Yes, I'm a Christian. Yes, I make mistakes. Yes, I fail. Yes, I struggle. But I'm God's mess. And God can turn a mess into a masterpiece.

If laziness were an Olympic sport, I would come in 4th just so I wouldn't have to walk up to the podium.

Thank you God, I don't have a luxurious house, yet I can still find shelter from the storm. There are nights when I struggle to sleep, but I still wake up to face a new day. My wallet may not be filled, but I am still provided for with food and clothing. I may not have everything I want, but I have everything I need. God, I am grateful to You for this. Amen.

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

December/January newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **23rd November 2025.**

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