

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet
and strangers feel at home



Issue 241

April 2026

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Thought for the month

*On the first day of creation
God said, 'let there be light!'
On the first day of Resurrection
The Father said 'Let there be Jesus!'
Therefore Rejoice, Hallelujah!*

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 mini 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 high 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?

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And unlike Easter eggs, the gift of Jesus never goes out of date or perishes; the gift of Jesus lasts forever.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

Easters blessings,

Revd. Steve

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Sunday Services April 2026

5th	11.00 a.m. 6.30 p.m.	Mrs. Jane Fulford - Easter Day Easter Circuit Prayer and Praise
12th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion
19th	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Parade Service
26th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Archie McDowall

Other April dates for your diary



1st	April Fools Day
2nd	Maundy Thursday - see Easter services for more information
3rd	Good Friday - see Easter services for more information
4th	Coffee Morning - Margaret Bailey
6th	Easter Monday
9th	Thirsty For?? At 7.00 p.m. - all are welcome for café style worship
22nd	Earth Day
23rd	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - All are welcome.
23rd	St Georges Day

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 April - Easter Day

Sunday Steward - a.m. Mike Spull

p.m. Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Sue and Mike Spull/Midi Box

p.m. - Circuit band

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

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spull

Sunday 12th April

Sunday Steward - Alan Pace

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole/Backing tracks

Communion Stewards – Jim Halstead & Geoff Box

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

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spull & Phil Gladman

Sunday 19th April

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Small band

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 26th April

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

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

Coffee/tea stewards -Sue Spull & Margaret Bailey

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

United Tenebrae Service at Fisherman's chapel at 7.30 p.m.

Rev. Heather Simmons



Good Friday, 3rd April

United Service at Wesley Methodist at 10.30 a.m.

Rev. Steve Mayo

Easter Day, 5th April

Service at Belfairs at 11.00 a.m.

Mrs Jane Fulford

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

Circuit service including circuit worship band



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 God's hands

R efreshment when you are weary

I n your trouble, God's peace

L ead and enlighten you.

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.



Judas ate too

Hours before the death of Jesus. **Judas ate too.**

Jesus fed Judas too.

Jesus prayed for Judas too

Jesus washed Judas' feet too.

I struggle to fathom **what kind of love this is...**

A love that would feed the mouth that deceived you.

A love that would wash the feet of a traitor.

A love that could forgive even the vilest of betrayals.

Honestly I struggle to comprehend it.

And then, suddenly, **I realize...that I'm Judas too!**

And in that moment, **I'm so thankful and altogether overwhelmed that,** Judas ate too.

The true test of Christianity is not about loving Jesus

But loving Judas.

Showing love to someone like Jesus is so easy,

But loving someone hard to love,

A sinner like Judas is difficult

That's what 'following Jesus' is all about.

Ed.

Thirsty For?? Cafe style worship



20 years ago in March 2006, Belfairs started their first 'cafe style' worship.

This all started following a conversation with Rev Colin Frampton, who was a retired member of the Belfairs congregation, when Colin suggested to me that 'if it's Gods call, go for it', so I did. Along with the support of my wonderful wife, Sue, and good friend Phil Gladman, we held our first meeting which was open to anyone who fancied a 'relaxing' time together, along with Tea, coffee, cakes and of course informal worship as a part of the usual menu.

Over the years we have had many varied themes, investigated Songs of Fellowship books 1 through to 6, looked at various songwriters over the years, quizzes to keep the mind active, information about various Christian festivals in the UK, some awesome Christmas events including dressing up to perform the nativity play and video the event for prosperity, a Christmas dinner which included 'shepherds pie' and 'angel delight'. As you can appreciate with approximately 450 meetings under our belts the list goes on.

We were fortunate to have friends from other churches come along some evenings and that is still happening today.



We're only a large handful nowadays but still so many enjoy the time we share together and I have promised to the group that this will continue until such a time comes when there is no further demand for our meetings.

A very special thanks to Sue for the wonderful cakes freshly cooked every month, to Phil for his patience running the laptop (even though I change the order without any notice!). Thanks also to Belfairs for letting me host our cafe worship, it may not be everyone's cup of tea but I believe we are still serving our loving God in all that we do. Fancy a Thursday evening out, come and give us a try, 2nd Thursday of the month from 7p.m.

Mike Spaul
Worship Leader

ESSEX PLACE NAMES QUIZ
Answers at the back of the newsletter!

Headgear in this meadow.....

Write neatly on the blackboard.....

Overcook bacon whilst stooping down.....

Bottom and top of a ship.....

The cat speaks to the navy.....

Mr Fawcett meets University professor.....

Put 22nd letter in a tin.....

Neither blacks nor whites.....

Enter through the door to find a rock.....

Artist Andy is all mixed up.....

Cow's headgear in a place of worship.....

Mr Laurel's cuddly toy.....

Sick car.....

Deceased actor.....

The magi plus 4.....

To win the race you must do this.....

The dogs are noisy.....

Humorous pig.....

Opposite of North begin.....

Eco Church

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags.

For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open)
For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes.

For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April.

As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

Tina Gowers

British Heart Foundation Coffee/Bazaar June 6th

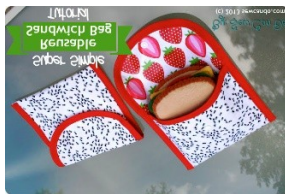
“HEARTS and CRAFTS” STALL

CAN YOU HELP????

Do you knit, sew, paint, create in any way?



Could you consider a heart themed craft creation?



There's time to get into action!!

Please give to Anthea or Alix any time from now until June so we have a wonderful array of “hearts and crafts”!!

Thank you!

The live game show experience that doesn't do half marks...



- ◆ Friday 17th April 2026
- doors 6:30pm, start 7pm
- ◆ Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay Baptist Church
- access in Thorpedene Gardens, SS3 9JD
- ◆ Big screen questions and bonuses with
just pen-&-paper; no phones or apps!
- ◆ This event will be raising funds for the
Southend CAP Debt Advice Centre
- ◆ Tickets £10pp; +£3pp for the chance
to play our on-the-spot prize games
- ◆ Ideal team size 6-8; all ages welcome;
bring your own soft drinks and nibbles
- ◆ The two highest scoring teams will
qualify for our head-to-head final

To book, email Amanda Wilson:
paul_amanda03@yahoo.co.uk (ref Quiz Night)

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

10 -16 MAY 2026

**Christian Aid Week is one of the biggest acts of Christian witness
in the UK and Ireland.**

Take a moment to read the inspiring story of Fridah living in Nairobi, Kenya.

Imagine waking up every morning knowing that if you don't earn any money today, your family will go hungry tonight. With no formal work opportunities, heart breakingly low pay, high food prices, and no social support, it's impossible to plan ahead.

Fridah Mora is a young mother and grandmother who became the sole provider for her family when her husband died last year.

'When my husband was alive, we used to share responsibilities - like paying rent, school fees, hospital fees. Now, I'm responsible for everything.' Protecting children from hunger and malnutrition is a constant battle.

Fridah lives with her twin sons (13), her daughter and grandson (4). The family lives in rented corrugated metal shelters. There's no running water and only share toilet facilities. To bring in money, determined Fridah sells vegetables that she buys from the wholesaler. It's a 2 hour round trip, 6 times a week. This is a relentless time consuming way to make an unreliable income. **'Sometimes I don't know how I'll feed my family. But I believe in myself and pray to God that I will succeed.'**

Thanks to a programme of support from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, Fridah is nurturing seeds of change.

Beacon of Hope is training aspiring urban farmers like Fridah to cultivate their own vegetables in small unused city spaces.

Fridah says: **'At first, I didn't understand. I was wondering, where can someone farm here in Nairobi?'** Training sessions cover farming techniques, such as pest management, compost production, and seed cultivation, as well as business skills. Participants are supported with tools, seeds and plots, they need to get started.

Fridah's Urban crops are at the end of a concrete alley. You'd never guess that lush crops could thrive here. As she opens the gates, she beams with pride: **'When what I have planted grows - that is what makes me happy. When I get money that I have earned - that is what makes me happy.'**

Fridah is now feeding her family with her own produce and selling it on her market stall to generate income.

From living meal to meal, not knowing if her children will go to bed with empty stomachs, Fridah now cherishes the security her small farm is bringing: **'Urban farming has changed my life.'**

Support families like Fridah's to protect themselves from hunger and nurture hope.

Please be generous in your giving during Christian Aid Week.

Especially knowing that International support has dropped by 40%.

Neeltje Charles

**SPRING FAYRE
PLANT SALE AND BRUNCH
Sat. 2nd May 10am - 12noon**

In support of CHRISTIAN AID
and Belfairs Church funds

On Saturday 2nd May there will be a Spring Fayre and
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 including books etc.
to donate
please bring them along to the church on
Friday 1st May between 11am - 1 pm.

Home baked cakes are also very welcome.

I am also asking for helpers to run the stalls.
Looking forward to your support



Neeltje



Family is not about blood, it's about who's willing to hold your hand when you need it the most.

Learn to trust the journey even if you do not understand it. Sometimes what you never wanted or expected turns out to be what you need.

You can't change someone who does not see an issue with their actions. You can only change how you react to them.

Sometimes I miss who my kids were when they were little.... Not because of their age, but because I wish I could go back, hold them tighter, fix my mistakes and relive every laugh and hug.

**What's done is done.
What's gone is gone.**

One of life's lessons is learning how to move on. It's okay to look back and think of fond memories but never stop moving forward.

It only takes a few seconds to hurt someone, but sometimes it takes years to repair the damage. Cherish the hearts that love you.

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

Live the life you love,
Learn from yesterday
Live for today
And hope for tomorrow

Living by 3 simple rules:
Love needs action
Trust needs proof
Sorry needs change.

Yes, I'm a Christian, Yes I make mistakes, Yes I fail, Yes I struggle
But I'm God's mess and God can turn a mess into a masterpiece

One of the best moments in life is when you find the courage to let go of what you can't change.



**BELFAIRS METHODIST
CHURCH**

**Eastwood Road North
SS9 4NG**

**SPRING FAYRE
PLANT SALE**

**Sat. 2nd May
10 -12 noon**

**Various stalls, plants, books,
cakes, bric @ brac, clothes.**

Refreshments including



ESSEX PLACE NAMES QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Hatfield
2. Chalkwell
3. Burnham
4. Hullbridge
5. Purfleet
6. Basildon
7. Canvey
8. Grays
9. Ingatestone
10. Harlow
11. Hornchurch
12. Stansted
13. Ilford
14. Dedham
15. Seven Kings
16. Runwell
17. Barking
18. Witham
19. Battlesbridge
20. Southend

HOW DID YOU DO??

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)

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

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

May newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **19th April 2026.**

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