

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 2020

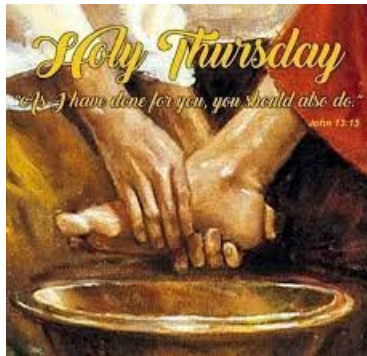
March 2024

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Thought for the month

We live and die
Christ died and Lived!
Alleluia

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



The season of Lent is upon us once more, a season which coincides with springtime and the rebirth of nature and new life which we see all around us. In my own garden daffodils have emerged from the soil. The church also desires that each of us grow spiritually and experience a reawakening of our relationship with God during the forty days of Lent, which culminate at Easter.

The purpose of Lent is not to make us feel disheartened or uncomfortable in the way we live out our faith, but it is a call to self-examination and for taking a fresh look at our attitude and behaviour towards others. Unconsciously, if we are not careful, we can little by little become self-centred and lapse into an '*indifference to others*,' as I once heard someone call it. Our Christian belief, doesn't allow us to pass by on the other side and so ignore the needs and sufferings of those around us.

The nature of Lent is not intended to punish us, but to remind us of our need for God's grace and of our obligation to put others before ourselves.

The problems and tragedies of the world can at times though, appear to overwhelm us, and leave us with a sense of helplessness, but we must never underestimate the power of prayer effect situations. To know the gift of prayer and its unfailing power is one of the greatest gifts of Lent.

As we embark on our Lenten journey this year, may we be cheerful and of good heart. Let us thank God for this time of grace and for the opportunity to grow spiritually ourselves, while being conscious of others who may need our help.

God wants only what is best for us, and he has given us his only Son as proof of that. Let us keep our gaze firmly fixed on Jesus this Lent, both as a Church and as individuals, as we pray for ourselves, others, and our world.

Every blessing

Pastor Steve

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Sunday Services March 2024

3rd	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Eileen Simmons
10th	11.00a.m.	Rev Zina Smith - including Holy Communion - Mother's Day
17th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Bob Briant/Phil Gladman - Parade Service - including 10 O'clock Club Anniversary
24th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Pete Moorhouse - Palm Sunday
31st	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Steve Mayo - Easter Day
	6.30 p.m.	Easter Prayer and Praise Celebration - Circuit Service

Other March dates for your diary

1st	St. Davids Day
2nd	Coffee morning at 10.00 a.m. - 10 O'clock Club including cake stall
14th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome.
17th	St. Patricks Day
28th	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - All are welcome
28th	Maundy Thursday
29th	Good Friday
31st	Clocks go forward an hour - British Summer Time

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, 28th March

United Service at New Road Methodist at 7.30 p.m.

Tenebrae - Rev. Heather Simmons



Good Friday, 29th March

United Service at Wesley Methodist at 10.30 a.m.

Pastor Steve Mayo

Easter Day, 31st March

Service at Belfairs at 11.00 a.m.

Pastor Steve Mayo



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, Musician, Flower Rota and coffee/tea stewards relevant for this month.

Sunday 3rd March

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - MIDI Box

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

Sunday 10th March

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards - Jim Halstead & Dawn Howard

Flowers - Anthea Meek in memory of Eleanor - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 17th March

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Mike/MIDI Box

Flowers - 10 O'clock Club Anniversary - arranged by Margaret

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 24th March

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul

Flowers - Tina Gowers in memory of her Dad - arranged by Jan Andrews

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Sunday 31st March

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

p.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

p.m. - Circuit worship Band

Flowers - Sue Spaul on what would have been her Mums 90th birthday - arranged
by Anthea

EASTER
“PRAYER & PRAISE”
CELEBRATION.

EASTER SUNDAY
EVENING

31st MARCH 2024.

@ 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.

10 o'clock Club

You may be wondering why you have not seen the young people in church on Sunday mornings each week. This is due to the small number of young people currently attending 10 o'clock Club and other commitments that they and their families have which has often meant late cancellations of our sessions.

Therefore, following a meeting with the young people, the helpers, parents and Pastor Steve, it has been decided that we will now meet on the first Sunday of each month until July (except April due to the Easter holidays).

We are still looking to see if we can encourage other young people to come along and this includes having a banner on the car park fence advertising this.

We have always appreciated the support we receive from Belfairs for our young people and hope that this will continue with our new format. If you know any young people or have ideas that could encourage them to come along then please speak to me.

We are looking forward to our Coffee Morning on Saturday 2nd March (which will include a cake stall) and our Anniversary service on Sunday 17th March and hope to see many of you there.

Phil Gladman

10 o'clock Club Superintendent.

Coffee Mornings

We have had an offer to run a second Coffee Morning each month on the third Saturday of each month. The person who has offered is willing to run this each month but would like some help each time.

So if you would like this to become a regular event, we are looking for volunteers to help run these. If you feel that you could help, please see Phil Gladman and let him know that you are willing – the more volunteers we get, the less each person will have to do.

The aim is to start these in March, with the first being on Saturday March 16th and John Plummer has agreed to help on this one. I am happy to put up a rota on the notice board, for you to fill in.

Our Coffee Mornings do help us to connect with the local community and it would be good if this could continue with this extra morning.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Phil Gladman

Thank you Sylvia!

Sylvia Smith has been a Pastoral Visitor for very many years, [none of us can quite remember!] and has quite understandably decided to retire. She provided a poem for us at the last meeting, which I print below.

I would like to record my thanks to her for all she has done over those years to keep her groups in touch with events in the Church. This was particularly important during the lock downs to try to avoid people feeling isolated.

Pastoral Visitors are a feature of Methodism and provide a vital link between Church members and the Minister in both good times and bad. People who have gone through the Reception of New Members' Ceremony are given a Pastoral Visitor, and those who prefer not to do this but have a strong link to Belfairs are put on The Community List. They come under the care of the Pastoral Secretary.

Sylvia's Poem

I've helped our Church in Pastoral care

To look after the flock and do my share

Make sure that they're all keeping well

We do our best as you can tell.

But now I feel it's time to bow out

I won't go quietly without a shout!

To say the Pastoral group are really great

So may they continue at the same rate

Many thanks to Anthea for her hard work

To make sure the Pastoral group don't shirk!!

Love to you all, Sylvia.

So thank you Sylvia for your commitment and Service to Belfairs, a good and faithful servant, and enjoy "retirement"!!

Anthea Meek [Pastoral Secretary]

March birthdays

For all of you who celebrate birthdays, or remember loved ones during this month, the following is for you, although of course everyone can read it!

May God bless you

Always and everywhere, be your

Refuge in the storm, give you

Courage to stand up for what is right and

Hold you in His everlasting arms

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.



When you truly don't care what anyone thinks of you, you have reached a dangerously awesome level of freedom.

It may not feel like you're holding it together, but given everything you're facing you're actually doing a hell of a good job.

You may not always see the results of your kindness.....
But every bit of positive energy you contribute to the world makes it a better place for all of us.

Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people,
A heart that forgives the worst,
A mind that forgets the bad,
And a soul that NEVER loses faith in God.

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.

Worrying won't stop the bad stuff happening,
It just stops you from enjoying the good.

Happiness keeps you sweet, sorrows keep you human,
Life keeps you humble, success keep you glowing
But loved ones keep you going.

When it's hard to keep going, just take ONE STEP at a time.

Good Morning, happy are they who take life day by day,
Complain very little, and are thankful for the little things in life.

Take care of the people you love, but taken even better care of the people that love you.

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

April Deadline:

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

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