

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 2011

March 2023

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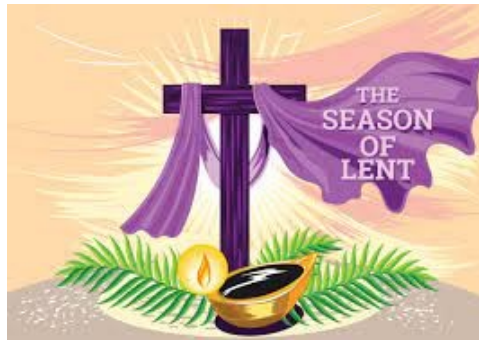
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Thought for the month

Mother Love

is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.

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

Dear Friends

I would like to share with you something I come across in a booklet called "Spirit Level." This booklet was compiled by the Division of Ministries in 1992 and is full of people's anecdotes and information that they found helpful.

The Small Beatitudes

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves; they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know they can relax without looking for excuses; they are on the way to become wise.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously; they will be valued most by those about them.

Happy are you if you can take things seriously and face serious things calmly. You will go far in life.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown; you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others even when the signs are unfavourable; you may be taken for a fool but this is the price of charity.

Blessed are those who think before acting and pray before thinking; they will avoid many blunders.

Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile, even when people interrupt and contradict you or tread on your toes; the Gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Above all, blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all whom you meet; the light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom.

Micah 6 v 8

"He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

May God bless us all as we walk alongside and learn,

Rev Clifford Newman

Bible Study – 2pm in the Foyer on 22nd March – Philippians Chapter 3 (Sorry a week later than usual as I have to attend Ministers Synod on 15th.)

Sunday Services March 2023

5th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Clifford Newman - Holy Communion
12th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Eileen Simmons
19th	11.00 a.m.	Local arrangement - 10 O'clock 'Club Anniversary/Parade service
26th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Paul Saunders

Other March dates for your diary



1st	St David's Day
4th	Coffee Morning - 10 O'clock Club (see notice in newsletter for more information)
9th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome
17th	St Patricks Day (N Ireland)
19th	Mothers Day
22nd	Bible Study at 2.00 p.m.
26th	British Summer time begins (don't forget to put your clocks forward)

Advance Notice: 1st April Easter coffee morning with stalls (see notice in newsletter for more information)

Point of Contact

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

Sunday 5th March

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Communion Stewards - Jim Halstead & Neeltje Charles

Musician a.m. - MIDI Box

Sunday 12th March

Sunday Steward Jan Andrews

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Margaret Tomlin in memory of loved ones - arranged by Jan

Sunday 19th March

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

Flowers - 10 O'clock club

Musician a.m. - Anthea Meek /Mike Spaul

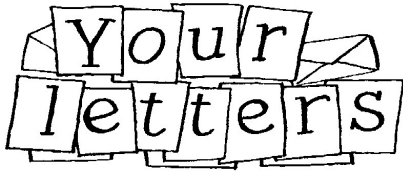
Sunday 26th March

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - MIDI

Flowers - Marion Hammond in memory of Vic - arranged by Marion

Letters Page/Church family news



A letter to Belfairs from Lady Julia Amess.

The fact that the tragedy of David's death occurred at your church has always played on my mind. It cannot have been easy for Reverend Newman or the congregation and I always keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Thank you for letting me know about the memorial to David and I very much appreciate the acknowledgement of not only what happened there, but also what a good man he was. The family has been completely overwhelmed by the love, prayers and support from so many, many people. We are absolutely devastated but very proud that he was so highly regarded.

I know you will understand that I will not be able to attend. I find myself avoiding even driving past because I am so broken.

Perhaps Reverend Newman would say a thank you on my behalf to his congregation and I sincerely hope that they will always remember David in their prayers - as I remember them in mine.

With much love,

Julia

Belfairs Methodist Church Paraments

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be asked to design and make the 3 “Paraments” for all of you at Belfairs, even though it was a massive undertaking - especially as the initial request was for 2 (not 3) pieces: the "Pulpit Fall" and the "Communion Table Runner". When I met with the leadership team in September last year (2022) to discuss and look through some of my design suggestions, it then grew to include a 3rd part: the "Lectern Fall". The design that was chosen was extremely complicated and intricate (it was probably one of the most complicated of all the design suggestions that I offered them!)

I know how important it has been for all of you to come to terms with the dreadful events of October 2021 when Sir David Amess was murdered in the building, and I was very moved when I read the words that the leadership team gave me to be included on one of the labels which I designed for the Communion Table runner. On each of the labels on the backs of the hangings and table runner I have included a “Tree of Life” design: one of the many meanings of the “Tree of Life” is that it is a gift from God and is associated with God's love and protection: it links us to God and to Eternal Life in Heaven.

I am looking forward to seeing them now that they have been mounted and put in place, and I hope that they will serve to enhance the life and faith of the worshipping church, and act as a focal point for prayer and celebration for many years to come. So much love and prayer has accompanied the making of these designs, and I feel as if – even though I may not be physically with you in worship - I am, nonetheless with you in spirit and love.

..... The leadership team showed interest when I told them about some of the things I used in the making of the 3 Paraments and they thought that you might also like to know about them: So, included in the making of the 3 designs, I used:

- Nearly 3,000 mtrs (approx. 3250 yards) of metallic gold embroidery thread.
- Nearly 4,000 mtrs (approx. 4,333 yards) of various cotton threads.
- 120 mtrs (396 ft) of metallic gold bias tape.
- Large pack of wadding.
- 4.5 mtrs of lining fabric.
- 4.5 mtrs of interfacing fabric.
- 4.5 mtrs of backing fabric.
- 10 mtrs of cotton fabrics (including metallic fabrics, pearlized fabrics, wood effect fabric (for the Cross), mixed pallets fabrics and colour blended fabrics).
- All the fabrics had to be cut into shapes and laid on the design before laying the metallic gold tape on them and securing them with metallic thread. – The total number of fabric pieces across the 3 paraments totalled over 950!
- 5 sheets of specially treated, printable cotton fabric and ink for the 5 labels.
- 3 Poles and 1 metre of weights for hanging the 2 “falls”.
- Roll of lining paper (used for the design and creation of the pattern), pens, pencils, heat removable pens and several hundred pins/quilt safety pins, several machine needles and sewing machine feet of different sizes/types, temporary basting adhesives + many other notions,
- And many weeks of designing and making them!

This is not an exhaustive list, but I hope you have found it interesting - and fun – for you to have some idea of some of the things that went into your Paraments!

Every Blessing to you all for 2023, and my prayers are with you all as you look towards the future with Hope and expectation.

God Bless,

Rev. Teresa M. Rutterford
(February 2023)



We are a warm welcome space.

**Belfairs Methodist Church
Eastwood Road North
Leigh on Sea SS9 4NG**

**Every Saturday - 10a.m. to 2p.m.
and Wednesday - 10a.m. to midday.**

FREE Hot refreshments available.

- Come and have a chat, feel safe and at ease.
- Bring a book, make a puzzle, or just sit back and relax.
- Free Wi-fi available so bring your i-pad/laptop along.

Choir Practice

The choir will be taking part in the Easter Day morning service on Sunday 9th April and we will be practicing on Friday evenings at 7.00p.m. as follows:

17th March

24th March

31st March

7th April (as this is Good Friday hot cross buns will be available)

We look forward to this time as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour and Lord.

Mike Spaul



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

This year started with a very interesting talk from Phil Gladman about his travel through Europe enhanced with numerous photos. Thank you Phil for giving the members a lovely afternoon and all the hard work for putting it all together.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 24th March @ 2 pm. **Vic Hare** will be giving a true account about **Children Being Evacuated During The Second World War**.

We look forward to welcoming Ladies and Gentlemen for an interesting afternoon in Friendship and Fellowship.

Neeltje

Lent

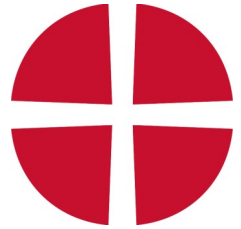
Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty,
not because God is mean or fault finding or finger pointing
but because he want us to know the joy of being cleaned out,
ready for all the good things he now has in store.

Give up complaining, focus on gratitude
Give up harsh judgements, think kindly thoughts
Give up worry, trust divine providence
Give up discouragement, be full of hope
Give up bitterness, turn to forgiveness
Give up hatred, return good for evil
Give up negativism, be positive
Give up pettiness, become mature
Give up jealousy, pray for trust.





THE METHODIST CHURCH - Registered Charity No. 1134248
District and Circuit - 34/10
www.southendandleigh.org



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Belfairs Methodist Church,
Eastwood Road North
Leigh on Sea
Essex
SS9 4NG

Dear Belfairs Methodist Church,

Within Methodism we have always had a great tradition of importance of Ministry. Ministry is the way in which we exercise our response to God's love and God's call as part of the body of God's people. Therefore, over the years, Methodism has stationed ministers within circuits. Those ministers are placed within circuits after a process of discernment, always focusing upon on the work of God defined by Holy Spirit and only the Holy Spirit.

The reason for writing to you today is that I have to make a change to which members of the staff team have Pastoral Responsibility for which church, and how ministry is exercised within the Circuit. As the years go by this gets harder and harder, this year being no exception. We are delighted that after her training is completed in September Rev. Heather Simmons has been granted permission to be a minister with us here in Southend and Leigh. This means that for the sixth year on the run I have to ask several churches to understand the need for change as we respond to new members of staff being stationed with us.

Rev. Clifford Newman has served Belfairs well and I know is popular, but in July 2023 will be moving on and Pastor Steve Mayo will be returning to his duties at Belfairs. The reason for making the move is to take into account the training needs for both Rev. Simmons as probationer and Pastor Steve as he finishes his training at Queens also moving on to probation, hopefully here in Southend and Leigh.

At this stage I want to thank Rev. Clifford Newman for all he has done at Belfairs and wish him well for the future. Clifford is always faithful to God's calling and at a time of need stepped in for us. I personally will be forever thankful.

I know this may have come as a shock to many within the Belfairs family and if anyone wishes to talk to me about the change please contact me, my details are at the top of this letter.

Thank you for taking time to read this letter and I wish Belfairs well as we continue to do God's work.

Yours faithfully,

Rev'd Peter J Moorhouse
Superintendent Minister

Worship at Belfairs with effect from September 2023.

So many of you will have now read Rev Moorhouse's letter to Belfairs, so I will now try to give you a 'time line' to help you see how the future of Belfairs MAY pan out.

- September 2023 - Pastor Steve Mayo becomes minister to both Belfairs and Wesley churches. During this time, Steve will be completing his final year of training as a Methodist minister.
- September 2024 - Having completed his training successfully, Pastor Steve will now be titled as Rev. Steve Mayo as he will now become a 'probationary minister for the next 2 years.
- September 2026 - Assuming all proceeds well, Steve Mayo will be ordained into the Methodist church as a presbytery minister and will continue to serve for a further 3 years in his placement allowing him to complete his minimum 5 year appointment. Depending on circumstances, Steve Mayo may then ask for OR be offered an extension to his placement within the Southend and Leigh circuit.

It is important to bear in mind that within Methodism changes can occur, and these changes can be within the circuit, district or Country as deemed necessary for the minister's appointment. So that is why I said 'MAY' in my earlier paragraph, all of the above can be subject to change.

Despite this, I concur with Rev. Pete Moorhouse in that Belfairs should be extremely grateful to Rev. Clifford Newman for stepping in as caretaker minister to Belfairs for the last 2 years, it has been a trying time for us all with events that have occurred here and, in fairness, we would have struggled to make it through without his ministry. Thank you.

Mike Spaul
Senior Church Steward
Belfairs Methodist Church
and
Circuit Steward to Southend and Leigh Methodist Churches.

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.**

Balance sheet of life

The most destructive habit.....Worry
The greatest joy.....Giving
The greatest loss.....loss of self respect
The most satisfying work.....Helping others
The ugliest personality trait.....Selfishness
The greatest 'shot in the arm'Encouragement
The greatest problem to overcome.....Fear
The most effective sleeping pill.....Peace of mind
The most crippling failure disease.....Excuses
The most powerful force in life.....Love
The most dangerous act.....A gossip
The world's most incredible computer.....The brain
The worst thing to be without.....hope
The deadliest weapon.....the tongue
The two most power-filled words.....'I can'
The greatest asset.....Faith
The most worthless emotion.....Self-pity
The most beautiful attire.....Smile!
The most prized possession.....Integrity
The most powerful channel of communication.....Prayer
The most contagious spirit.....Enthusiasm

LIFE ends when you stop DEAMING.
HOPE ends, when you stop BELIEVING.
LOVE ends, when you stop CARING.
So, please share this BALANCE SHEET OF LIFE.
FRIENDSHIP ends when you stop SHARING.

My To-do list for today

- * Count my blessings
- * Practice kindness
- * Let go of what I can't control
- * Listen to my heart
- * Be productive yet calm
- * Just breathe

Turn off the news, go outside, breathe. You were never meant to carry the burden of the entire world.

Sometimes you have to let go of the picture of what you thought life would be like and learn to find joy in the story you're living.

Happy people lift others up in their time or need.

Did you know.... There's no right or wrong way to pray.
Just try talking to God like you would a friend.

My mind still talks to you,
My heart still looks for you
But my soul knows you are at peace.

Kindness doesn't cost a thing, yet it's the richest gift you can give.

When you are resting because you're exhausted, you need to remember that you are not wasting the day doing nothing. You are doing exactly what you need to do. You are recovering.

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.



EASTER
“PRAYER & PRAISE”
CELEBRATION.

EASTER SUNDAY
EVENING.

9th 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.

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS :

10 O'clock Club 10.00 a.m. (except 3rd Sunday Parade Service)

TUESDAY 8.00 p.m. Badminton Club

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.

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **19th March 2023**.

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