

# Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

## Newsletter

Issue 2018

November 2023

### Minister:

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### Thought for the month

Let dark earth be a place of rest;  
Let bright heaven be a place of peace.

**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)



I'm really not a big fan of this time of year. The days are getting shorter, the weather colder, trees are losing their leaves and the outlook is pretty bleak as we tumble on towards the shortest day of the year.

I think sometimes life can leave us with very similar feelings; darkness can seem to surround us and the cold reality of life comes upon us as a harsh winter, sometimes even cutting us to the bone.

But in creation there is a promise of new life. Even as the trees drop their leaves, already we see evidence of new life in the form of fresh buds.

And as we look forward in our lives, we also have a promise of new things to come. Isaiah 43:18-19a says;

<sup>18</sup> *'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*

<sup>19</sup> *See, I am doing a new thing!* [NIVUK]

Here we have the opportunity to either look back at what has been, or to look forward with a freshness to what could be.

And as we step out into this new fresh future, we don't step out alone. Jesus Himself says in Matthew 28:20b; <sup>20b</sup> *And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.* [NIVUK]

So let us step out in confidence knowing that our Saviour walks with us into a bright, new tomorrow.

Every blessing,

*Pastor Steve*

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

Tel: 01702 483827

## Sunday Services November 2023

5th	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Steve Mayo
12th	<b><u>10.45 a.m.</u></b>	Mr. Colin Turner - including Holy Communion
19th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Bob Briant - Parade Service - including Boy's Brigade Rededicaion
26th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Dani Mayo

## Other November dates for your diary

4th	Coffee morning at 10.00 a.m. - Boys Brigade
5th	Guy Fawkes Night
9th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome
11th	Remembrance Day
23rd	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m.
25th	Church Council 10.30 a.m. start, coffee from 10.00 a.m. for those on Church Council
30th	St Andrew's Day (Scotland)

## 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 5th November**

Sunday Steward - Pat Crabb

Musician - Sue & Mike Spaul/Midi Box

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Ann Kendall

### **Sunday 12th November**

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards - Jim Halstead and Geoff Box

Flowers Pat Pace in loving memory of our loved ones - arranged by Pat

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope/Jackie Heinrich

### **Sunday 19th November**

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Anthea & Mike Spaul

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

### **Sunday 26th November**

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

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

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

# Letters Page/Church family news

## Your letters

Note  
From  
The  
Editor

Please note that the next edition of the Belfairs Newsletter will be for the months of December and January. Please ensure if you have anything that needs to be included/advertised for December and January, this is available to me by Sunday 19th November at the latest. Thank you

### **Peter Tomlin 1930-2022**



In 1968 the stewards of Belfairs Methodist Church decided that it would be a good idea to start a Boys Brigade Company to complement the Girls Brigade that had started the year before by Margaret Tomlin. Peter didn't really mean to be involved, but as no one came forward to start it up, he volunteered to run it for the first year! Many years later having started Boys Brigade Bible Class on Sunday mornings, done numerous camps and displays he handed over the reins to Tony Gowers in May 1981 and now in the capable hands of Barry Clarke it continues today.

At the joint Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade awards evening on Monday 16th October Barry had arranged for a new cup to be presented in memory of Peter and I was given the privilege of presenting this new trophy in memory of my Dad.

Dad was immensely proud of all the boys in the company and of their individual, each section and whole company achievements, (especially if sports were involved) and I know he would feel very honoured to be remembered in this way. I am incredibly grateful to Barry for arranging this so his legacy lives on in this new award.

Sue Spaul



Please reply to our office at:  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Dencora Court,  
Tylers Avenue,  
Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2BB  
Tel: 01702 415834

25.10.2023

### Harvest at HARP 2023

Dear Everyone from Belfair's Methodist Church,

We are writing to thank you for your kind harvest donation that was donated from your Harvest service, it is really kind of you to think of HARP.

We help over 1,000 people each year and thanks to the fantastic donations we receive from the generous people of our community, we are able to provide both local homeless people and HARP residents with hot nutritious meals all year round.

In September we saw a total of 16 new service users. 5 of them were sleeping rough 2 at risk and 9 did not want to disclose. All 16 received specialist advice on their situation.

We helped a total of 417 people in the month

We housed 277 individuals in HARP accommodation 35 entered a HARP property from elsewhere and 8 people moved on from HARP to live independently.

We had 746 visitors from 196 individuals at the Day Centre.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

*Lisa & Charlotte*

**Lisa and Charlotte**  
**Community & Fundraising Team**

P.S From November our new postal address is 104-106 High Street, Southend-On-Sea,  
SS1 1JN

#### PATRONS

The Most Revd. & Rt. Hon. Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York • The Rt. Revd. Dr. Gus Frangou, Bishop of Exeter • Mrs. Alison Cook  
• Emma King • Dame Helen Naisbitt • Dame Sarah • Mark Drake • The Bishop of Rochester • The Revd. Canon Stephen Dunne

HARP is the operating name of Homeless Action Research Project

REGISTERED OFFICE: Edmund Court, 145 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1AA

REGISTERED PROVIDER OF SOCIAL HOUSING No: 4742 CHARITY No: 9026126 COMPANY No: 1092961



# **Christmas Mini Market**

**Saturday, 2nd December**

**10 - 12 noon**

**Like last year, there will be a Christmas Mini Market in order to boost the Church Coffers.**

**There will be various stalls from Tombola, Cake stall, Gift stall, Books Arts and Crafts and more including food and refreshments.**

**Naturally we shall require good quality items to fill the stalls, as well as people responsible for the running of these stalls.**

**If you can help in any any please contact  
Neeltje Charles**



## **Annetta's Challenge 24 for Pancreatic Cancer**

I've very recently had a close friend, Mark, who had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. His wife, Elizabeth, is one of my closest friends and they all treat me as family, even their 3 adult sons. With his type of cancer and how far along it is he has only been given 2-3 months to live which is heartbreaking! I saw an advert to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer Awareness in November by completing a distance of 24 miles over the month; I've decided to make mine 30 miles so it's a mile a day. Any donations towards this would be greatly appreciated. You can donate via the link below:

<https://fundraise.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/fundraisers/annettaspull>

The above challenge may not sound that difficult, but many of you will know that Annetta snapped her Achilles tendon in May this year and is still recovering. She is progressing well now but is still restricted on what she can do.

Also for those of you who don't know, Annetta is Mikes and my daughter. If you wish to make a donation but don't wish to do so on line, we will be happy to accept your donation and do the necessary for you to ensure this is received.

Thanking you in anticipation of your support.

Sue Spaul



Today was the absolute worst day ever  
and don't try and convince me that  
There's something good in every day  
Because when you take a closer look,  
This world is a pretty evil place.  
Even if  
Some goodness does shine through once in a while  
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.  
And it's not true that  
It's all in the mind and heart  
Because  
True happiness can be obtained  
Only if one's surroundings are good  
It's not true that good exists  
I'm sure you can agree that  
The reality  
Creates  
My attitude  
It's all beyond my control  
And you'll never in a million years hear me say that  
Today was a good day.

*Now read from the bottom to top*

*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.





**You are invited to a  
Circuit Service  
where we shall be sharing  
'Modern Christmas Songs of Worship'.  
Music will be led by the Circuit Band  
with contributions from others  
in leading worship.**

**Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 5.00p.m.  
hosted by Belfairs Methodist Church.  
Light Refreshments to follow.**

**We look forward to this time of  
worship together.**

As in previous years, we will be supporting the Southend Family Centres this Christmas. By providing the Family Centres with Tesco and Amazon vouchers, it enables them to give needy families, vouchers for them to spend on food, clothes, childrens' toys, household goods etc These vouchers last them all year so that they can provide these vouchers as and when they need too. People are referred throughout the year, sometimes in just the clothes they have on, especially if they are escaping domestic abuse.

As they like to have the vouchers at the beginning of December, so that they can start to distribute them for Christmas, we are going to start collecting now.

You can either put cash into an envelope, marked Family Centres, and put in the collection bags or you can do a bank transfer.

Bank details are:

Belfairs Methodist Church

52-10-30

13662759

Ref: Family Centre

With Gift Aid, in 2021 we raised £610 and in 2022 we raised £680. Let's see if we can break the £700 this year.

Many Thanks

Leadership Team



I am just so very grateful this very moment, to have a roof over my head, food to eat, clean clothes to wear, a warm bed to sleep in, drinkable running water, electricity....  
We take so much for granted, when there is so much to be grateful for.

If tears could build a staircase and memories a lane,  
I'd walk right up to heaven and bring you home again.

You have permission to rest.  
You are not responsible for fixing everything that is broken  
You do not have to try and make everyone happy.  
For now, take time for you  
It's time to replenish.

When you have a friend that's going through a storm,  
don't become a broadcaster,  
get an umbrella and cover them.

It's the heart, afraid of breaking that never learns to dance.  
It's the dream, afraid of waking that never takes the chance.  
It's the one who won't be taken, who cannot seem to give,  
And the soul afraid of dying, that never learns to live.

To make a difference in someone's life,  
You don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect.  
You just have to care.

*My wish for you....*

When you are lonely I wish you love.  
When you are down, I wish you joy.  
When you are troubled, I wish you peace.  
When things are complicated, I wish you simple beauty.  
When things are chaotic, I wish you inner silence.  
When things look empty, I wish you hope.

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

### **December/January Deadline:**

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