

# Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

## Newsletter

Issue 2016

September 2023

### Minister:

**Pastor Steve Mayo**  
1 Oakview Close  
Leigh on Sea  
Essex SS9 4JN  
Tel: 01702 483827  
[pastorstevemayo@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevemayo@gmail.com)

### Editor:

**Mrs. Sue Spaul**  
Tel: 01702 521344  
E-mail: [sue.spaul@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sue.spaul@hotmail.co.uk)



*New Beginnings*

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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

PROMISES, PROMISES:

Remembering God's covenant promises  
and our promises to one another.

**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)



We are living in a massive time of change! Not only are we coming to the end of the summer with the trees starting to shed their summer coats, but our whole country, and world, is going through massive changes too. Environmentally, we are seeing changes in our weather; from summers of extreme heat, to winters of extreme cold; wild fires and floods seem to be getting more pervasive in certain parts of our world, even in areas which haven't experienced these events before.

And even at this time of year, some of our churches and minsters will be facing change as the stationing process takes place.

And I know that each one of us will have our own list of changes which have affected us personally. All this change can leave us with a sense of uncertainty and can unsettle us.

However, within the book of Malachi God reveals something of His character when He says; *'I the Lord do not change.'* [Malachi 3:6 NIV]

The same is revealed about Jesus in Hebrews; *'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.'* [Hebrews 13:8 NIV]

And many of our hymns reiterate this unchanging promise...

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.*

[51 STF v1]

*In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

[351 STF v1]

So, as we prepare ourselves for *whatever* the future brings, remember we have an unchanging God. So, step out on His promises for us as these never change.

*'We may not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future.'*

Every blessing,  
Pastor Steve

Email: [pastorstevemayo@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstevemayo@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01702 483827

## Sunday Services September 2023

3rd	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Steve Mayo
10th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Norman Hooks - Covenant including Holy Communion
17th	11.00 a.m.	Local arrangement - All age worship
24th	11.00 a.m.	Paul Saunders

## Other September dates for your diary

2nd	Mike & Sue coffee morning 10.00 a.m.
14th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome
22nd	Choir rehearsal at 7.00 p.m.
28th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m.
29th	MacMillan coffee morning 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. see poster for further information
29th	Choir rehearsal at 7.00 p.m.

### Advance Notice - Saturday 7th October

Harvest lunch at 12.30p.m. See poster for further information and add your name to the list in the  
foyer if you wish to attend.

## **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 September**

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Ann Kendall

### **Sunday 10th September**

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Communion Stewards - Jim Halstead & Dawn Howard

Musician - Anthea Meek

Flowers - David Manners in memory of Ann - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope/Jackie Heinrich

### **Sunday 17th September**

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Anthea & Mike Spaul

Flowers - Phil Gladman in memory of his parents - arranged by Margaret

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

### **Sunday 24th September**

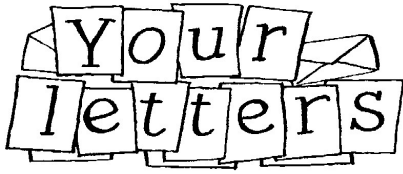
Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Midi Box

Flowers - Elly Austin in memory of John - arranged by Margaret

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

# Letters Page/Church family news



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Belfairs Gift Day, in July. The total sum raised was £3,963.

*Many Thanks*

*Tina*



## Youth Camp 2023

This year we went to Littlehampton for camp, staying at Littlehampton Baptist Church which was a perfect location – only a 5 minute walk to the beach! The beach was lovely and sandy, some of us were brave enough to go in the sea although it was a bit chilly! During our time away, we participated in many activities including mini golf, swimming, rock climbing and sno tubing. We also spent a day at the Weald and Downland Living Museum (where the Repair Shop is located). We all thoroughly enjoyed the day, although they were not able to fix Isla's broken arm and unfortunately, we did not make it onto the show!

As always, Sue ensured we were well fed every night and second helpings were available which we all appreciated. At 9pm every night we sat down for devotions which this year also included crafts such as keyrings. All the staff were lots of fun and together we all had a fantastic week away. It was lovely to spend time with friends old and new from both the Boys' and Girls' Brigade. I know several of us are looking forward to next year's camp already!

I'd like to thank all the staff who came away with us in particular Andrea and Barry for organizing the camp and all our activities.

Sam

## Welcome Pastor Steve Mayo

Welcome (back) Steve as 'minister under training' and serving as minister to both Belfairs and Wesley churches. Also a warm welcome to Dani as she transfers her membership to Belfairs.

You will note that I emphasised 'minister under training', this is because Pastor Steve is now working on the 3rd year of his training and will also still need to commute up to Queens college occasionally to complete his training. As a trainee minister, the Methodist Church do not allow 'trainees' to preside over communion, so therefore over the next 12 months Belfairs and Wesley communion services will be lead by another minister available within our circuit. We will still try to provide Communion at least once a month but perhaps not always at the same time of the month, so please bear with us during this period whilst making plans for our worship.

Pastor Steve will still be a very active minister at Belfairs and we hope that everyone here will enjoy this journey with Steve and, with Gods guidance and grace, we look forward to his ordination in 2024/25.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to me personally.

Mike Spaul  
Senior Church Steward and Circuit Steward



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.



**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**



## **COFFEE/TEA/CAKES**

**HOSTED BY MIKE AND SUE SPAULL and team  
at BELFAIRS METHODIST CHURCH.**

**FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**10.00 a.m. TO 1.00 p.m..**

**Sit and relax or pop in for a take  
away, whichever suits you.  
Come and support a good cause.**



## Do not ask me to remember

Do not ask me to remember  
Don't try to make me understand,  
Let me rest and know you're with me,  
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.

I'm confused beyond your concept.  
I am sad and sick and lost.

All I know is that I need you,  
To be with me at all cost.

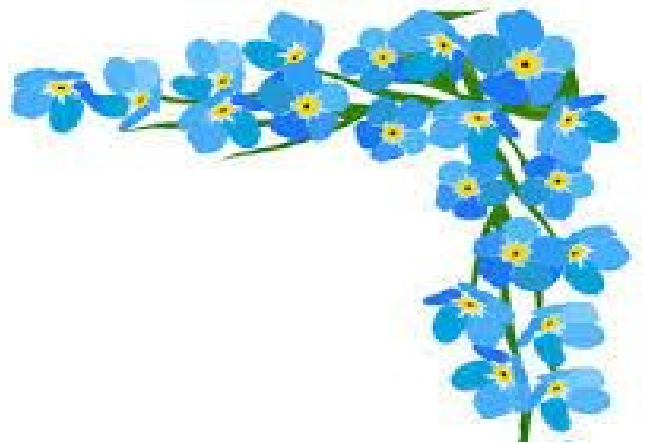
Do not lose your patience with me,  
Do not scold or curse or cry.

I can't help the way I'm acting,  
Can't be different though I try.

Just remember that I need you,  
That the best of me is gone,  
Please don't fail to stand beside me,  
Love me 'til my life is done.

Owen Darnell

Supplied by Sylvia Smith



## Choir

The choir will be taking part in our harvest celebrations and we will be holding practices on Friday evenings. If you are interested in joining us please come along and swell our numbers. The practices will be as follows:

Friday 22nd September at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 29th September at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 6th October at 7.00 p.m.

Mike Spaul





### **Rev. Clifford Newman - farewell words**

The message below are the words shared by Mike Spaul, senior church Steward at Cliffords final service at Belfairs on the 30th July 2023.

-----

Clifford joined as minister in Sept 2021 and who was to know what a challenging couple of years that would be.

Despite wishing to perhaps ignore what has happened here, the David Amess scenario in October 2021 turned a little chaotic for us here for a while. Clifford, along with a few others from leadership and property at Belfairs, steered us through a few uncertain weeks getting us back on board and becoming an active worshipping church within a short period of time. The exercise for the next 12 months + in getting this chapel back to a refitted place of worship was steered through under the guidance of Clifford.

Apart from being a part of our Leadership meetings, our day to day activities continued to grow within Belfairs, including the re-introduction of a Bible Study group, and working with a team through the refit of our front foyer into a welcoming cafe area. To most people, perhaps they noticed no major changes, but the smooth handling of matters within Belfairs was down to good leadership. Thank you Clifford.

We are also grateful to Linda for your friendship shared with the people of Belfairs, thank you.

And now, nearly 2 years on, Clifford and Linda are looking forward to retirement, yes retirement, apart from Clifford taking on the Sunday School at Rayleigh. May you both enjoy this much well earned rest. Belfairs would like to present you with a signed card from the Leadership team on behalf of Belfairs church, and also a small token of our appreciation to help you both to enjoy some time together as you enjoy your trips around the UK or wherever takes your fancy.

Thank you both again for your time and life given to Belfairs.

\_\_\_\_\_

In response, Rev Clifford Newman and his wife Linda have asked me to share this note with you:

To Belfairs Methodist Church, thank you for the kindness shown to us these past two years. It has been a difficult period for you and your resilience and grace made this journey easier.

We would like to express our appreciation for the gift voucher and all the flowers given to us upon our departure.

May God bless you in your ministry to Belfairs.

Clifford and Linda.

\_\_\_\_\_

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in the city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. He put a note under his windscreen wiper that read: "I've gone around the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found he had a parking ticket, and a note from the police officer: "I've walked around this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."



Mike Spaul

## Youth Camp 2023

We had a wonderful time at camp, with the children enjoying the activities and even the staff on the sno tubing! ( a rubber ring pushed down a slope - doesn't sound that exciting but ask someone about it and I'm sure they will show you some photos). The visit to Downland Museum, where they film 'The Repair Shop' was a very interesting day. They have lots of old buildings including a school house and a watermill. All the buildings have been rescued brick by brick and rebuilt brick by brick at the museum before they have been demolished for whatever reason, e.g. a new road etc.



We managed a swim in the sea as well as crazy golf, wall climbing, playing in the park and a bit of shopping (as the weather wasn't kind enough to let us go to the beach again)

The food went down well, so thank you for all your support in sponsoring food items. A thank you to Fiona and Katie for making a supply of cakes that kept us going for supper all week.

Devotions were led by Mike and we made flip flop key rings and treasure boxes, and had boat and fish races (Watch out for the all age worship in September and you will find out more.)

Once again a very big thank you for all your support both financially and your thoughts and prayers during this time. Camp 2024 is booked at the same place so we look forward to another week of fun, food and fellowship with our young people.

Youth camp staff

# Thank You!

Belfairs Methodist Church would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to all those people and organisations that helped us transform our front foyer. It is now a more welcoming area, to meet and greet, and serve refreshments, especially after Sunday services.

Our thanks go to:-

Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit for their generous grant.

Boncfact Trust for their generous grant.

Bailey & Taylor for supplying and laying the new carpet.

Mr B Clarke, Mr M Spaul & Mr S Spaul for installing the new kitchen area and fully decorating the foyer.

Brad Hunter for the plumbing works.

Paul & Paul for installing the drainage system.

2 Anonymous donors who paid for the new tables and chairs.

These donations of finance and hard work have helped transform this:-



To this:-





The new foyer was open in time for the Kings Coronation, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and, on 3<sup>rd</sup> June a special coffee morning was held to raise money for the British Heart Foundation which even made it into the local newspaper.



The total cost of the project was £8,664.17 but would have been more if we didn't have capable members who could fit the units, and decorate the area, free of charge.

**Belfairs Methodist Church**

SON: Daddy, may I ask you a question?

DAD: Yeah, sure what is it?

SON: Daddy how much do you make an hour?

DAD: that's none of your business. Why do you ask such a thing?

SON: I just want to know, please tell me, how much do you make an hour?

DAD: If you must know I make \$100 an hour,

SON: Oh (with his head down) Daddy, may I borrow \$50? The father was furious.

DAD: If the only reason you asked that is so you can borrow some money to buy a sill toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you are being so selfish. I work hard every day for such childish behaviour.

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door.

The man sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy's questions. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money?

After an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think:

Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$50 and he really didn't ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door.

DAD: Are you asleep son?

SON: No Daddy, I'm awake

DAD: I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier. It's been a long day and I took out my aggravation on you. Here's the \$50 you asked for.

The little boy sat straight up, smiling

SON: Oh, thank you daddy!

Then reaching under his pillow he pulled out some crumpled bills. The man saw that the boy already had money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, and then looked up at his father.

DAD: why do you want more money if you already have some?

SON: Because I didn't have enough, but now I do. Daddy I now have \$100. Can I buy an hour of your time? Please come home early tomorrow. I want to play with you.

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little son, and he begged for his forgiveness. It's just a short reminder to all of you working so hard in life. We should not let time slip through our fingers without having spent some time with those who really matter to us, those close to our hearts.

Ed.



# 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.**

When someone is mean, don't listen.  
When someone is rude, walk away.  
When someone tries to put you down, stay firm.  
Don't let someone else's bad behaviour destroy your inner peace.

When you see something beautiful in someone, tell them.  
It may take you a second to say it, but for them, it could last a lifetime.

Just because a person smiles all the time, doesn't mean their life is perfect. That smile is a symbol of Hope and Strength,

Life is short, live it.  
Love is rare, grab it.  
Anger is bad, dump it.  
Fear is awful, face it.  
Memories are sweet, cherish them.

When other people treat you poorly, KEEP BEING YOU.  
Do not ever let someone else's bitterness change the person you are.

#### **I before E**

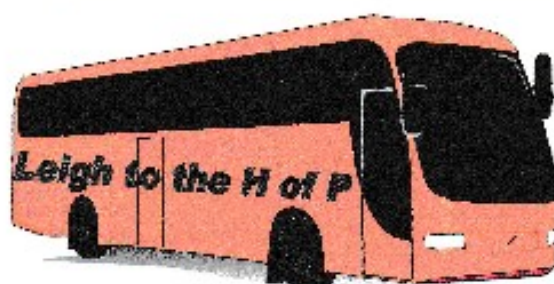
Except when your foreign neighbour Keith receives eight counterfeit beige sleighs from feisty caffeinated weight lifters.

Even when you're tired, **keep going**  
Even when you're lonely, **keep going**  
Even when you feel like you can't go any further, **keep going**  
It is in those moments where you gain the reason why you must **keep going**.



# A TRIP TO TOWN ?

We are arranging another Westminster trip with 3 groups in 75-minute guided tours around the Houses of Parliament on **Friday 13th October**. This will leave ample time for some sightseeing and a spot of luncheon beforehand. Each group comprises 15 people. The cost is £25 person, but if you wish to merely travel to and from the heart of our capital in relaxed comfort, the cost will be £20 per person. We have a 53-seat coach, so guided tour folk will get priority.



Departures will be from Leigh Elms and Thames Drive - all times to be advised later.



This trip is organised by Jan Andrews for Belfairs Methodist Church. Please email [andrewsjan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrewsjan@hotmail.co.uk) (reference "LONDON") to request availability before completing/sending the form below.

I/WE would like to go to London on Friday 13th October.

Name of group leader for all communications \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ P Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that there are \_\_\_\_\_ people in my group of which \_\_\_\_\_ (at £25/person) would like to go on a tour. There are \_\_\_\_\_ people wishing to travel only (at £20). As advised earlier, space is very limited - hence the need to check before sending in this form or forwarding **£££**. Then please tick relevant box below:

☐ I enclose my cheque (to Belfairs Methodist Church) for total amount of £\_\_\_\_\_ OR

☐ I confirm that I have paid £\_\_\_\_\_ to

Belfairs Methodist Church, sort 52-10-30, a/c 13662759 using "LONDON" as reference.

Please HAND this form to Jan at Belfairs OR SEND

Jan Andrews  
32 Danescroft Drive  
Leigh on Sea SS9 4NR

BFI IMAX / War Rooms  
London Eye / South Bank  
St James's Park / Festival  
Hall / Sea Life Aquarium  
The Florence Nightingale  
Museum / Westminster  
Abbey and lots more!!

For Jan's use only:  
# \_\_\_\_\_ on Tour 1 at 15.30  
# \_\_\_\_\_ on Tour 2 at 15.40  
# \_\_\_\_\_ on Tour 3 at 15.50



# Southend CAP Debt Advice Centre

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£6

## Quiz Night



**Saturday  
7th October  
7pm**

*(prompt start)*

**at Avenue Baptist  
Church, Milton Road  
Southend SS0 7PL**

Bring your own  
refreshments (soft drinks  
only) & table nibbles. Free  
teas & coffees provided  
during the break.  
Maximum of 8 per table.

Tickets available from  
Jenny Martin on  
[jennymartin@capuk.org](mailto:jennymartin@capuk.org) or  
07925 514475

christians  
against  
poverty

**CAP**  
debt help

Southend CAP Debt Advice  
Centre: Registered Charity No.  
1159193  
Charitable Incorporated

CAP is a free service.

With the help of a trained Debt Coach, CAP assess the financial situation of the person in debt and schedule payments acceptable to the creditors. The Debt Coach and Befriender support the person in their home environment until the debt is cleared.

**Transformed Lives - Thriving Churches - An end to UK Poverty**



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.

### **October Deadline:**

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **17th September 2023.**

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