

# Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

## Newsletter

Issue 2012

April 2023

### Minister:

**Rev. Clifford Newman**

**1 Glebe Close**

**Rayleigh SS6 9HL**

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**E-mail: cliffordnewman@aol.com**

### Editor:

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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**

The Cross

A symbol of my faith that strengthens me each day

As I by God's grace walk the narrow way

You see God's own Son He gave his life for me

And took my debt of sin to a place called Calvary.

**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)**

Dear Friends,

The scene in the Garden of Gethsemane is both evocative and intense with Jesus displaying his humanity to its fullest extent. He has just shared his last meal, the Passover, with those who would later betray, deny, or run away from him. I also wonder who prepared the meal and would children have been there as this significant celebration and remembrance of God's work of salvation for the Jewish people is essentially a family affair. It seems inconceivable to me that they were not a part of this gathering.

As Jesus sat there, I often reflect on what went through his mind; for most people there would have been anger and bitterness and others a self-pity muttering saying - after all I have done for them this is how they repay me. Instead, there seems to be an acceptance of the frailty of human nature indeed he encourages one to complete their task and then takes 3 others out into the night air. Into the heavily scented garden they go full of food, bonhomie, and wine -- wait he says so they not surprisingly went to sleep. He meanwhile displays what any one of us would feel -- please take this cup away from me, surely God there must be another way. At this crucial moment in his life, indeed with death staring him in the face, he once again as was his normal pattern prays to God. It is confirmed not my will but yours, so be it. Then on the cross -- Jesus prays again -- Father forgive them they know not what they do -- he prays for others not himself.

The central message of the cross is not just about the sinful nature of people nor the sacrificial love of God in Jesus the Christ but that communion with God is an integral part of our life. If Jesus places prayer as the central part of his life, why do we consider it an add on, a last resort or a personal gift shop. A healthy and thriving Church always has prayer as the central part of its life, both individually and corporately. Prayer is talking to God, being open intuitively to God and oh yes like all things practice helps.

Yours in Christ

*Rev Clifford Newman*

19<sup>th</sup> April – 2pm Bible Study in the Foyer

29<sup>th</sup> April – Annual Church meeting at 10.30am. We are asked by the Circuit to evaluate on the mission of the Church and whether this involves changes to what we do. Have you any ideas as to how we can connect more fully with the community? If so please share it with us.

## Sunday Services April 2023

2nd	11.00 a.m.	Mr. John Annim
9th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Clifford Newman - Holy Communion
	6.30 p.m.	Easter Celebration circuit prayer and praise
16th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Sanya Strachan
23rd	11.00 a.m.	Rev. David Chapman
30th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Clifford Newman - United Service at Belfairs

## Other April dates for your diary



1st	Easter coffee morning with stalls (see notice in newsletter for more information)
1st	April Fools Day
6th	Maundy Thursday -United Service at Highlands (see newsletter for more details)
7th	Good Friday United service at Wesley (see newsletter for more details )
10th	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
13th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome
19th	Bible Study at 2.00 p.m.
22nd	Safeguarding training
22nd	Earth Day
23rd	St. Georges Day
29th	Annual church meeting at 10.00 a.m. for 10.30 a.m. start

## Advance Notice - Easter Services

### Maundy Thursday, 6th April

United Service at Highlands Methodist at 7p.m.

Reflection - Pastor Steve Mayo



### Good Friday, 7th April

United Service at Wesley Methodist at  
10.30 a.m. for 11.00 a.m.

Pastor Steve Mayo

### Easter Day, 9th April

Service at Belfairs at 11.00 a.m.

Rev. Clifford Newman - Holy Communion

### Easter Prayer & Praise Celebration Service at Belfairs at 6.30 p.m.

Please see poster for more information.





## **Point of Contact**

Below is shown details of the Sunday Stewards, Communion Stewards and musicians relevant for this month.

### **Sunday 2nd April - Palm Sunday**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

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

### **Sunday 9th April - Easter Day**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

p.m. - Phil Gladman

Communion Stewards - Neeltje Charles & Geoff Box

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

p.m. - Worship Band

Flowers - Anthea Meek in memory of her mum - arranged by Anthea

### **Sunday 16th April**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Anthea Meek /Mike Spaul

### **Sunday 23rd April**

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - V A C A N T - arranged by Smitha

### **Sunday 30th April**

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

**Easter Coffee Morning  
Saturday 1st April 2023  
10.00 a.m. to mid-day.**

**A.C.T.I.O.N. will host  
our coffee morning.**

**We will also have a  
small series of stalls  
available with  
'Easter goodies'  
for sale.**

**We look forward to  
seeing many of you  
there.**

**EASTER**  
**“PRAYER & PRAISE”**  
**CELEBRATION.**

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**EVENING.**

**9<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

**@ 6.30 P.M.**

**BELFAIRS METHODIST CHURCH**

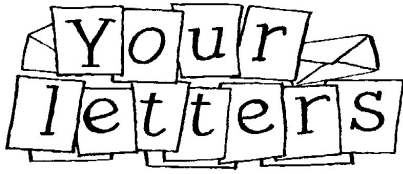
**(Eastwood Road North,  
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4NG)**

**Led by the ‘Worship Band’  
and others from the circuit**

**Come and share with us in the joy  
of Christ’s Resurrection.**

**We look forward to seeing you there.**

# Letters Page/Church family news



Thank you for the lovely card and greetings for my birthday.  
I am very grateful for the kind friendship of all at our church.  
Bless you in all you do.

Love from,  
Wendy Watson

We will, at the end of April, be having some new tables and chairs to finish the front foyer kitchenette project. These have kindly been donated, by two people, at no expense to the church. These will replace the current tables and chairs which have served us well for many years, but are no longer fit for purpose.

We pass on our grateful thanks to those who have made it possible for us to replace these items, which meet all the current safety regulations.

## **Southend CAP Debt Advice Centre - update and Client Blessings**

Good afternoon. I thought it was time for me to provide you with a quick update on what is happening in the Southend-on-Sea area supporting clients for Christians Against Poverty.

2022 was another busy year with new clients every week. 13 clients went debt free during the year and we were delighted that one of our clients made a first time commitment to follow Jesus just before Christmas.

Steve Currell is our new Debt Coach who started seeing new clients at the beginning of this year. Jenny Martin who has faithfully served as a volunteer Debt Coach for almost 8 years has decided to step down as a Debt Coach at the end of March but intends to still be involved as a befriender.

We are so grateful to our befrienders who come out with us week by week, those who support us in prayer weekly, our Trustees who manage this charity so well, and to you, our supporters, who stand with us year in and year out. We are so blessed to have such great support.

We are hoping to organise a fundraising meal and a quiz evening during 2023 and we will be in touch with details in due course.

You may be aware that we have a Client Blessing fund which we use to supply Christmas hampers, carry out food shops and utility top up's from time to time. We also aim to provide an Easter gift to all our clients and hope to put on a summer family event.

The Client Blessing Fund is a bit low at present and we would be grateful if this is something you would consider supporting. We know there are many calls on personal finances and from numerous charities so fully understand if this is not the right time for you.

If you are able to support please send donation to:

**Southend CAP Debt Advice Centre;**

**Bank sort code: 20-70-93**

**Account no: 13279723**

Please show reference as client blessing

If you already gift aid we can add the gift aid element to this specific fund.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

God bless you.

Richard

**Richard Leadley**  
**Centre Manager - Southend On Sea**  
**Christians Against Poverty**  
**07557102016**

Christians Against Poverty  
Registered Office: Jubilee House, 1 Filey Street, Bradford, BD1 5LQ  
t: 01274 760720

Registered Charity No: 1097217. Charity registered in Scotland No: SC038776  
Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England and Wales  
No. 4655175  
Christians Against Poverty is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Warm Space at Belfairs is ending!



Our last Warm Space will be on Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup>. We have been running since January and whilst a few people have stopped by and we have enjoyed pleasant chats in the foyer which, when the sun shines, is delightful, numbers have been low.

I fear it didn't attract the people it was aimed at. Perhaps people are reluctant to come into a Church or perhaps there is not the level of need in the area. But we tried and we are grateful to Jan Andrews and Margaret Bailey for coming along each week to help.

The remaining food, much of it donated by Tesco, will be passed on to HARP. As we received a grant to cover expenses, the Church has not had any costs to bear.

Thank you to all those who called in!

Anthea and Mike.



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.



**A.C.T.I.O.N.**  
**Afternoon Club on Thursday In Our Neighbourhood**

A.C.T.I.O.N. is meeting next on **Thursday 27th April @ 2pm**. This is going to be an afternoon of craft, making **Coronation Crowns** to celebrate the coronation of King Charles 111. Nothing too difficult but an afternoon of fun and laughter with cakes to follow.

Last month the members enjoyed a talk about a charity called RE-ENGAGE which provide a service for the elderly needing companionship. Volunteers offer to pick them up to take them to afternoon teas or other activities all free of charge. Small groups of people get together for social events usually in homes providing a welcoming environment. this is a great way to make new friends.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting. All ladies and gentlemen are welcome for an afternoon of fellowship and friendship.

Neeltje

**6-month Finance Report**

Attached are our finance figures from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 28<sup>th</sup> February. You will see that we have spent a lot of money on the utilities but that is because our monthly fixed price for Electric was based on our usage last year. This meant that our monthly direct debit was £2073!! However, with more efficient heaters, and the government help scheme, we ended up with £7,000 credit. Consequently, Smartest Energy have agreed to lower our monthly fee to £435. We'll then have to see what this years usage total brings, as to what our payments will be next year.

Also, some of our property expenditure has been covered by some very generous donations and grants and this has enabled us to carry out some much needed maintenance and health and safety upgrades that we wouldn't have been able to do.

As always our general property expenses, such as utilities and normal repairs etc far outweighs the income that we can get by letting our premises. John Plummer has now taken this role on and has been able to book some childrens' parties. However, everyone is feeling the pinch so we've not had too many of these either.

Our other big expenditure is our circuit assessment which increases year on year. I always hope that our Giving will cover this but, like many churches, it doesn't and we have to use our reserves to pay it. Unfortunately, our reserves (CFB account) are running out.

We really do rely on your financial support, and fundraising, to keep our church going.

*Tina Gowers*

*Treasurer*



**Belfairs Methodist Church**  
**Financial Report**  
**1st September 2022 - 28th February 2023**

Associations	Bal as at 31/08/22	Income	Expenditure	Balance
10 O'clock club	£279.38	£0.00	£93.88	£185.50
Badminton	£1,121.14	£388.00	£500.00	£1,009.14
Benevolent Fund	£272.00	£0.00	£0.00	£272.00
Flower Fund	£64.63	£0.00	£0.00	£64.63
Organ	£0.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.60
Parent & Toddler	£0.00	£932.69	£400.00	£532.69
Transfers		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£1,737.75</b>	<b>£1,320.69</b>	<b>£993.88</b>	<b>£2,064.55</b>

Charities	Bal as at 31/08/22	Income	Expenditure	Balance
World Missions	£11.37	£0.00	£0.00	£11.37
Home Missions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Other Charities	£0.00	£1,096.40	£1,045.00	£51.40
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£11.37</b>	<b>£1,096.40</b>	<b>£1,045.00</b>	<b>£62.77</b>

Circuit	Bal as at 31/08/22	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Offerings	£0.00	£2,493.93		£2,493.93
Direct payments	£0.00	£8,671.04		£8,671.04
Other	£2,438.72	£984.25	£0.00	£3,422.97
Assessment	£0.00		£16,860.00	-£16,860.00
Organist	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00
Transfers in and out		£3,500.00	£0.00	£3,500.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£2,438.72</b>	<b>£15,649.22</b>	<b>£16,860.00</b>	<b>£1,227.94</b>

£12,149.22  
Combined Offering total

General	Bal as at 31/08/22	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Copier	£471.46	£138.00	£98.72	£510.74
Laptop Fund	£107.19	£0.00	£0.00	£107.19
Other	£701.37	£4,081.95	£1,777.59	£3,005.73
Transfers in and out		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£1,280.02</b>	<b>£4,219.95</b>	<b>£1,876.31</b>	<b>£3,623.66</b>

£3,005.73

Property	Bal as at 31/08/22	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Lettings	£0.00	£3,575.00		£3,575.00
Quota Payments	£0.00	£2,420.00		£2,420.00
Projects	£0.00	£3,280.00	£5,031.00	-£1,751.00
Other Property	£1,528.47	£21,888.34	£16,837.13	£6,579.68
Cleaning	£0.00		£2,015.00	-£2,015.00
Repairs & Maint:	£0.00		£6,856.68	-£6,856.68
Utilities	£0.00		£10,621.85	-£10,621.85
Insurance	£0.00		£1,412.16	-£1,412.16
Transfers in and out		£10,500.00	£0.00	£10,500.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£1,528.47</b>	<b>£41,643.34</b>	<b>£42,773.82</b>	<b>£397.99</b>

£37,742.82



Current Account Totals					
		2022/23			
	Bal as at 31/08/22	Total New Income	Total New Expenditure	Transfers	Balance
Associations	£1,737.75	£1,320.69	£993.88	£0.00	£2,064.56
Charities	£11.37	£1,096.40	£1,045.00		£62.77
Circuit	£2,438.72	£12,149.22	£18,880.00	£3,500.00	£1,227.94
General	£1,280.02	£4,219.95	£1,876.31	£0.00	£3,623.66
Property	£1,528.47	£31,143.34	£42,773.82	£10,500.00	£397.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,996.33</b>	<b>£49,929.60</b>	<b>£63,549.01</b>	<b>£14,000.00</b>	<b>£7,376.92</b>
Income V Expenditure		-£13,619.41			

	Bal as at 31/08/22	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance
CFB	£22,555.48	£199.91	£0.00	-£14,000.00	£8,755.39
Youth Work Fund	£2,464.12	£31.78	£0.00	£0.00	£2,495.90
Organ Fund	£4,737.55	£61.10	£0.00	£0.00	£4,798.65
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>£29,757.15</b>	<b>£292.79</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>-£14,000.00</b>	<b>£16,049.94</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£36,763.48</b>	<b>£50,222.39</b>	<b>£63,549.01</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£23,428.86</b>

Reserves Policy = strive to have enough funds in CFB to cover an annual assessment.

Organ & Youth Work Funds and TMCP cannot be counted as reserves as they are restricted funds.

	Annual	Monthly	
Circuit Assessment 2022 / 23	£33,720.00	£2,810.00	Aug to July

## Needed in our services

Good afternoon to you all,  
I do hope all is good with you ?

We are in real need of **Coffee, Sugar & long-life milk** here at HARP at the moment. And all donations would be gratefully received thank you.

We are here for our guests and visitors, 24 hours a day 365 days a year and the need for help is growing every month. In February alone we saw 474 people with 27 of these being new to HARP.

We could not offer the services that we do without the ongoing support from our wonderful community like yourselves for which I thank you all for.

Kind regards,

Lisa

### Lisa Walton

Community Fundraising Co-ordinator

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8-530pm

Tel: 01702 415834

HARP (Head Office)

Dencora Court - 4th Floor

Tylers Avenue

Southend-on-Sea

Essex SS1 2BB



### FEBRUARY 2023 AT A GLANCE

Thanks to your support, in February  
we achieved all this!



We helped a total of **474** people in  
January of which **27** were new

We provided **649** breakfasts &  
**21** food parcels



**286** people were housed with  
HARP in the month

**27** people moved in to HARP  
accommodation



**17** people moved on to  
independent living

We served approximately **4,200**  
meals to our residents



## Days gone by

Huddled round the television  
Before we had remotes  
Before the day's of Central heating  
Covered in blankets and coats

We'd be spellbound by play school  
Andy Pandy and top of the pops  
By midnight we had the national anthem  
Then the television stops

Beef stew and dumplings  
And bangers and mash  
Bubble and squeak  
And corn beef hash

Every Sunday was roast dinner  
Your dad would pop out down the local  
Come back worse for wear  
Start singing and be somewhat vocal

When cash was still king  
No such thing as a hole in the wall  
The red phone box was your mobile  
From where you made your call

The six million dollar man  
The Sweeney and match of the day  
We'd never heard of x box  
We actually came out to play

Space invaders and Atari  
In the 80s were all the rage  
We didn't own a kindle  
We still had to turn a page

Evel Knievel jumped buses  
Tommy Cooper made us laugh  
Every Sunday without fail  
Was the ritual hair wash and a bath

The mums still shined the doorstep  
The dads still shined their shoes  
The church was packed every Sunday  
Bums filled the wooden pews

We listened to 33s and 45s  
Full of cracks and scratches  
We'd wear our denim jeans and jackets  
And decorate them with patches

Teddy boys, skins and punks  
Soul boys and mods and rockers  
When we still were industrial  
Coal miners and dockers

We'd put money in the gas meter  
We'd gossip over the garden fence  
Pay weekly into savings clubs  
To help with the Christmas expense

Dad would get a wage packet  
Simply bulging at its seams  
Saving for a week at the seaside  
To fulfill our yearly dreams

Nan and mum would go to bingo  
Dad would do the pools  
Us kids we played knock down ginger  
And learnt to break the rules

The nit nurse attended the school  
Each morning we'd have a bottle of milk  
We'd cling to our mum's hand  
Seemingly made of silk

Wherever you grew up  
I hope you had a blast  
Always look to the future  
But never forget your past

Supplied by Tina Gowers

Life has taught me I am not always in control. Life is full of experiences, lessons, heartbreak and pain. But it has also shown me love, beauty, possibility, and new beginnings. Embrace it all. It makes us who we are, and after every storm comes a clear sky.

Good morning: The greatest privilege God has given us is the freedom to approach Him at anytime. Hebrews 4:16

On this road called life, you have to take the good with the bad, smile with the sad, love what you got, and remember what you had. Always forgive, but never forget, learn from your mistakes, but never regret. People change. Things go wrong. But just remember, the ride goes on.

We don't always need advice. Sometimes all we need is a hand to hold, an ear to listen, and a heart to understand. So use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth and your heart for love.

When we lose someone we love, we must learn not to live without them, but to live with the love they left behind.

The OTHER serenity prayer  
God, grant me the serenity to stop beating myself up for not doing things perfectly, the courage to forgive myself because I'm working on doing better, and the wisdom to know that you already love me just the way I am.

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)

<b>MONDAY</b>	5.30 p.m.	Boys' Brigade	Anchor Boys
	6.30 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.

## May Newsletter Deadline:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **24th April 2023**.

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