

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 231

April 2025

Minister:

Rev Steve Mayo
1 Oakview Close, Leigh on Sea,
Essex SS9 4JN
Tel: 01702 483827
revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Editor:

Mrs. Sue Spaul
Tel: 01702 521344
E-mail: sue.spaul@hotmail.co.uk



Christ is risen; He is risen indeed, Hallelujah

Data Protection Privacy

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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

Jesus walks with us in our sorrows, unrecognised.
Christ touches us in our confusion, unexpected.
Christ burns within us in our longing, unseen.
Christ sits with us in our loneliness, unknown.
Jesus eats with us in our home, untroubled.
Christ reveals through his hands and side,
sin undone and love unimaginable.
Christ Jesus keeps us on life's journeys,
Under the shelter of his love.

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



Easter, that wonderful time of the year when we can remember the sacrifice of Jesus for each of us, and celebrate our risen Saviour all in the same weekend! I remember a few years back in one of my previous churches, having an Easter egg hunt in the service for the children.

Before the service, and before people arrived, some of the Sunday school teachers hid foil wrapped chocolate eggs around the church. When it came to the part of the service where the children took part in the hunt, there was much fun and laughter as the one by one the eggs were found. The service then continued.

Some 3 years or so later, the church was having a spring clean and we used scaffold to reach the higher parts of the church to dust etc. Upon looking down at the church, I noticed quite high up, something shiny on top of one of the pillars, and you've guessed it, it was an Easter egg never found from the Easter egg hunt all those years before. Strangely though, nobody fancied eating it!!!

But this made me think.

How often have we been given the gift of Jesus at Easter and never unwrapped Him?

How many Easter services have we attended and never tasted the glorious riches He has for each of us because we've never unwrapped Him, or maybe never even found Him?

So, what is this gift?

/2.....

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.' [John 3:16-17 NIV]

The gift then, is eternal life!

And unlike Easter eggs, the gift of Jesus never goes out of date or perishes; the gift of Jesus lasts forever.

May each one of us unwrap Jesus this Easter and fully experience His love and grace.

Easter blessings,

Revd Steve

01702 483827

revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services April 2025

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 6th | 11.00 a.m. 3.00 p.m. | Rev. Pete Moorhouse Easter Crafternoon - including worship, bible stories, arts, crafts and refreshments (see Phil or Andrea for more information) |
| 13th | 11.00 a.m. | Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion |
| 20th | 11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m. | Ms. Deborah Spinks - Easter Sunday Easter Celebration - 'Circuit Prayer and Praise' |
| 27th | 11.00 a.m. | Local Arrangement |

Other April dates for your diary

| | |
|------|---|
| 1st | April Fools Day |
| 5th | Coffee Morning 10.00 a.m. - noon |
| 5th | Spring Clean and clear out |
| 10th | Thirsty For?? At 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship all are welcome |
| 17th | Maundy Thursday - Service at Belfairs (please see Easter Services poster for further details) |
| 18th | Good Friday - service at Wesley (please see Easter Services poster for further details) |
| 21st | Easter Monday |
| 22nd | Earth Day |
| 23rd | St Georges Day |
| 24th | A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - all are welcome |

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 6th April

Sunday Steward a.m. - Pat Crabb

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

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 13th April

Sunday Steward - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards -Neeltje Charles & Dawn Howard

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

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 20th April - Easter Day

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Sunday Steward p.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Mike / Band/MIDI

Musician p.m. - Circuit Worship Band

Flowers - Easter - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 27th April

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Smitha Thomas - in memory of her grandfather - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Advance Notice - Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, 17th April

United Service at Belfairs Methodist at 7.00 p.m.

Rev. Steve Mayo

(This includes a sample meal so please make sure your name is on the list in the foyer if you wish to attend.)



Good Friday, 18th April

United Service at Wesley Methodist at 10.30 a.m.

Rev. Steve Mayo

Easter Day, 20th April

Service at Belfairs at 11.00 a.m.

Ms Deborah Spinks

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

Circuit service including circuit worship band



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

**EASTER SUNDAY
EVENING**

20th April 2025.

@ 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.

Best ever senior citizen joke.

A little silver haired lady calls her neighbour and says; 'Please come over and help me out, I have a killer jigsaw puzzle and I can't figure out how to get started'

Her neighbour asks 'What is it supposed to be when it's finished?'

The little silver haired lady says 'According to the picture on the box it's a rooster'.

Her neighbour decides to go over and help her with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says,

'First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster'.

He takes her hand and says, 'Secondly, I want you to relax, let's have a nice cup of tea and then' he said with a deep sigh

'Let's put all the Cornflakes back in the box.'

Ed.

Boss hangs a poster in office

**'I AM THE BOSS,
DO NOT FORGET'**

He returns from lunch and finds a slip on his desk.

Note read:

'Your wife called, she wants her poster back home.'

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!

A t each need a blessing from God
P lace all that has been in the hands of God's mercy
R efreshment when you are weary
I lluminate your way when you cannot see
L et all your strength be drawn from God.

Ed.

Choir

Choir rehearsals will take place as detailed below in preparation for Easter Sunday morning, the celebration of Christ's resurrection. If you would like to be part of the choir please come along to the rehearsals or speak to Mike Spaul for more information.

Friday 4th April at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 11th April at 7.00 p.m.

Friday 18th April at 7.00 p.m. (including hot cross buns)

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Mike Spaul



Wesley **Methodist** Church

JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL
10AM-1PM

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
ELM ROAD | LEIGH-ON-SEA



In aid of Christian Hope International

Registered charity no. 1061526

FREE ENTRY

SELLING Clothing | Accessories | Toys
Shoes | Bric-a-Brac | Books & more!

BBQ AVAILABLE

+
The Sanctuary
Café selling
hot & cold drinks and
homemade cakes
*in aid of church
funds*

**HAVE ITEMS
TO DONATE?**

Donations can be
accepted at the church on
Fridays 10am-12pm and
Saturdays 10am-1pm
from Friday 28th March

Thank you!

YES PLEASE

Clean Clothing | Toys | Games & Puzzles
Costume Jewellery | Shoes | Handbags
Bric a Brac | Unopened Toiletries
Scent Bottles | Books

NO THANKS

Suitcases | Pots & Pans | Electricals | Furniture
Duvets | Sleeping Bags | Tape Cassettes | Videos



WWW.WESLEYMETHODIST.ORG.UK

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

It's been a while since I've reported anything about our A.C.T.I.O.N. group. Each month Pat Crabb and I keep thinking about what to do each month and I must say that Pat always seems to come up with some great ideas. It could be card games which include winning wrapped presents. Other times we chat about various topics, which they all seem to enjoy too. Last month we had a musical quiz where an extract of music was played and members had to guess the artists. It was great fun. Next will be an Easter Theme on 27th March. On Thursday 24th April @ 2pm Revd. Steve Mayo is going to give a talk about Rescuing Chickens. We are really looking forward to that. Do come along and bring a friend. I'm sure it will be a lovely afternoon.

Neeltje

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11 - 17 MAY

For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. With generous support of churches they have been able to offer support to communities in crisis.

Tragically, so much that's been achieved is under threat. Climate change is destroying lives, lands and livelihoods of many communities. Extreme weather is ravaging farms and killing precious crops. Half of all children are chronically malnourished, leading to stunting that permanently affects both physical and mental development. These communities have done the least to cause climate change, yet they suffer the most. As farms are devastated, the search for solutions becomes critical. The crops on which they depend, wither and die before their eyes. With the help from Christian Aid they are hopeful to combat extreme weather by planting resilient crops, conserving water and making fertilisers.

During Christian Aid week, please help fund vital training and tools so these communities can escape hunger.

Envelopes will be distributed during Christian Aid Week.
Please be generous.

Neelje



PLANT SALE

IN SUPPORT OF
CHRISTIAN AID

SAT 3rd MAY

10 am - 12 noon

CAKES, CRAFTS,
VARIOUS STALLS

INCLUDING

**BACON OR SAUSAGES
IN ROLLS**

PLANT SALE AND BRUNCH
Sat. 3rd May 10am - 12noon
In support of CHRISTIAN AID

On **Saturday 3rd May** there will be a **Plant Sale** at Belfairs which will include cake stalls and various other stalls as well as **Brunch** consisting of sausages or bacon (or both) in a roll.

If you have any good quality items to donate please bring them along to the church on **Friday 2nd May** between **11am - 1 pm**.

Looking forward to your support.

Neeltje



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.



V.E.DAY 2025

V.E. Day was declared on May 8th 1945, celebrating the end of the Second World War in Europe.....it carried on the Far East until August 14th.



80 years on, at Belfairs, we want to acknowledge this event and will be installing a display in the foyer. In addition, Rev. Steve will be alluding to it in his service on May 11th and we hope to have a slice of V.E. Day Cake for everyone at the close of the Service, which coincides with the Church GCM. The recipe, orange and ginger, has been provided by the W.I. and designed by Nancy Birtwhistle, winner of The Great British Bake-off 2014, using methods of the times!



Can you help?

Have you any memorabilia, photos, cuttings etc. of the time you could lend for the display?

Have you any memories you could write for the May Newsletter?

Would you like to bake the cake? I can give you the recipe!



Please see Anthea or Jan if you can.

Whatever you decide to do, make sure it brings a smile to your face and joy to your heart.

Today
I hope you loved, I hope you laughed, I hope you smiled
Tomorrow
I hope you do it again!

Sometimes, healing isn't about fixing everything that is broken, it's about accepting the pieces that will never be the same and learning to live with them. It's about finding peace within the chaos and strength within the pain.

Accept your past without regret, handle your present with confidence, and face your future without fear.

Kind words cost nothing, and smiles are free. Have a productive week and take time to enjoy the little things life has to offer.

Sometimes the hardest person to care for is the one you see in the mirror. You're so used to putting everyone else first that you forget you're worthy of that same love and attention. One day, you realize you've been neglecting the one person who truly needs you—yourself.

The best things in life are free: hugs, smiles, friends, kisses, family, sleep, love, laughter and good memories.

Friendship is the sweetest form of love. So when I say I'll be your friend until the end, it's as good as saying, I'll keep you in my heart until its very last beat,

Note to self: Don't measure your progress using someone else's ruler.

Some days are better, some days are worse, look for the blessing instead of the curse. Be positive, stay strong, and get enough rest. You can't do it all, but you can do your best.

Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit

Quiet Day 10am - 2pm

Saturday 21st June 2025

Hadleigh Methodist Church

Theme: "In the Stillness"

Book the date

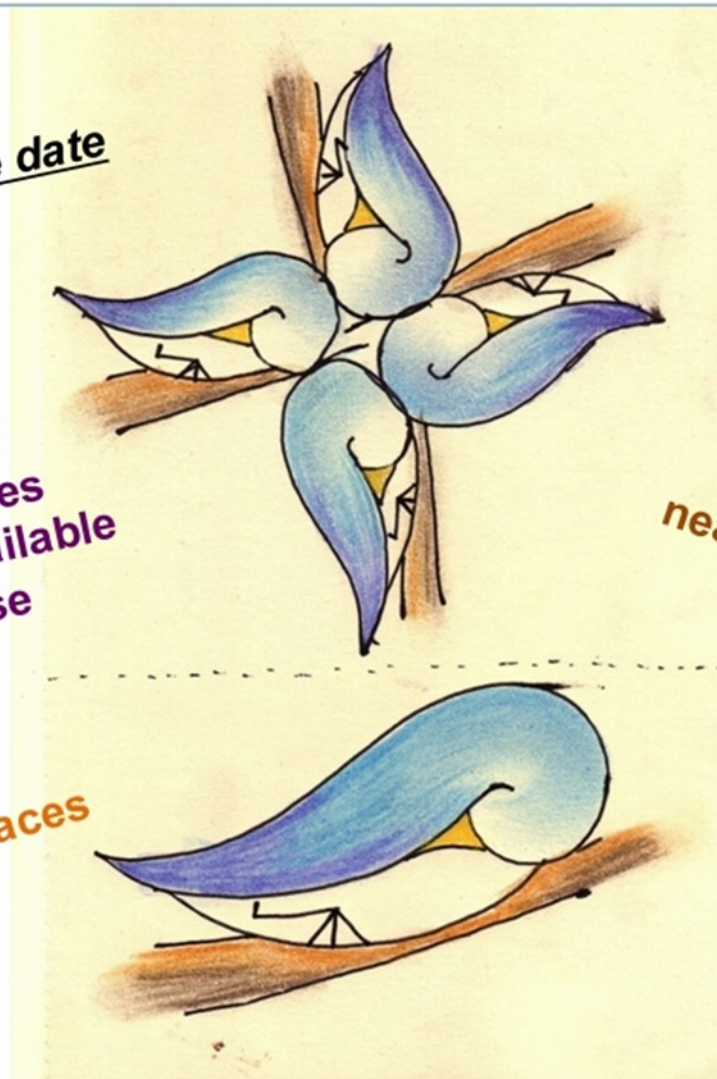
**Lots of
resources
will be available
to use**

Quiet places

**Come and
join us!**

**More info.
nearer the time**

Worship



**Please bring your own Packed Lunch.
Feel free to bring along a note book
or journal, pens and your Bible.**

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS :

Family Sunday School 3.00 p.m.-4.30 p.m. (Dates as announced)

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 |

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **20th April 2025**.

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