

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 2017

October 2023

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Thought for the month

Always do you best
What you plant now
You will harvest later

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



Autumn is now upon us and we thank God for giving us a good summer this year (albeit a little late!), for the warmth of the sun and the beautiful blue skies; and we celebrate all these wonderful gifts from God through our Harvest Festivals which we celebrate in our churches at this time of year; decorating them which produce and provisions from God himself.

But rapidly advancing upon us is the 'busy season' when it is so easy to get stressed with shopping for Christmas, then there's tidying the garden and preparing it for next spring etc. and we forget that God gave us a season for everything, not just seasons of varying weather, but seasons of life.

We will all experience times of joy and happiness, but also times of hardship, perhaps an illness affecting ourselves or someone in our family. We might feel angry with God for something which goes wrong or when someone dies, particularly at a young age. People ask "Why has God done this?" Please be assured God does not single out anyone to hurt, annoy or embarrass them. Things go wrong in our bodies. Sometimes we know why, but often we don't, and the medical profession can't always give us the answer.

If you are reading this and are feeling that life's not good just now, remember that Jesus came to give us God's promise that eventually we will have eternal life with him if we believe; an eternity where *'there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.'* [Revelation 21:4, NIV]

Being Christian though, is not *just* about having reassuring, comfortable thoughts about the next life, it's also about today.

Life is hard and believing is not an insurance policy or a promise that life will be easy and plain sailing. But we are promised that when difficult times come, God is with us. Isaiah 43:1-3a says;

*But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you,
he who formed you: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine."²
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.' [NIV, adapted]*

So, remember, no matter what happens over this next season, and beyond, God *is* with us, and walks along side us.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

Email: pastorstevemayo@gmail.com

Tel: 01702 483827

Sunday Services October 2023

1st	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Eileen Simmons
8th	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Steve Mayo - Harvest
15th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Sanya Strachan - Parade Service
22nd	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Pete Moorhouse - Holy Communion
29th	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Steve Mayo - United Service at Belfairs

Other October dates for your diary

7th	Coffee morning at 10.00 a.m. followed by Harvest lunch (please see poster for further details)
12th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome
26th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m.

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 1st October

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul/Midi Box

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Ann Kendall

Sunday 8th October

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Sue Spaul in memory of her Dad - arranged by Margaret

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope/Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 15th October

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician - Anthea & Mike Spaul

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 22nd October

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul/Midi Box

Communion Stewards - Neeltje Charles & Dawn Howard

Flowers - Dawn and family in memory of Dave - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

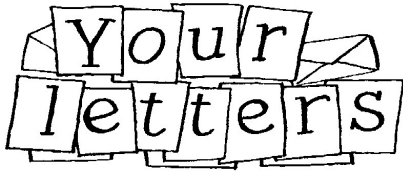
Sunday 29th October

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole or MIDI

Coffee/tea stewards Anthea Meek & Jan Andrews

Letters Page/Church family news



EMERGENCY CONTACT FORMS

From time to time we ask that you complete an emergency contact form so that we have a way of contacting someone for you, should we need to. These proved invaluable during lockdown. Some of you completed one 3 years ago, but it may need updating. Others of you never did. So please take this opportunity to do so. All forms are kept in the safe and no details are passed on unless an emergency requires it.

It is, of course, entirely voluntary.

There is a form in this Newsletter (at the back), and a stock of them at the back of the Church. I do think it's a good idea.

Anthea Meek [Pastoral Secretary]

ELWYN ROBERTS

You will know that Elwyn has recently died. He was a staunch member of Belfairs and served as a Senior Steward, Pastoral Visitor and a great supporter of the marginalised. He also had a great sense of humour!

We contacted his daughter Sian with a view to sending flowers or a donation to his Funeral, but she suggested we made a donation in his memory to HARP, as he was always keen to support this charity.

The Church is certainly happy to do this, and as we always support HARP at Harvest time, it seemed like an opportunity to ask if you would like to add to this at the same time. If you remember Elwyn and would like to contribute, please put money in an envelope marked "Elwyn" or use the bank transfer system and identify the transaction as "Elwyn".

Thank you. [The Leadership Team]

HARVEST LUNCH

SATURDAY 7th October 2023
12.30p.m.



**We are offering a lunch to welcome in the harvest
and the proposed menu is:**

Thick vegetable soup and roll.

Cheese & onion quiche or Ham salad, new potatoes.

Apple crumble and custard or ice cream.

Cost £10 per head (pay on the day).

**All profits going to purchase of food for HARP
(Southend Homeless appeal)**

**If you would like to attend, please add your name to
the list in the foyer or let Sue Spaul know
as soon as possible as spaces are limited.**

"3 YEARS TO CLOSURE!!!" This is no joke!"

Our finances did quite well this past year as we only overspent by £2,750, much better than in recent years. However, we will not get any help with our utility bills this year and our reserves are under £9,000 so we could still run out of money in the next 3 years, especially if we need to do any major repairs and maintenance.

Our circuit assessment for 2023/24 is £33,060. With 56 members and 29 on our community roll (total 85) that equates to £388.95 per person, per year / £7.48 per person per week or £32.42 per person, per month for those who pay by monthly standing order.

Our **TOTAL** annual expenditure for 2022/23 was **£95,672** (less than recent years) which works out at £1,125.55 per person, per year or £93.80 per month. Thankfully, we can raise some income from outside lettings and general fund raising however, like everyone, Belfairs is feeling the pinch.

How can I help?

The beginning of the Methodist year is always a good place to look at your own personal finances and see if there is any way that you can increase your giving to Belfairs.

If you cannot afford money, maybe you could help out in other ways i.e., hosting an extra coffee morning, organising a fund-raising event or arranging with 2 or 3 other people to fund raise.

Some people have ideas but no time to implement them, others have time but no money, some have money but no ideas or organisational skills. We all have something to give if we can work together.

There's also another huge way that you can help Belfairs – a **LEGACY**. If you are able, could you leave something to us in your Will? Sometimes it's a set amount and other times it is a percentage of your estate. If you own your own home, and it was worth £300,000, just 10% of the estate would be £30,000 which is a huge amount for us and still leaves 90% for family etc. Ensure that you specify Belfairs Methodist Church, otherwise we won't get it.

If you are in a very good financial position now, how about a **LIVING LEGACY**? That is when someone gives us the money now but has the added advantage of being able to Gift Aid if you're a taxpayer which, if you have that amount to donate now, you probably are. £10,000 gift aided becomes £12,500 and you have the added benefit of knowing that the taxman didn't keep your money.

We have enough money for 3 more years.....this is no joke. So, pray about this and think of what we can all do to avoid this.

Malachi 3:10 says; *'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the flood-gates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.'* [NIV]

When we give to God, he gives to us in abundance. God bless.

Tina



South Essex Motor Neurone Disease Association

Coffee Morning on 5th August 2023 to raise funds for South Essex Motor Neurone Disease Association

Once again, a huge thank you to members and friends of Belfairs who made this event, such a success.

We are so grateful, to both Sue and Margaret, for the ingredients, time and effort expended in making the lovely cakes and pastries. Also, the additional food item, donated by Marian - Rhubarb! Thanks to all who gave up their time to attend, help and generously donate.

The sum raised, including a few family donations, eventually reached a staggering £330.00.

As mentioned, in the past, all donations will be distributed, by the local volunteers in South Essex MND, by way of care and equipment, serving those who are affected locally, by MND.

All our love

Pam, John and Steven.



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.



Walk to D'feet MND Sunday 14th May 2023



It's just past 9am, on a very murky Sunday morning. We are back this year, in familiar territory, at our original starting point, behind Leigh Station.

About 130 of us decked out in our blue and orange regalia, clutching water bottles, not sure whether to don jackets and scarves. All ready to pound the tarmac, to continue raising awareness of Motor Neurone Disease, whilst raising much needed funds for patient care and support.

Off we set, at 10am. Our group numbers six, but stretches in age, from 4yrs to 77yrs. All adults were very eager to display their commitment to the cause and answer questions, from little Albie, about why we were walking and when were we going on the beach.

After lots of walking, plenty of interesting discussion and conversation, several stops for rest and drinks and a rescue of one of our party, who slipped off the Chalkwell footpath, we arrived at the Kursaal.

This was the 4 mile stage. At this point, the sun was shining brightly. After a group discussion, on how we each felt, some decided that was enough and the others continued on.

Later, we all met up in Leigh Old Town for eats and drinks. We compared notes and distances walked were between 4 and 8 miles, with one group member completing the 10 miles.

On the latest count, the sum raised, by our group, for South Essex Motor Neurone Disease Association, stands at £780.

Thanks, so much, to our family/friends and, of course, our friends, at Belfairs, for their continuing support and generosity.

This will enable the Association, to continue their crucial work with local people suffering from MND.

Love from Pam, John and Steven.

(Sorry for the late inclusion of this article, an oversight on my part) Ed.

As in previous years, we will be supporting the Southend Family Centres this Christmas. By providing the Family Centres with Tesco and Amazon vouchers, it enables them to give needy families, vouchers for them to spend on food, clothes, childrens' toys, household goods etc. These vouchers last them all year so that they can provide these vouchers as and when they need too. People are referred throughout the year, sometimes in just the clothes they have on, especially if they are escaping domestic abuse.

As they like to have the vouchers at the beginning of December, so that they can start to distribute them for Christmas, we are going to start collecting now.

You can either put cash into an envelope, marked Family Centres, and put in the collection bags or you can do a bank transfer.

Bank details are:

Belfairs Methodist Church

52-10-30

13662759

Ref: Family Centre

With Gift Aid, in 2021 we raised £610 and in 2022 we raised £680. Let's see if we can break the £700 this year.

Many Thanks

Leadership Team



I will never be ashamed of my faith or my relationship with God.

God is my rock,
My refuge,
My comforter.
God is my all.
Amen!

When life blesses you financially,
Don't raise your standard of living.
Raise your standard of giving.

No matter what you do, someone will always talk about you. Someone will always question your judgement. Someone will always doubt you. So just smile and make the choices you can live with.

I am a Christian.
I am not perfect.
I make mistakes.
I mess up.
But God's grace is bigger than my sins.
Thank God.

Today you could be standing next to someone who is trying to do their best not to fall apart. So whatever you do today, do it with kindness in your heart.

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my shape to keep
Please no wrinkles...
Please no bags
Please lift my butt before it sags.
Please no age spots....
Please no gray
As for my belly...
#please take it away.
Keep me healthy...
Keep me young..
And THANK YOU Lord.....
For all you've done!



Belfairs Methodist Church

Eastwood Road North
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex
SS9 4NG



www.belfairsmethodistchurch.org.uk

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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Home Telephone.....

Mobile Telephone.....

FIRST EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Home Telephone.....

Mobile Telephone.....

Relationship.....

SECOND EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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Home Telephone.....

Mobile Telephone.....

Relationship.....

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO ANY OF THE STEWARDS.

**Belfairs Methodist Church
Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home**

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. (except 3rd Sunday Parade Service)

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
House Groups	7.30 p.m.	2nd Tuesday - Please speak to Stewards for more details.

November Deadline:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **22nd October 2023.**

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