

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet
and strangers feel at home



Issue 243

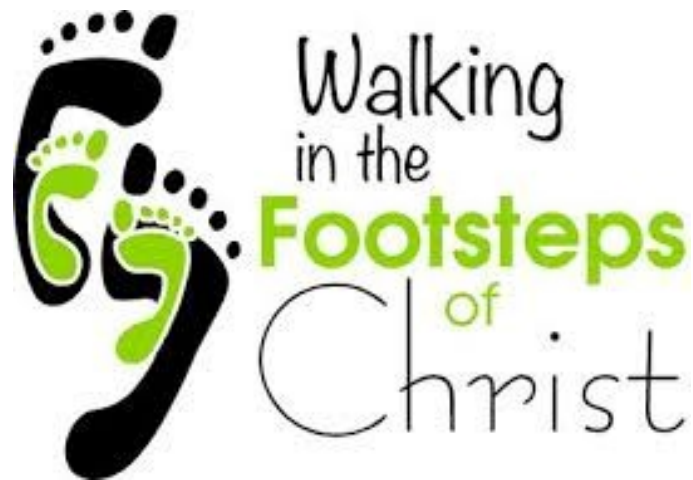
June 2026

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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

*Lord you have committed yourself to love us to the end
Help us to respond with
New depths to our loving
New heights to our praising
New lengths to our serving
New breadths to our praying
As we follow in the footsteps of Christ,
Filled with your Holy Spirit.*

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





Our Potential to Become Nuts!

As I've walked through parks and driven along our tree-lined streets this month, I've been struck again by the beauty of the horse chestnut trees. Their tall candles of white and pink blossom stand proudly, almost like little celebrations of new life. But as lovely as the flowers are, they are not the end of the story. In time, those blossoms fade, fall, and quietly give way to something very different - the small, green, spiky cases that will eventually become the conkers children love to gather in autumn.

This is a gentle reminder that God's work in us is always moving forward. The blossom is beautiful, but it is not the final purpose of the tree. The conker - the seed full of potential, capable of growing into a whole new tree - is the true fulfilment of what the blossom began.

In the same way, Jesus calls us not simply to admire the early signs of faith in our lives, but to grow into the fullness of who we are meant to be in Him. The Apostle Paul writes; *'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'* [Ephesians 2:10 NIVUK]

There is a purpose planted within each of us - a Christ-shaped potential that the Holy Spirit patiently nurtures.

Growth, of course, is rarely tidy. The blossom must fall before the conker can form. There are seasons in our discipleship when something that once felt bright and flourishing comes to an end. A role changes. A ministry pauses. A familiar pattern of life shifts. It can feel like loss, but often it is simply God making space for the next stage of growth.

And just as the conker develops slowly inside its protective casing, so much of God's work in us happens quietly, beneath the surface. We may not always see the progress, but Jesus is faithful. He continues to shape us, strengthen us, and prepare us for the good we are called to do.

So this month, I invite you to reflect:

- Where might God be inviting you to grow beyond the blossom stage - to step into something deeper, braver, or more fruitful?
- What gifts or passions has God planted in you that are ready to mature?
- Where might the Spirit be nudging you to trust the slow, hidden work of grace?

As a church, we too are like the horse chestnut - called not only to be beautiful in bloom, but to bear seeds of hope, kindness, justice, and love in our community.

Every act of service, every prayer offered, every welcome extended is a sign that Jesus' life is taking root among us.

May we continue to grow into our full potential in Him, becoming people who carry the life of Jesus into the world - just as the humble conker carries the promise of a whole new tree.

Revd. Steve

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revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services June 2026

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 7th | 11.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m. | Mrs. Anne Briant Rev. Steve Mayo's testimony service at Rayleigh Methodist Church (please see poster for further information) |
| 14th | 11.00 a.m. | Rev. Steve Mayo - Holy communion |
| 21st | 11.00 a.m. | Ms. Deborah Spinks - Parade Service |
| 28th | 11.00 a.m. | UNITED SERVICE AT WESLEY METHODIST - Mrs. Jane Fulford |

Other June dates for your diary



| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 6th | British Heart Foundation coffee morning - various stalls and refreshments (see poster for more information) | |
| 11th | Thirsty For?? Café style worship at 7.00 p.m. All are welcome to this informal time or worship and refreshments | |
| 13th | Trooping the Colour | |
| 14th | Family Crafternoon 3.00 p.m. | |
| 21st | Father's Day | |
| 25th | A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - All are welcome | |
| 28th | Rev. Steve Mayo's ordination service | |

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 7th June

Sunday Steward - a.m. Mike Spaul

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

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 14th June

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole/Backing tracks

Communion Stewards – Jim Halstead & Dawn Howard

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

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 21st June

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

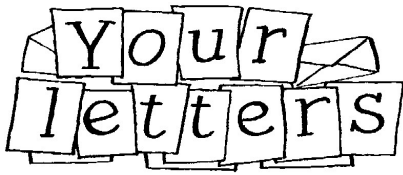
Musician a.m. - Small band

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 28th June

United Service at Wesley Methodist Church - Mrs. Jane Fulford

Letters Page/Church family news



ADVANCE NOTICE - CHURCH ANNIVERSARY 11th/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.



Note From The Editor

The last day for items for the July/ August newsletter will be 28th June as this will not be issued until Sunday 5th July, due to Rev. Steve's ordination and the editor not being available to complete it earlier.

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!

J esus bless you and walk with you

U nderstanding of God, enlighten you

N othing disturb you, nothing dismay you

E verywhere and always may God guide 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.



Echo Church

This June, take part in citizen science or a local nature event. Citizen science is a way for ordinary people to get involved in scientific research or data collection. There are many projects to choose from and it's easy to make a contribution. Invite others to get involved with you too. Here are some projects that you could help with:



Search your local beach with a shore survey: wildlifetrusts.org/shoresearch

Spend ten minutes counting pollinators: ukpoms.org.uk

Do a bee walk: beewalk.org.uk

Join Great Big Green Week (6th - 14th June): greatbiggreenweek.com

Alternatively, you could volunteer to help Jan Andrews with keeping our flower beds maintained. It is an arduous job, and she really wants some help please!

Tina Gowers



BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER

**ANTHEA and ALIX'S ANNUAL
COFFEE MORNING AND MINI BAZAAR**

in aid of

THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

is on



SATURDAY JUNE 6th

From 10.00-12.00



**A TOMBOLAfrom basics to luxuries.
A CAKE STALL..... always delicious
“HEARTS & CRAFTS”from scarves to bunting
A BOOK STALLanything from Ladybirds to Dickens
A PLANT STALL.....last chance to stock up for summer**

And SOME PRIZES, GAMES AND PUZZLES ??????

**If you could contribute to any of the stalls, boxes will be in
the vestry as soon as the May Fayre is over.**

Please support this worthy cause!!!



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

Rayleigh Methodist Church
Testimony Service for

REV STEVE MAYO

Preacher

Deacon Sarah McDowall

Sunday 7th June 4PM

Rayleigh Methodist Church
78a Eastwood Road
Rayleigh SS6 7JP

Car parking is available at the Church



60 years ago, kids learned

A is for APPLE

B is for BALL

C is for CAT

D is for DOG

Today

A is for ANDROID

B is for BLUETOOTH

C is for CHAT

D is for DOWNLOAD

And to Senior Citizens

A is for ARTHRITIS

B is for BLOOD PRESSURE

C is for CHOLESTEROL

D is for DIABETES

Ed.

Twelve commandments for Seniors

1. Talk to yourself, there are times you need expert advice.
2. "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
3. You don't need anger management, you need people to stop annoying you.
4. Your people skills are just fine, it's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it".
6. "On time" is when I get there.
7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it sure does muffle the sound.
8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle free and three sizes smaller?
9. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
10. Growing old should have taken longer.
11. Aging has slowed you down but it hasn't shut you up.
12. You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.

Ed.

You are not a burden, you are not a waste of space,
There is only one of you and nobody can ever take your place.

You can't control everything, sometime you just need to relax and
have faith that God will lead you in the right direction.

You don't have to see the whole path to take the first step. Courage isn't
about knowing where the road will lead, but about trusting that each step
forward is moving you closer to where you're meant to be.

Do not trust your tongue when your heart is bitter or broken.
Be silent until you heal.

Life becomes peaceful when you.....

- Let go of what you can't control,
- Stop seeking validation from others.
- Practice gratitude every day,
- Set boundaries and protect your energy,
- Focus on the present, not the past or future,
- Accept that not everything needs a reaction,
- Choose peace over drama,
- Forgive, but don't forget the lesson,
- Prioritize your mental and physical well-being.

I don't walk with God, I can't keep up with Him. He walks with me
and He waits for me every time I fall behind.

When life throws you off beat, create your own rhythm and dance
anyway.

When you are angry, **Pray**. When you are sad, **Pray**. When you are
about to give up, **Pray**. No matter what happens, **Pray**. Because no
matter what, the Lord is listening. **Amen**

Lord, when the winds of worry blow and the waves of life feel strong,
anchor my heart in You. Remind me that You are my peace, my
refuge, and the calm within every storm. Keep me steady, even
when I don't feel strong. In You I will not be moved. Amen

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

July/August newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **28th June 2026.**

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