

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 226

October 2024

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Thought for the month

Life will only work one way;
And that is God's way.
Naturally anything works best
if the instructions of the Maker are followed.

Belfairs Birthday Book



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; 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 with 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, 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 hardship, perhaps an illness ourselves or someone in our family or a friend. We might feel angry with God for something which goes wrong or when someone we love dies. People ask "Why has God done this?" Please be assured God does not single out anyone to hurt, annoy or embarrass. 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 was born to save us all from sin and gave us God's promise of eventually having 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]

Life is hard and believing is not an insurance policy or a promise that life will be easy and plain sailing, but it is a promise that, through the Holy Spirit, we can cope and can receive the peace that passes all understanding. We have been given life to enjoy in all its fullness and that has nothing to do with money or possessions. God knows what we need.

So, whatever you are planning to do this coming season, include Jesus in your plans and receive his peace.

Blessings,

Revd Steve

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revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services October 2024

6th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Pam Smith
13th	11.00a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion
20th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Parade Service
27th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Phil Gladman

Advance Date for your diary

Saturday 30th November 2024 - 5.30-7.30 p.m. Southend Brass Band present '*It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas*' Concert in the John Wesley Hall, Belfairs Methodist Church, see poster in newsletter for more information.

Other October dates for your diary

5th	Coffee morning at 10.00 a.m. - Pam and John Plummer
10th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome.
24th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - All are welcome
27th	British Summer Time ends - clocks go back 1 hour

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 6th October

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

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

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

Sunday 13th October

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole/MIDI

Communion Stewards - Dawn Howard & Neeltje Charles

Flowers - Sue Spaul in memory of Peter and Margaret- arranged by Margaret

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 20th October

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Backing Tracks

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 27th October

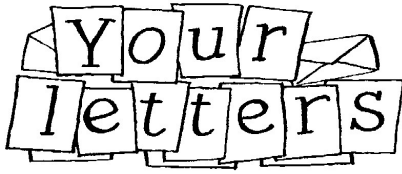
Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole/MIDI

Flowers - Dawn Howard in memory of Dave - arranged by Jan

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Letters Page/Church family news



Note From The Editor

I was very kindly given a book by Wendy to use within the newsletter. She says “ I have Martyn Payne’s permission for you to use it and to print the prayers in our Newsletter. Martyn worked for the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) for many years and now retired he continues to work and spread the Word.”

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of another day

In which you call us:

To bless our neighbour.

To welcome the stranger,

To pray for our enemies,

To look after your world,

To share the good news of your love,

And to become more like Jesus,

Through the power of the Holy Spirit in us. Amen

October 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!

On each waking, God give you his blessing

Courage to stand up for what is right

The God of peace protect you

On your days of fear and anxiety

Blessings of God's s mercy be upon you

Enlighten your mind with His truth

Restoring you, comforting, shielding and blessing you always.

Ed.

HISTORICAL TIMES

History is a mystery, I knew you couldn't tell,
Catherine to Catherine, oh, my farewell,
Henry, take a break, like honestly mate,
You had six sorry wives, and you ruined their lives,

Anyway, from that the Victorians had quite a few rats,
Some silly names, stinky lives and lots of rotten food,
Get ready, here I go, I hope you're in the right mood

Your life is at stake, run for your life, Londons burning, Londons burning,
Why aren't you running?

Romans, romans, you've got it all wrong,
You need to be careful or you will be gone,
Although you are strong you need to keep working,
You've done not nearly enough to keep those muscles tough,

Gorgeous Georgians, your moneys at stake,
You spend it on hair spray and lots of cake,
Useless I know, they can't even put on a decent show,
As for the poor, oh well they don't have any money,
They can't even buy a big jar of honey,

And as for today no history yet, I think it's as boring as it will get!

Poem by Sofia Froydenlund age 9

Sofia wrote this poem following on from the history she has learnt at school. Ed.

OFF THE STREETS



Del Thomas, Trustee, del.thomas@offthestreetsessex.org.uk, 07454952945
Off the Streets, 3, Trinity Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7PU
www.OfftheStreetsEssex.org.uk Charity Registration No. 1184331

`Can you help me get a mortgage?`

This was a question we were asked a couple of weeks ago by an ex-guest who stayed with us 4 years ago. I first met him on the streets 13 years ago and 6 years ago he was in floods of tears saying he couldn't imagine himself being housed as he was too used to being on the street. I was worried he would die on the street as he had a few bleeds on the brain and he was told by a doctor that if he bumped his head once more, he would likely die. He was a 6 ft2 man who was sleeping in a disabled toilet! He became one of our guests and as well as accommodation we helped him get a job. Over the past 4 years he has got promotion after promotion (he can speak 8 languages!) and is now in a position to get a mortgage. This is just one of the stories our ex-guests have told us.

Off the Streets is a grassroots group of local residents who wanted to do something about the number of rough sleepers in Southend. In 2018 Southend was the 8th highest town in the UK for the number of rough sleepers. Coastal towns have always attracted rough sleepers and Southend is no different.

Off the Streets started in September 2018 and in the two years it was open helped 119 rough sleepers find permanent accommodation. The night shelter used to run from a shopfront, slept 5 people per night and the charity worked hard to educate each person in a bespoke way to help them 'off the streets.' They work using a strength-based approach, pulling alongside rough sleepers – educating and helping them to achieve their goals. The average length of stay was 21 nights. In 2019, Off The Streets was awarded the Excellence Standard in the Housing Justice kitemark which is the highest possible to achieve. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the night shelter had to close

Off the Streets has recently secured the funding to buy a 7-bed seaside hotel which will become an enhanced night shelter for up to 9 people at any one time – each staying for an initial 28 days. they will accept couples and the ground floor bedroom has been adapted to enable its use by disabled people. Off the Streets also follows up to support the guests while they adapt to a permanent home, which for some can be very challenging. The new enhanced night shelter will support an estimated 176 rough sleepers every year to move from the streets into permanent accommodation. This includes couples (rarely catered for) and disabled homeless people.

The new enhanced night shelter is nearly ready to be opened. We just need to complete the refurbishment (for example, adapting the ground floor room into an en-suite room for disabled people) and also building a multipurpose room which will be used for keywork and also have external agencies such as mental health support come in to work with our guests. We plan on opening the building in Spring 2024 depending on the building works. It does not have a finish date.

Referees

Nick Alston CBE DL – former Police & Crime Commissioner of Essex, High Sheriff, 2022 - 2023
nkalston@aol.com

Dr Margaret Wilson CBE DL – former headteacher and government educational advisor
maggiewilson1@hotmail.com

Safeguarding & Equal Opportunities

We confirm that we have a safeguarding policy in place and that disclosure checks are carried out on all staff and volunteers. We confirm that we have an equal opportunities policy in place.

We are asking therefore if you would be able to make a donation towards the cost of running this fantastic opportunity and charity. This will enable us to focus on helping our guests.

Our bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Off The Streets

Sort Code: 52-10-30

Account Number: 13666223

Thank you for your time in reading about our charity.

Mr Del Thomas (Trustee)

(This project had asked to be considered for our Harvest thanksgiving, but we had already decided to support the Southend Foodbank on this occasion)

Tina Gowers

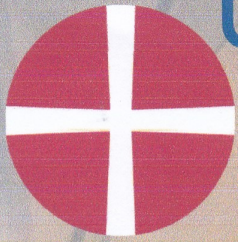


Please remember you are free to put your prayer concerns on the board at the back of the church. If it is not for you, please make sure you have the named persons consent .

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
SHOEBURYNNESS

*Service of Farewell
and Thanksgiving*

SUNDAY 3RD
NOVEMBER, 3PM



CELEBRATING AFTER 100 YEARS OF
WORSHIP AND PRAISE IN THE
COMMUNITY

**ST ANDREW'S ROAD,
SHOEBURYNNESS, SS3 9HX**

Westerley, 1 Winton Avenue
Westcliff on Sea SS0 7QU

Let's Celebrate



LWPHomes

75th Anniversary

We invite you to celebrate 75 years of Christian
Care at Westerley Westcliff



NOVEMBER

11

Monday

11am – 4pm



Including a service led by the Methodist President of Conference,
entertainment and refreshments.

For more information about LWPHomes or to
Donate through Just Giving please scan the QR code.

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



Mmmm, coffee translator!!



If God is making you wait, there is a purpose.
If God is making you see Him even more, there is a purpose.
If God is making you persevere, there is a purpose
Blessed are those who trust in God because they'll receive more than they ever prayed for.
Amen!

The butterfly does not look back at the caterpillar in shame, just as you should not look back at your past in shame. Your past was part of your own transformation.

Dear God,
I submit my mind, will and heart to you. Help me to see clearly what your plan is for me. Help me to stay close to you always. Not living in the past, but pressing forward to new things you have in store for me. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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.

Look after your friends. Make sure they're okay. Sometimes they are going through things that are really heavy, but they might not say it.

At my lowest, God is my hope.
At my darkest, God is my light.
At my saddest, God is my comforter.
At my weakest, God is my strength.
Thank you God for always being with me. Amen

Be proud of yourself because you've survived the days you thought you couldn't.

Be patient, God's just moving the pieces around.

I Love this Analogy

You are holding a cup of coffee when someone comes along and bumps into you or shakes your arm, making you spill your coffee everywhere.

Why did you spill the coffee?

“Because someone bumped into me!!!”

Wrong answer.

You spilled the coffee because there was coffee in your cup.

Had there been tea in your cup, you would have spilled tea.

Whatever is inside the cup is what will spill out.

Therefore, when life comes along and shakes you (which WILL happen), whatever is inside you will come out.

It’s easy to fake it, until you get rattled.

So we have to ask ourselves.... “what’s in my cup?”

When life gets tough, what spills over?

Joy, gratitude, peace and humility?

Anger, bitterness, victim mentality and quitting tendencies?

Life provides the cup, YOU choose how to fill it.

Today let’s work towards filling our cups with gratitude,

Forgiveness, joy, words of affirmation, resilience,

Positivity; and kindness, gentleness and love for others.



Ed.

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

November newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **20th October 2024.**

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