

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet
and strangers feel at home



Issue 244

September/October 2026

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Thought for the month

*Thank you for creating a world full of seeds
That testify to your loving investment
In the land and in our lives.
Just as you rejoice to see those seeds bear fruit
We come to you at this festival time
With the fruit of praise and thanksgiving
for your goodness and faithful love.
A love that can't stop loving,
The gift that can't stop giving
The light that can't stop enlightening
The blessing that can't stop blessing,
we kneel before our God who never changes.*

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



Hi, I am Mark, the new Lay Pastor for Belfairs, Wesley and Highlands Methodist churches. For the past 23 years I have been a minister in The Salvation Army leading churches in England, including 7 years in Shoeburyness, Belfast and Dublin.

I am originally from Canvey Island and I'm looking forward to moving back to the area where I grew up. I am happily single and I have a pastors heart with a desire to show the love of Jesus through the way I live my life.

Outside of work, I love to travel and experience and learn from other cultures. Going on Mission trips to various countries has made me the person I am today and helped to appreciate the most important things in life.



A New Beginning — God Goes Before us - One Body, One Mission

This September marks the beginning of a new chapter in what God is already doing. For me as your new pastor, I have mixed emotions of excitement, fear, uncertainty, and expectation. There is a lot for me to learn, lots of new people for me to get to know, and new ways of doing things. God never promises that everything will be easy. However, God does promise that He will go before us.

Deuteronomy 31:8

"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

In 1 Corinthians 3:6–7, Paul uses a farming analogy to show how Christians work together but it's God who brings the growth.

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

As your new pastor I hope that I can bring new gifts, fresh vision, different experiences, and a new season of ministry. But the church does not ultimately depend upon my strength, personality, or ability. It belongs to Christ. My calling is to be faithful—to preach and teach God's word, to love and shepherd, encourage and lead God's people, and to follow the guidance of The Holy Spirit.

Equally, all of us as the church are called to pray, serve, support, and walk together in unity. There may be things we do differently, there may be changes and challenges that we will need to face together. But instead of focusing on what is changing, let us focus on what never changes: our Lord, His Word, and our mission to make Christ known.

The arrival of a new pastor is not simply about receiving a new leader. It is an opportunity for the whole church to recommit ourselves to God.

In this new chapter;

Let us pray for wisdom and strength.

Let us encourage each other rather than criticise.

Let us serve rather than simply observe.

Let us give grace as we learn to walk together.

"Lord, unite us, guide us, and use us. Help us to work together and to follow faithfully. May everything we do point people to Jesus.

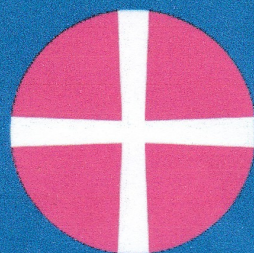
May this church become a place where people encounter Jesus, families find hope, broken hearts find healing, and the presence of God is unmistakable."

I look forward with excitement and anticipation of working with you and getting to know you all in the coming months and seeing what God has planned for us.

God Bless

Mark

WELCOME SERVICE FOR

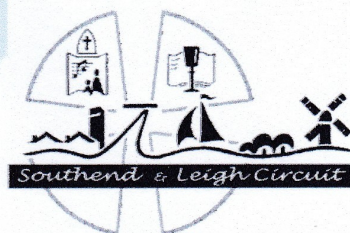


PASTOR
MARK
WAGHORN



SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER
4PM

BELFAIRS METHODIST CHURCH
EASTWOOD RD NTH, SS9 4NG



Sunday Services September 2026

6th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Paul Saunders
	4.00 p.m.	Circuit Welcome Service for Pastor Mark Waghorn - refreshments afterwards
13th	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Mark Waghorn - Holy communion
20th	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Mark Waghorn - Parade Service - HARVEST
27th	11.00 a.m.	Mr. Archie McDowell

Other September dates for your diary



5th	Coffee morning -
10th	Thirsty For?? Café style worship at 7.00 p.m. All are welcome to this informal time of worship and refreshments
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 September

Sunday Steward - a.m. Mike Spaul

p.m. Mike Spaul

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

p.m. - Circuit Band

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & Sue Spaul

Sunday 13th September

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards – Neeltje Charles & Dawn Howard

Flowers - David Manners in memory of Ann - arranged by Anthea

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 20th September

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spaul

Musician a.m.—Small band/ MIDI Box

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 27th September

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Phil Gladman - in memory of his Mum and Dad - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday Services for October 2026

4th	11.00 a.m.	Local Arrangement - Phil Gladman
11th	11.00a.m.	Pastor Mark Waghorn - Covenant including Holy Communion
18th	11.00 a.m.	Pastor Mark Waghorn - Parade Service
25th	11.00 a.m.	Local Arrangement - Mike Spaul/ Mollie Maliqi

Other October dates for your diary



3rd Coffee Morning -

8th Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m.

22nd 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 and musicians relevant for this month.

Sunday 4th October

Sunday Steward a.m. - Alan Pace

Musician a.m. - Anthea Meek

Coffee/tea stewards Ann Kendall & A N other

Sunday 11th October

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards Jim Halstead & Dawn Howard

Flowers - Sue Spaul - in memory of her parents - arranged by Margaret

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spaul & Phil Gladman

Sunday 18th October

Sunday Steward a.m. - Phil Gladman

Musician a.m. - Small Band/Midi Box

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 25th October

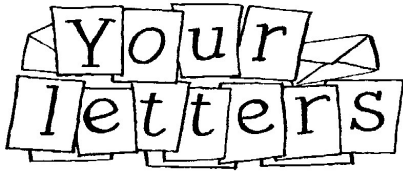
Sunday Steward a.m. - Alan Pace

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Dawn Howard— in memory of Dave - arranged by Jan

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spaul & Margaret Bailey

Letters Page/Church family news



Update on the alleyway conversion (phase 2) - September 2026

Since our last update, conversations and meetings have taken place with the architect from BGA Associates who have been investigating as to how we can take this project forward and still be compliant. A fire engineer was approached by the architects and has come up with a possible resolution which will help us proceed with the project.

We now wait on the architect and engineer to meet with 'planning permission' and 'buildings regulations' to see if we can open the alleyway up creating a clear and easy disabled access to the rear of the premises. When we hear further on this we will again let you know but rest assured, we are pursuing all avenues to try and get this project completed.

Mike and Sue Spaul (on behalf of the 'Tomlin' project).

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!

S unrise to sunset, God bless you and guide you

E vening to morning, God bless you and rest you

P enitent - may you know God's mercy

T he strength of God be your support

E xhausted - may he give you rest

M ay the Lord be with you

B e for you a rock of refuge

E nergy of God your power

R efuge of God your defence

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!

O ver you may his rainbow shine the promise of peace

C ountless blessings, perfect peace

T hrough difficulty, danger, maze and marsh

O ver unmapped mountains and troubled waters

B lessings of God on your going out

E very voyage you make be with his guidance

R eturning, God bless your coming in.

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.



A beautiful Prayer

I asked God to take away my habit - *God said No*
 It is not for me to take away but for you to give it up.
 I asked God to grant me patience - *God said No*
 Patience is a byproduct of tribulations;
 It isn't granted, it is earned
 I asked God to give me happiness - *God said No*
 I give you blessings, happiness is up to you
 I asked God to spare me pain - *God said No*
 Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares
 And brings you closer to me
 I asked God to make my spirit grow - *God said No*
 You must grow on your own!
 But I will prune you to make you fruitful
 I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life - *God said No*
 I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things
 I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me
God said.....
 Ahhh finally you have the idea.

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.

Church Camp Capers

Church camp came round, what a fabulous sight,
With Boys' brigade and Girls' Brigade full of delight.
We all stayed in Ipswich, bags piled high,
Ready for adventures that seemed to fly by!

Each morning the minibuses lined up with pride,
Packed full of chatter from every seat inside.
Songs on repeat and snacks tucked away,
Off on another exciting day!

Jimmy's Farm brought pigs, goats and more,
Though someone claimed they'd seen a dinosaur!
The animals posed while we all had a grin,
Trying not to step where the ducks had been!

Pleasurewood Hills had us laughing out loud,
Screaming on rides with a fearless crowd.
Rollercoasters twisting, spinning so fast,
We all hoped the fun would forever last.

Then onto water inflatables galore,
Falling in once..... and falling in more!
Wobbling and bouncing, we all took a dive,
Somehow we all came out looking alive!

The high ropes tested the brave and the bold,
Some looked fearless..... or so they were told!
Clipping on harnesses, climbing with care,
Trying not to freeze halfway up there!

Golf brought cheers and Ringos brought fun,
Everyone laughing beneath the sun.
Some aimed for holes , some aimed for trees....
At least the squirrels were thoroughly pleased!

But none of it happened by accident , you see,
There was one busy organiser as clever as could be.
Barry planned everything, each trip and each day,
Keeping us all on the right track all the way.

From timetables, buses, to making things flow,
He somehow always knew exactly where to go.
So here's a huge thank you, loud and clear,
For giving us memories we'll treasure each year.

Church camp was brilliant from beginning to end,
With adventures, laughter and many a friend.
Here's to next summer- we're ready, don't fear....
Just don't forget Barry.....we'll need him next year!

Supplied by Andrea Clarke

Games that taught us life lessons

1. "Red light, green light" taught patience. Stop, wait, go, Life isn't always full speed
2. Musical chairs taught us that not everything is fair. Sometimes you're out - even if you tried hard.
3. Hide and seek taught us the joy of being found. And the loneliness of hiding too well.
4. Tag taught us to run - and not just physically. It taught us how to chase what we want.
5. Hopscotch taught us balance, on the pavement and in life.



A Farewell Limerick from the Leadership Team!

There once was a Pastor called Steve
Who came to us young and naïve
We showed him the ropes
And helped with his hopes
That lovely young Pastor called Steve.

We hit some slight snags on the way
The Methodists "have their own way"
He'd essays to write
And bullets to bite
But we weathered the snags on the way.

Belfairs is so good at training
We're bossy and forthrightjust saying
We stuck up for him
And when times were grim
We pointed out what he was gaining.

Mike knew the way Churches should run
Tina made sure the money was done
Jan cared for the site
And Phil kept the kids right
So Belfairs stayed second to none

Anthea offered him coffee and tissues
And pointed out Pastoral issues
And after a while
He developed a style
With Dad jokes, a trumpet and quizzes

After 7 long years back and forth-oh
To Birmingham all that way north-oh
The learning was done
[And some of it fun]
Our Pastor was **Reverend** Steve Mayo !!

He's kind and loves visiting folk
He cannot help offering jokes
His work is sincere
His wife is a dear
We've been lucky to have this great bloke

His sermons are most entertaining
Profound, thoughtful, short and sustaining
We'll miss him so much
He had just the right touch
But our loss is other folks' gaining

Goodbye Steve, thank you and good luck!!

Stress comes from trying to make things happen on your own.
Peace comes from leaving everything in God's hands. Amen

The first ever cordless phone was created by God. He named it prayer. It never loses its signal and you never have to recharge it. Use it anywhere. Amen

God never sends you into a situation alone. He goes before you. He stands beside you. He walks behind you. Whatever situation you are in right now, be confident. He is with you. Amen.

Every phone needs a charger
Every home needs a front door
Every car needs an engine
Every child needs a teacher
And every soul needs Jesus

Wife: What are you doing?

Husband: Nothing

Wife: You've been reading our marriage certificate for over an hour!

Husband: I was looking for the expiration date!

Fight for you
Respect you
Include you
Encourage you
Need you
Deserve you
Support you

Begin your day with
Love on your heart
Expect blessings
Share goodness
Shine like the sun
Inspire someone
Never forget that
God is with you all the time.
Amen.

Exciting News!

Praise and Play is now running monthly.

Are you looking for fun playful worship for your little ones? Then please join us for Praise and Play at Leigh Wesley Methodist Church on the first Friday of the month (mostly) at 9.15am!

Praise and Play is playful worship, for under 5s, with toys, singing, fun biblical storytelling and prayer activities. It's for 30 minutes followed by hot drinks, juice, snacks and yummy homemade cakes!

All are very welcome as we worship God and learn more about Jesus

Leigh Wesley is an inclusive dementia friendly church. Proclaiming the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, by helping people in their search for God.

PRAISE AND PLAY

Playful worship for under 5s

First Friday of the month

09:15am–09:45am

Followed by refreshments in the cafe

no sessions in January

in May it's the second Friday of the month



At Wesley Methodist Church, Elm Road,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SJ

www.wesleymethodist.org.uk

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

November newsletter:

Articles are welcomed at any time, but the deadline for last minute items is **18th October 2026.**

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