

# Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet  
and strangers feel at home



Issue 244

July/August 2026

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## Thought for the month

*God of all peace*

*Speak your peace to our restless souls*

*Bring your peace to our troubled lives*

*Establish your peace in our broken world*

*Because you have promised to mediate between many nations*

*So that we should learn war no more*

*Lord, work with us and in us towards that day.*

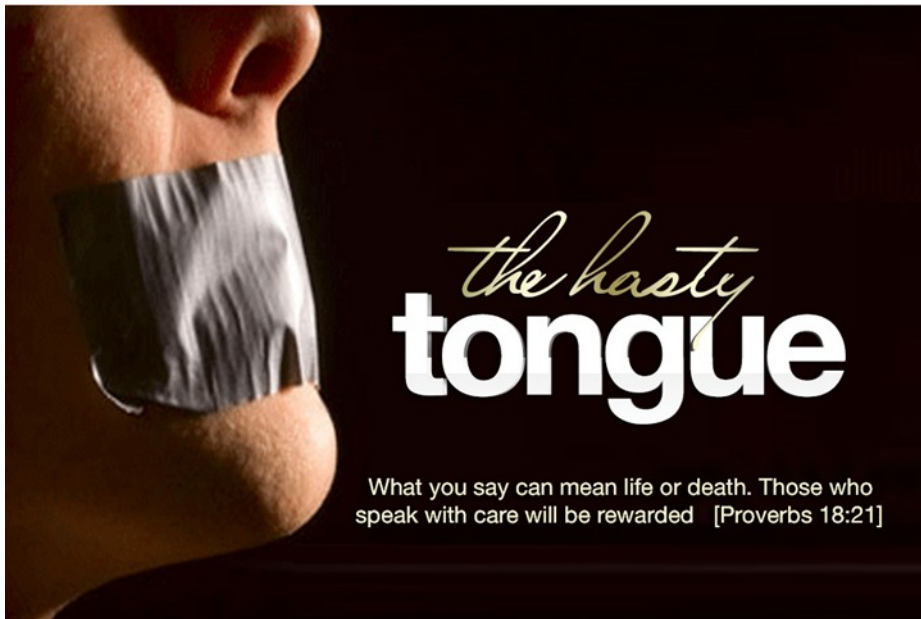
*Amen*

*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](http://www.belfairsmethodistchurch.org.uk)





I have been reminded recently about the power of the tongue. James says in his book, in chapter 3:3-6; <sup>3</sup> *When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.* <sup>4</sup> *Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.* <sup>5</sup> *Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.* <sup>6</sup> *The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.* [NIVUK]

Our tongues can cause a huge amount of damage not only to those we come into contact with, but also to the wider church. Small negative, derogative comments can cause huge pain and division even though the tongue is one of the smallest parts of the body. James refers to the tongue as a ship's rudder or a horse's bit, able to affect a much larger object.

This portion of scripture is usually used to warn us about the damage our tongues can have when we use them unwisely. But what if we were to flip the coin, so to speak, and consider the massive amount of good that can also be achieved with the tongue.

Passing on positivity to others not only benefits them, but also gives us a sense of fulfilment and well-being.

Stopping for a moment when we are about to respond to someone, and then considering the consequences, may enable us to build others and the church up, rather than demolishing!

*"Pick your words carefully as it has the power to make the sentence beautiful or ugly....."* [Adil Adam Memon]

May God give each of us the wisdom and strength to control our tongues when necessary.

*Revd. Steve*

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On Sunday 28th June at Shrewsbury Abbey Rev. Steve Mayo was ordained and Mike and I had the joy and privilege of sharing in this momentous occasion.

There is a copy of the ordination order of service available for anyone who may wish to see it.

We wish Steve every blessing as he continues on his Journey following God's calling.

Sue Spaul

## Sunday Services July 2026

5th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Jane Fulford
12th	11.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion - Church Anniversary Circuit Service with Anna Turner at Benfleet Methodist Church (see poster)
19th	11.00 a.m.	Mrs. Dani Mayo - Parade Service
26th	11.00 a.m.	UNITED SERVICE AT HIGHLANDS METHODIST - Rev. Dr. David Chapman

## Other July dates for your diary



4th	MND coffee morning - Pam and John Plummer, Margaret Bailey
9th	Thirsty For?? Café style worship at 7.00 p.m. All are welcome to this informal time of worship and refreshments
11th	Church Anniversary Gift Day followed by BBQ please see article for further information
12th	Church Anniversary service
23rd	A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - All are welcome
26th	Youth Camp depart at 10.00 a.m.

## 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 July**

Sunday Steward - a.m. Jan Andrews

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

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

### **Sunday 12th July**

Sunday Steward - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole/Backing tracks

Communion Stewards – Neeltje Charles & Jim Halstead

Flowers - Pam & John Plummer - remembering Tony - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

### **Sunday 19th July**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - MIDI Box/Backing tracks

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

### **Sunday 26th July**

**United Service at Highlands Methodist Church - Rev. David Chapman**

## Sunday Services for August 2026

2nd	11.00 a.m.	Rev. Pete Moorhouse
9th	11.00a.m.	Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy Communion
16th	11.00 a.m.	Local arrangement (please see article) - Parade Service
23rd	11.00 a.m.	Ms Sanya Strachan
30th	11.00 a.m.	UNITED SERVICE AT BELFAIRS - Rev. Steve Mayo

## Other August dates for your diary



1st	Coffee Morning - V A C A N T (Please speak to Phil if you can help on this day)
13th	Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m.
31st	Summer Bank Holiday

## Point of Contact

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

### **Sunday 2nd August**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman  
Musician a.m. - Sue & Mike Spaul/MIDI Box  
Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

### **Sunday 9th August**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews  
Musician - Patrick Dromgoole  
Communion Stewards Dawn Howard & Geoff Box  
Flowers - V A C A N T - arranged by Anthea  
Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

### **Sunday 16th August**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Alan Pace  
Musician a.m. - Midi Box  
Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

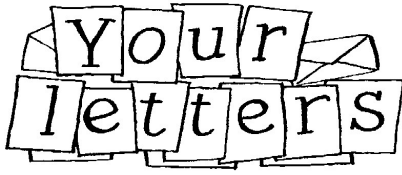
### **Sunday 23rd August**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul  
Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole  
Flowers - V A C A N T - arranged by Jan  
Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

### **Sunday 30th August**

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews  
Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole  
Coffee/tea stewards Anthea Meek & Jan Andrews

# Letters Page/Church family news



## Sunday 16th August - 'Your choice'

For this local arrangement service, Mike and Phil will be hosting a form of 'Songs of Praise' where you, as the congregation, make your choice of hymn, song, reading. In order to help set some of the service in advance, please can you let Mike or Phil know your choice for the service and also whether you are prepared to say something about your choice. If you can let us know by the Sunday 9th August that would be appreciated but otherwise drop us an email or give us a call if timescale is short.

Looking forward, as always, to a great time of worship together.

Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman  
Worship Leaders - Belfairs

## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY 11/12TH JULY

On Saturday 11th July Rev. Steve will be in the vestry to receive your gifts between 10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m., refreshments will be available during the morning.

This will be followed by a BBQ at 12 noon in the car park with entertainment from the Southend Brass Band. All are welcome.

On Sunday morning, 12th July Rev, Steve will be leading our Anniversary service at 11.00 a.m. All are welcome as we celebrate another year in the life of Belfairs Methodist Church.



## Letters Page/Church family news cont.d/2



**BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER**

Anthea and Alix would like to thank everyone for the tremendous effort in raising money for the British Heart Foundation in June.....  
.....those who made cakes, ate them, helped on the stalls and made donations. And Balloonacy for donating balloons and Nanny Kay for the fruit basket.

Now all the various monies have been added together, we are able to send them a cheque for

**£700.18p**

Once again this year, KeyMed have agreed to match fund, so the eventual total will be **£1400.36p!**

A brilliant effort!!  
**Many, many thanks!!**



...and don't forget

Look after your heart!

Dear Circuit,

We recently heard the sad news that Rev'd Bryan Tolhurst passed away aged 75. Many people around the Circuit will remember that Bryan was the Superintendent from 2010 to 2015. He served many churches during his time here and will be remembered for his compassion and kindness. He is survived by his wife Credwyn and their two sons.

We keep the whole family in our prayers during this time.

God Bless  
Pete Moorhouse

## Letters Page/Church family news cont.d/3

I was recently asked how much our circuit assessment costs per member. We currently have 57 members but only an average weekly attendance of 43.

Our circuit assessment for 2026/27 is £31,102 per annum / £2,592 per month and, currently, we receive an average of £1,821.82 per month from direct giving and Sunday offertory.

Based on 57 members, each member would need to pay £45.48 per month but, based on the average attendance, each attendee would need to pay £60.28 per month.

I thank those who are able to give more as they help those who are unable to afford to.

(These figures do not take into account Gift Aid which I like to think of as "a bonus!")

*Many Thanks*

*Tina*

## 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!

**J** esus' blessing be upon you

**U** nder you God's everlasting arms

**L** et your heart be filled with God's love

**Y** our spirit be filled with His peace.

Ed.

## 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**nticipate all that we need Lord

**U**nderstand our thoughts before we form them

**G**od be our strong fortress

**U**phold us when we are weak

**S**upport us with your strength

**T**end us with your comfort.

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.



### Senior Citizen Texting Code

- ATF - At The Doctors
  - BFF - Best Friend Fell
  - BTW - Bring The Wheelchair
  - BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth
  - FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
  - GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
  - GHA - Gor Heartburn Again
  - CBM - Covered by Medicare
  - IMHO - Is My Hearing Aid On?
  - LMDO - Laughing My Dentures Out
  - FYI - Found Your Insulin
  - TTYL - Talk To You Louder
- Ed.



# Circuit Service with Anna Turner

Benfleet Methodist Church

4.00pm

Sunday 12th July 2026

Join us for an evening of  
worship, poetry and story  
as we hear about  
Anna's ongoing work in the Middle  
East

## Belfairs Youth Camp



We will be having a Youth Camp at Bramford Road Methodist Church, Ipswich starting on Sunday 26th July until Friday 31st July and we would like to ask for your support regarding items of food as this has greatly helped with finances in previous years.

There will be a list of foods in the foyer together with an approximate cost against each item and we would ask you to write your name against a food item and put the money in the box duly marked Youth Camp 2026.

We are taking 25 children and 8 staff who need to be fed. This means 5 days of breakfast, lunches and dinners which amounts to a large shopping bill!

To give you some idea of the types of food required, below is an example of some of the meals provided.

Breakfasts: Fruit juice, cereals, toast, spread, jam, marmite, chocolate spread etc.

As alternatives on some days we provide croissants and on one morning bacon sandwiches.

Packed lunches: Rolls, eggs, ham, tuna, cheese, crisps, fruit, mini biscuit packs.

Dinners: BBQ (Burgers/Sausages), Meat balls, sausages with Yorkshire puddings, vegetables, chicken dippers, salad.



One night we give them a takeaway from the fish and chip shop - Cook gets a night off, well almost, still pudding to prepare!

This is just an idea of the meals provided while we are away and the amount of shopping we have to do. Although we take the majority of food with us, we obviously need to buy some foods almost daily for freshness.

We thank you in advance for your support and we will be thinking of you as we tuck in at meal times!!

Youth Camp Staff

P.S. We thank you for your support so far, which is greatly appreciated. There are still a few items left and if you could possibly help in any way to complete this list we would be very much grateful.



## Westerley Open Day



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2026!



11am – 3pm

- Card stall
- Cake stalls
- BBQ 12pm
- Tea's coffees and cold drinks
  - Face painting
  - Guess the sweets.
  - Guess the bear's name.
- Guess the weight of the cake.
  - Raffle
  - Lucky dip
- Ploughman's lunch
- Jelly and ice cream
- Strawberries and cream
  - Homemade chutneys by Jayne
  - Handmade Gifts



God I need a miracle tonight. I'm tired and drained. Please calm my mind, heal my heart, and carry all my worries away.

Your smile is your logo. Your personality is your business card and the way you make others feel is your trademark.

Every child needs to hear these words: You are powerful, you are strong, you are fun to be around, you are talented than most, you are kind, you are inspiring, you are beautiful inside and out..... And you are so very loved!

Sorry I can't make it to work tomorrow. Mechanic says I clearly have a blown motivator, loose screws, no filter and my tank's empty

**This hit home for me!**

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, you don't throw it away, you change the batteries. When a person messes up and finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not, you help them change their batteries! Some need AA...Attention and Affection; Some need AAA...Attention, Affection and Acceptance; Some need C... Compassion; Some need D.. Direction. And if they still don't seem to shine.. Simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

**A wise man once said:**

**Hate** has 4 letters, but so does **Love**  
**Enemies** has 7 letters, but so does **friends**  
**Lying** has 5 letters, but do does **Truth**  
**Cry** has 3 letters, but so does **Joy**  
**Negativity** has 10 letters, but so does **positivity**  
**Life has two sides - choose the better side.**

Jesus forgave a thief dangling on a cross, knowing full well the thief had converted out of plain fear. That thief would never study the Bible, never attend synagogue or church and never make amends to those he had wronged. He simply said "Jesus remember me" and Jesus promised, "Today you will be with me in paradise" It was another shocking reminder that grace does not depend on what we have done for God but rather what God has done for us.

3 signs God is showing you favour in the second half of 2026:  
You have the strength to face life's trials.  
Your heart is filled with peace and joy.  
Your family and children have been spared from countless dangers and disasters. If you believe God is with you, say Amen.

**Southend & Leigh Methodist Churches  
invite you to an evening with**

**Laura & Mac 'OUR ATLANTIC ROOTS'  
(Songs of Praise and BigChurchFestival)**

**Saturday 12th September 2026 - 7.00p.m. onwards  
at Highlands Methodist Church  
(Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh on Sea, SS9 3PT.)**



Cornwall based transatlantic duo “Our Atlantic Roots’ fuse together poetic lyrics and cinematic instrumentation, creatively presenting a blend of the cultures they are individually from, by merging genres characterised by their country and folk roots. Audiences consistently praise the duo for their tight vocal harmonies, honest storytelling and for Mac’s impressive guitar performance.

This amazing concert is open to ALL, at a small cost  
**£5 per head.** (profits for local charity ‘Aspirations Southend’)

Please book using <https://wegottickets.com/f/22011>

It’s a great opportunity to enjoy an evening  
full of inspirational music.

A ‘dry bar’ and ice creams will be available for all visitors.

