

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 235

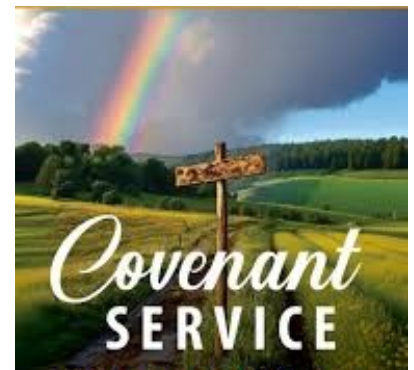
September 2025

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

*Hope giving God
Thank you for creating a world full of seeds
That testify to your loving investment
In the land and in our lives.
Just as you rejoice to see those seeds bear fruit
We come to you at this festival time
With the fruit of praise and thanksgiving
For your goodness and faithful love.*

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



When we're young we have a sense of awe and wonder at most of the thing we see, whether that be an ant running across the pavement or a '99' ice cream with two flakes in it! But as we get older, we sometimes seem to lose that sense of awe and wonder. We can too easily get caught up in our thoughts, remembering the past, or worrying about the future, to notice the many amazing things going on around us. We're too focused on counting all the things we don't have, to notice the beauty, love and abundance that is already ours.

What is your first thought upon waking in the morning?

If you're like a lot of people, it will be one of resistance. You don't want to get up!

You don't feel like facing your to-do list. You don't want to go to that meeting.

You're not exactly enthused about struggling through another tiresome day.

Your first thoughts in the morning can have a huge impact on the attitude, feelings and energy you carry around with you for the remainder of the day.

The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius once famously wrote: *"When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive – to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love."*

Imagine how different we would feel if we were to wake up with a similar attitude; if we greeted the day with thoughts like: *"Wow, what a privilege it is to be alive. I'm so lucky to be here now, experiencing the wonders of life. I am blessed with fresh air, the beauty of nature, my loved ones, the ability to laugh, create and dance. I'm blessed with food and shelter, an imagination and the ability to do kind acts for others. I'm so grateful for today, and I'm going to relish the next 24 hours."*

Are you feeling inspired?

It's not easy to train your mind out of old habits, so to give you a helping hand, here are 10 positive morning thoughts that can help get you in the right frame of mind each day.

1. Thank you, God, for this gift of a whole new day. I am grateful.
2. How can I best serve God today?
3. I dedicate today to love and kindness.
4. I am going to give this day my very best, so that I may rest my head with deep satisfaction tonight.
5. I have everything that I need right in this moment.
6. I see the world with grateful eyes, and it fills my soul.
7. I will listen to God's voice today and allow Him to guide me.
8. Let me make the world a better place by shining my light today.
9. My life is a miracle.
10. I carry peace and stillness in my heart as I go about my daily activities.

And God's continual goodness to us is recorded in His Word:

Act 14:17b says; *'...he has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.'* [NIV]

And Lamentations 3:22-23; *'²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.'* [NIV]

Every blessing,

Rev'd. Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services September 2025

7th	11.00 a.m.	United Service at Wesley - Rev. Steve Mayo
14th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Harvest and Covenant - Holy communion
21st	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Anne Briant - Parade Service
28th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Archie McDowall

Other September dates for your diary

6th	Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m. - Harvest and supporting HARP Southend
11th	Thirsty For?? Café worship at 7.00 p.m. - All are welcome
25th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - all are welcome
26th	MacMillan Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

Advance Notice

11th October - Church Council at 10.00 a.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 7th September

United Service at Wesley

Sunday 14th September

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards – Jim Halstead & Dawn Howard

Flowers - Elly Austin- in memory of John - arranged by Jan Andrews

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 21st September

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Small band

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

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 28th September

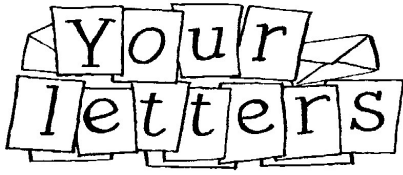
Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Smitha Thomas - in memory of loved ones - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Margaret Bailey & Sue Spaul

Letters Page/Church family news



Youth Camp 2025 27th July - 1st August

Our youth camp this year in Littlehampton, West Sussex was an incredible time of fun food and fellowship (in the Belfairs tradition).

The children had an amazing time, with time spent on the beach, as well as doing archery, tunnelling, indoor climbing, a visit to Amberley museum and a day at Funland with lots of rides to amuse themselves. Rev. Steve Mayo joined us for the day on Tuesday.

Even those children who had not been to camp before took everything in their stride, despite one of the new girls saying to Andrea, having been in the sea on Sunday afternoon, 'when its bathtime tonight can I wash my hair?' When Andrea had regained her composure she replied, 'I'm sorry, there are no baths at the church' 'What about a shower then?' replied the girl, 'There are no showers either' said Andrea to which the response was 'You mean I'm not going to wash my hair all week - okay'.

The food went well, with clean plates every meal, even with seconds and sometimes thirds!

We thank you once again for your support, with the sponsored food items, other donations and your prayers during the time we were away, and we are looking forward to next years youth camp, at Ipswich, Suffolk.

Barry, Andrea, Mike, Sue, Katie, Steve, Martyn, Matt.

Christmas is Coming!

Last December we raised £445 for Little Havens Childrens' Hospice and in previous years we've raised money for Southend Family Centres. These local charities have been able to use the money throughout the year and not just at Christmas. This year we'd like **YOU** to nominate your chosen charity for Belfairs to support. Please let me, or one of the stewards know the charity you would like to nominate, and we will either choose the one with the most nominations or pull one out of a hat.

Tina Gowers

Letters Page/Church family news cont.d/2



Alissa Bass · 1st

PhD in Environmental Science
3h

It has been such a privilege completing my PhD in Environmental Science under the supervision of **Benoit Thibodeau** and **Laura Falkenberg** at **The Chinese University of Hong Kong!** 🎓 Thank you to everyone that has been a part of this endeavour 🌊 🔬 🌿



Benoit Thibodeau · 2nd

Assistant Professor at The Ch...
1d

[+ Follow](#)

Congratulations to Dr. **Alissa Bass** ! This is the first time I witness a thesis accepted without any revisions requested by the examiners 🙌 Special thanks to Prof. Pippa Moore from **Newcastle University**, **Apple Chui** and **Jerome Ho Lam Hui** from **CUHK Faculty of Science** for examining the thesis and co-supervisor **Laura Falkenberg** for flying from Australia for the viva!



Congratulations

For those of you who don't know Alissa, she is Tanya's twin and Tanya worships regularly at Belfairs and plays in the circuit worship band.



Mrs T Gowers
Leigh on Sea Belfairs Methodist Church
17 The Crest
LEIGH-ON-SEA
Essex
SS9 5NJ



Aurelia,
Alta Verapaz region
of Guatemala

05 August 2025

Dear Tina,

Thank you so much for your incredible support, prayers and generosity this Christian Aid Week. Together, Leigh on Sea Belfairs Methodist Church has raised £821.77 to help families around the world transform their own lives.

Your generous gift will help women like Aurelia in Guatemala. When Aurelia discovered the work of our partner, Congcoop, she put herself forward to attend the specialist agricultural training on offer, along with 22 members of nearby communities.

By working with Congcoop, Aurelia's gained the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's producing her own organic fertiliser, creating nurseries, constructing rainwater collection systems, and making nutritious food and medicine for her chickens. Congcoop also provided Aurelia with seeds and tools.

Together, we can be more like Aurelia, and put the unstoppable power of hope into action, because a brighter, fairer future is possible.

Thank you, Leigh on Sea Belfairs Methodist Church for your life changing gift. It gives us hope that, together, we can help more families push back against poverty.

With heartfelt thanks,

Your Christian Aid Week Team

PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT • Telephone: 020 7620 4444
Email: info@christian-aid.org • caid.org.uk

Christian Aid is a member of

actalliance



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**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



COFFEE/TEA/CAKES

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

FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

10.00 a.m.—1.00 p.m.

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

Come and support a good cause.

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!

Strength of God support you

Eternal light shine upon you

Place all that has been in the hands of God's mercy

The God of love bless you

Evermore may God guard you

May he make known his love for you

Between you and each person may there be peace

Every moment of every day

Ripe be your harvest.

Ed.

A glass of milk

There once was a poor boy who spent his days going door to door selling newspapers to pay for school. One day, as he was walking his route, he started feeling low and weak. The poor boy was starving, so he decided to ask for food when he came to the next door.

The poor boy asked for food but was denied every time, until he reached the door of a girl. He asked for a glass of water, but seeing his poor state, the girl came back with a glass of milk. The boy asked how much he owed her for the milk, but she refused payment.

Years later, the girl, who was now a full grown woman, fell sick. She went from doctor to doctor, but no one was able to cure her, Finally she went to the best doctor in town.

The doctor spent months treating her until she was finally cured. Despite her happiness, she was afraid she couldn't afford to pay the bill. But, when the hospital handed her the bill, it read, 'Paid in full, with a glass of milk'.

The moral - No good deed goes unrewarded.

Ed.



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.



Church keys

Do you still have a set of church keys that you no longer need? Maybe you had a set for a group or an activity that no longer meets or you have left that group / activity? If you do have a set of keys, could you please return them to me or give to Mike, to pass on to me please. It costs quite a bit to replace the keys now.



Tina Gowers

Harvest & HARP

This year, our Harvest Service will take place on Sunday 14th September, along with our Covenant Service.

This year, we are supporting HARP and Lucy has kindly written an article for us, along with their most needed items.

Please look at their website to really understand what HARP does in our community.

[Home - HARP - Southend's Homeless Charity](#)



Support HARP This Harvest – Help Us Feed Southend’s Most Vulnerable

As we approach Harvest season, we’re reminded of the power of community and the importance of sharing what we have with those who need it most. At HARP, Southend’s homeless charity, we see every day how vital that generosity is.

HARP supports people facing or experiencing homelessness in Southend, helping over **1,000 people every year**. We provide not only safe accommodation but also hot meals, clean clothes, support with mental and physical health, and a pathway back to independence. Across our **320+ bed spaces**, we serve around **200 meals a day**, and at our Bradbury Day Centre, we support people who are rough sleeping or vulnerably housed.

That’s where Belfairs Methodist Church can make a real difference this Harvest.

How you can help

Your church is kindly collecting **non-perishable food items** for HARP as part of your Harvest celebration. These donations are absolutely vital to us as they help stock our kitchens and support our services for **up to six months**.

We’ll be arranging a collection of your donations shortly after the service, so please bring along any items to church **before 14th September**. Every tin, packet, and jar really does make a difference.

You’ll find a list of the items we’re most in need of on the next page, thank you so much for giving what you can.

More than just food

If you feel moved to support HARP further, there are many ways to get involved:

- **Volunteer** with us – we have roles ranging from kitchen help to sorting donations and admin support.
- **Fundraise** with your congregation, small group, or Sunday School – whether through a coffee morning, a carol service, or sponsored events.
- **Learn and Share** – we’re always happy to visit and talk more about homelessness in Southend and how your church can make a real, lasting impact.

To learn more or get involved, please email me at lucy.purvis@harpssouthend.org.uk – I’d love to hear from you.

Thank you so much for helping us bring hope, dignity, and support to people in need this Harvest. Together, we can make sure no one in Southend goes hungry this autumn.

With heartfelt thanks,

Lucy Purvis

Community Fundraising & Engagement Coordinator

HARP – Southend’s Homeless Charity



HARPHarvest Appeal 2025

www.harpsouthend.org.uk

Urgently Needed:

Coffee
Sugar
Pot Noodles/Super
Noodles
Tinned Meals: Curry,
Chili
Breakfast cereal
Squash
Cooking Sauces
Fray Bentos Meat Pies
and Puddings
Cooking Oil
Tinned Pasta: Ravioli,
Macaroni
Tinned New Potatoes
Tinned Soup

Needed:

Biscuits
Rice
Packet Pasta Sachets
Jam
Peanut Butter
Chocolate Spread
Cup a Soup
Tinned Veg
UHT Milk
Tinned Fruit
Tinned Veg
Rice Pudding
Custard
Microwave Rice
Condiments: Mayo, BBQ etc
Crisps
Pasta

To arrange a collection of items or a talk email
lucy.purvis@harpsouthend.org.uk
Or drop off your collection to Bradbury Day Centre,
103-107 York Road, Southend, SS1 2DL



Registered charity number 1098126

Church Winter Night Shelter

Southend City Baptist Church is planning to open its doors this winter to provide a safe, warm, and welcoming space for those experiencing homelessness through the Church Winter Night Shelter Initiative. We are seeking volunteers from all churches who are willing to offer their time and compassion during the colder months. Roles vary from setting up and getting to know people over a meal, offering overnight supervision or packing away in the morning (evening, overnight and morning shifts).

Volunteers will be invited to an information and training session this autumn, where full details will be shared and any questions can be answered. The shelter will be organised by SCBC, following our church policies (including volunteer recruitment and safeguarding) and will be managed by our Volunteer & Premises Co-ordinator, Julie McEvoy. To express interest, we kindly ask volunteers to supply their name, contact number, and email address to Julie at coordinator@scbchurch.org.uk

At this time, it is not known whether there will be any government funding towards the cost of the night shelter (last year, the funding announced in November would have covered less than 20% of the budgeted costs of running it). If you would like to financially contribute to the costs of the shelter, our account details are:

Name: Southend City Baptist Church

Sort code: 30-94-26 **Account:** 17271960

Please reference the payment as 'Night Shelter' so we know to ringfence the amount, and contact: treasurer@scbchurch.org.uk if you have questions relating to financial support.

Additionally, if you are able to provide items such as sleeping bags, toiletries etc please do get in touch so we can map out what we will need.

This is a huge undertaking after several seasons without a shelter, but comes as a result of increased need in across our city. We trust that with both God's guidance, and the support of the body around us, that we will be able to make a contribution to the safety and security of those who have nowhere to lay their head this winter season. Thank you for considering how you and your church might get involved.

Pamela Ring (she / her)

Minister: Southend City Baptist Church

Tel: 07490 152 314 (My usual working days are Tuesday - Saturday.)

Southend CAP Debt Advice Centre

CHARITY MEAL

We are excited to invite you to our upcoming charity event, where we aim to make a significant difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

A delicious two course meal

All dietary requirements catered for.

Auction

Bid on exciting items all in support of CAP's vital local debt relief work.

Cost

£22.50 per person (£9 of each ticket is donated to Southend CAP's debt advice services)

Contact us

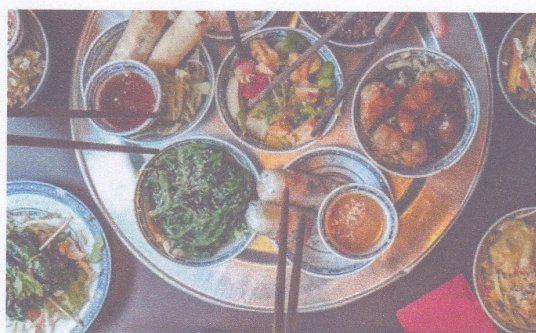
To reserve your place please contact

paul_amanda03@yahoo.co.uk

Your attendance
helps transform
lives-offering
support, hope and a
way forward.
Thank you for
helping bring hope to
those in need. We
look forward to
sharing a wonderful
evening with you!

christians
against
poverty

CAP



7PM

21

OCTOBER 2025

ZEN CITY

HAMLET COURT ROAD,
WESTCLIFF ON SEA

There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done.
One is called yesterday and the other is called tomorrow, so today is the
right day to love, believe, do and mostly live.

Don't wait for things to get better, life will always be complicated.
Learn to be happy right now, otherwise you'll run out of time.

If you have to choose between being kind and being right, choose
being kind and you will always be right.

Life can never promise you to be always happy, but life gets better
after you accept things you just can't change.

Accept what is
Let go of what was
Have faith in what will be.

Being **HUMBLE** means recognizing that we are not on earth
to see how **IMPORTANT** we can become, but to see how
much **DIFFERENCE** we can make in the lives of others.

Never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things
occupy the biggest part of their hearts.

How you make others feel says a lot about who you are.
Leave them with a smile, a hug, and a kind thought.

If a friendship lasts longer than 15 years, you're no longer friends, you're
family.

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.
I believe in love even when I'm alone.
I believe in God even when he is silent.

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

October newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **21st September 2025.**

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