

Belfairs Methodist Church

Where old friends meet and strangers feel at home

Newsletter

Issue 225

September 2024

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Thought for the month

Thank you God, for all we have
Enough, and more to share.
We bring these gifts for others now
To show them that we care.



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



Well, I've come to an end of an era in my Christian journey. By the time you read this letter, I will no longer be Pastor Steve, but Revd. Steve. It has been quite a journey for me since candidating for presbyteral ministry some 4 years ago, a journey which initially, I wasn't keen to undertake, having been through ministerial training some 22 years ago. But this is where we have to recognise that God is in control and knows what is best for us. It's human nature for us to want to take the easiest path through life, and when God sends us down a different path, we often rebel, or think we know better.

As I look back over the last 3 years of ministerial training, I can now see God's wisdom and plan. I have had so many experiences and opportunities to see God and the Methodist church at work in this country across the globe in Sri Lanka; things I would have never seen or experienced had I taken the straight path through life. I have also made many relationships with my college cohort and teaching staff, who had become friends. And of course, the practical and theological training at the Queen's Foundation College has been integral to my spiritual journey.

But for all of us, God '*meanders*' or lives like the river in the picture above, so that we can all come into contact with people and experiences God has intended for us, experiences which will help us grow and mature into the people He wants us to be.

Jeremiah 29:11 says; '*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*' [NIVUK]

My prayer for all of us is that we would be open to God's call upon our lives, even when we cannot see, or understand the reason.

It may seem like an oxymoron when we consider what I have written above, but; *'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.'* [Proverbs 3:5-6 NIVUK]

I would like to finish this letter by thanking all those who have supported me throughout these past years. Your support has been invaluable and appreciated. Thank you.

Every blessing,

Revd Steve

Tel: 01702 483827

Email: revdstevemayo@gmail.com

Sunday Services September 2024

- 1st 11.00 a.m. Mr. Mike Spaul & Mr. Phil Gladman
- 8th 11.00a.m. Rev. Steve Mayo - Covenant service including Holy communion
- 15th 11.00 a.m. Ms. Deborah Spinks - Parade Service
- 22nd 11.00 a.m. Mr. John Annim
- 29th 11.00 a.m. Rev. Heather Simmons - Harvest - United Service at Belfairs

Advance Date for your diary

Saturday 30th November 2024 - 5.30-7.30 p.m. Southend Brass Band present 'Let's get ready for Christmas' Concert in the John Wesley Hall, Belfairs Methodist Church. More details to follow in October.

Other September dates for your diary

- 2nd Rev. Steve Mayo's welcome service at Wesley Methodist at 7.30 p.m. (are welcome - please come and support Steve as he takes up his new role)
- 7th Coffee morning at 10.00 a.m. - Mike & Sue Spaul
- 12th Thirsty For?? at 7.00 p.m. - Café style worship - all are welcome.
- 19th A.C.T.I.O.N at 2.00 p.m. - All are welcome (please note the change of date)
- 27th MacMillan Coffee morning - 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. - Cake stall and more (please come and support this worthwhile cause)
- 28th Decorating the church for Harvest between 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. (please see article for more information)

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 1st September

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spull

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

Coffee/tea stewards a.m. Ann Kendall & Sue Spull

Sunday 8th September

Sunday Steward - Phil Gladman

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Communion Stewards - Neeltje Charles & Dawn Howard

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

Coffee/tea stewards Mike Spull & Phil Gladman

Sunday 15th September

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spull

Musician a.m. - Mike/MIDI Box

Coffee/tea stewards Jan Pope & Jackie Heinrich

Sunday 22nd September

Sunday Steward a.m. - Jan Andrews

Musician - Patrick Dromgoole

Flowers - Elly Austin in memory of John - arranged by Smitha

Coffee/tea stewards Sue Spull & Margaret Bailey

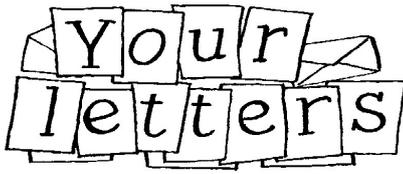
Sunday 29th September

Sunday Steward a.m. - Mike Spull

Musician a.m. - Patrick Dromgoole

Coffee/tea stewards Anthea Meek & Jan Andrews

Letters Page/Church family news



Big 70 celebrations

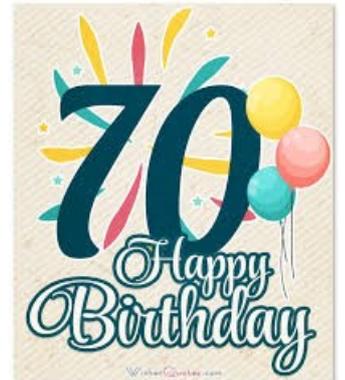
A very big thank you to everyone for their cards, gifts and expressions of congratulations in celebration of my recent 70th birthday.

With Thirsty For?? (Café worship) the night before the big day, a morning of coffee and cakes with my colleagues at Fairwood Bowls club on the day, a further morning of coffee and cakes on the Saturday and then a final session of food with friends in the evening, the celebrations went flawlessly over a few days.

A special mention must go to my wife Sue, and my children Annetta and Stephen, for all their arrangements being put in place beforehand, without their efforts nothing would have worked as well as it did, so thank you for making my celebrations special, it really was a fantastic time.

God bless

Mike Spaul



A BIG thank you to everyone who gave the church money for our Annual Gift Day. A total of £2,125.00 was raised for church funds. For a comparison that is, a little shy of 2 months Electric bills (£1,237 per month) or just under 1 months circuit assessment fees (£2,755).

Many Thanks
Tina



Letters Page/Church family news cont.d /2

Dear Friends at Belfairs,

I just wanted to express the family's thanks to everyone who gave their time into helping make Jane's Celebration of Life Service on 6th June run so smoothly.

From those who prepared the Church beforehand, to those that officiated at the service in one way or another, to those who prepared and served the refreshments and, by no means last, to those who helped transport friends to and from the crematorium and church.

There are too many to name individually, and I am sure I would inadvertently miss out one or two out if I tried, but you know who you are.

I also send my thanks to those who contributed, in Jane's memory, to raising over £2,600 for research into MS. An extraordinary amount, I think you will agree!

Once again, thank you all,
Best wishes,

Geoff

Geoff Box

Youth Camp 2024 28th July - 2nd August

Our youth camp this year in Littlehampton, West Sussex was an incredible time of fun food and fellowship (in the Belfairs tradition).

The children had an amazing time, with the most glorious weather, enabling us to spend a lot of time on the beach, as well as playing crazy golf, net adventures, kayaking and giant paddle boarding, and a day at Funland. Pastor Steve Mayo (as he was then) joined us for the day on Thursday and even came in the sea with us although on that particular day, the adults were only paddling as the water wasn't deep enough for us to swim although the children thought it was great. The food went well, with clean plates every meal, even with seconds and sometimes thirds! Some of them when they got home, after dinner with their families then asked when supper was!! (a tradition at camp before bedtime, normally hot chocolate and a cake or biscuit)

We thank you once again for your support, with the sponsored food items, other donations and your prayers during the time we were away, and we are looking forward to next years youth camp, gain at Littlehampton.

Barry, Andrea, Mike, Sue, Jan, Steve, Tony, Matt.



Come and join Mike, Sue
and team at BELFAIRS
METHODIST CHURCH
SS9 4NG.

FRIDAY 27th September
From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tea, Coffee, Cakes and
friends to share with.

Sit and relax or pop in for a
take away, whichever suits
you.
Come and support a good
cause.



WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

Fundraising for

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Organised in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

September 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 eace be within you, though troubles surround you
T o bind around you the strong arm of God
E nergy of life, pour out your blessings
M aker and care-taker of all that is
B lessings from the wellspring of life be with you
E ternal blessings from the God of life to you
R efreshment from the living waters be within you.

Ed.

Poem - Summer Holiday 2023

Let the train take the strain come to mind
when my daughter suggested we join her.
A week by the sea in good company
What possibly could be finer.

With seats booked on line after routes found on time
We looked forward to travelling to meet her.

The day that we left started out as it should,
The train was on time and the weather was good.
In London the stations were crowded it was difficult to move with our cases,
But we soldiered on with determination til we reached our intended rail station.

Once on the train we tried to read for a while and then sought quiet relaxation.
Not to be it would seem as the train stopped too soon some miles from our destination
A tree on the line had scuppered our way meant we reversed to an earlier station.

We waited a while til apologies given that our train could no further be driven.
All passengers and luggage alighted and waited to continue their journey united.
To the rescue it came in the shape of a train that finally was sighted.

We scrambled with others to board it, but the train was so full there was nowhere to sit.
So we stood for the rest of the journey.

At last our holiday home came into view
What relief, what elation, what joy but take it from me the train taking the strain is totally and
utterly untrue.

A trip on the Bus

I went out on a bus today, not often taken I have to say
I found a seat along the aisle and sat for quite a while
beside someone I did not know.
We sat in silence both lost in thoughts until an accident of sorts
was just avoided but only just.
We both declared at once it seemed how close it was or could have been.
Two strangers on a bus had found the incident a turn around
We smiled and chatted like familiar friends until the terminus brought us to our journeys end.

Both these poems were written by Pat Crabb

(to whom I owe an apology as these were omitted by oversight from the July/August edition,
Ed.)

A Senior Citizen Defined

A senior citizen is one who was here before the pill, television, frozen food, credit cards and ballpoint pens. For us, timesharing meant togetherness, not computers, and a chip meant a piece of wood.

Hardware meant hard wear, and softwear wasn't even a word. Teenagers never wore slacks.

We were before pantyhose, drip-dry clothes, dishwashers, clothes dryers and electric blankets.

We got married first and then lived together (How quaint can one be?). Girls wore Peter Pan collars and thought 'cleavage' was something butchers did.

We were before Batman, vitamin pills, disposable nappies, pizzas, instant coffee and even Chinese takeaways.

In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', grass was for mowing, pot was something you cooked in. A gay person was the life of the party and nothing more, while Aids meant beauty lotions, or help for someone in trouble.

We are today's Senior Citizens, a hardy bunch when you think of how the world has changed and of the adjustments we have had to make.

This came from the Amberley Working Museum, not sure when it was written, but some of it still seemed applicable. 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.





UMC FUN LUNCHTIME QUIZ



Suitable
for all ages

Tables
of 4/6



SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

11.30 am—1.30 pm

Tickets
£5

Please bring own
packed lunch/picnic.

Drinks provided



For tickets please contact
07752 859296 or email
office@umcsouthend.org.uk

**United Methodist Church,
High Street, Great Wakering**

Proceeds to go towards church funds





Harvest September 2024

This harvest, we decided to support the Southend Foodbanks. If you wish to give a monetary contribution, please either make a Bank transfer to our account (Belfairs Methodist Church, 52-10-30, 13662759, ref: Harvest) or place your money in an envelope, mark it HARVEST, and put it in the collection bag or pass to a steward or treasurer.

For food contributions, please see the list and the guidance from Southend Foodbank. Our church will be open on Saturday 28th September 2024, 10am – 11am but items can also be donated during the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September 10am – 1pm.

DONATE FOOD

Our foodbank relies on your goodwill and support.

Traditionally, over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in [The Trussell Trust](#) network is donated by the public – that’s why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three- day supply of food. Since 2023, that figure is now around 50% due to the increased need and donations falling.

WHAT FOOD TO DONATE

The shopping list on this page shows the food items that we need to pack most food parcels. We often run out of UHT milk, tinned meat meals, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit and long life fruit juice.

All food donated should be in-date, unopened and the sort of food that can be kept in a cupboard without refrigeration, e.g. tins and packets (and not chilled or frozen). If you have surplus food that you can’t donate to a foodbank, including frozen, opened and out-of-date food, check out apps like [Olio](#) for free sharing in your local community.

We welcome donations of baby food, in jars, pouches, rusks etc; however we do not give out infant formula milk or powder (stage 1 and 2). This follows national guidance, where parents’ choices should be supported by relevant services with expertise in infant feeding, in line with the [Baby Friendly Initiative standards](#).

WHAT DOES THE FOODBANK NEED?

UHT MILK
TINNED MEATBALLS AND HOTDOGS
TINNED FRUIT
SOUP
BAKED BEANS
PASTA SAUCE
RICE PUDDING
TEA BAGS
TINNED TUNA
KIDNEY BEANS
TINNED POTATOES
QUICK COOK RICE
TINNED MEAT PIE
TINNED MAC AND CHEESE
PEANUT BUTTER
TINNED MINCE OR STEWED STEAK

TINNED CHILLI AND CURRY
TINNED VEGETABLES
CEREAL
JAM
PASTA
LONG LIFE FRUIT JUICE
CUSTARD
BISCUITS
SWEET AND SAVOURY SNACKS
CHICKPEAS
INSTANT MASH
NOODLES
TINNED RAVIOLI
SQUASH
CEREAL BARS

Check out the Southend FoodBank website for more information.
www.southend.foodbank.org.uk or scan the QR code.



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One day at a time is all we should be dealing with. We can't go back to yesterday, we can't predict tomorrow, so let's live for today and make it beautiful.

At my age, I am good at multitasking. I can listen, ignore and forget all at once.

Always pray to have eyes that see the best, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith.

Being a mother is being **strong** when you are weak, **brave** when you are scared.
It is being **an example** when you know nothing worth teaching, **giving hope** in hopeless times and **love** beyond all reason.

Kids with special needs are not weird or odd, they only want what everyone else wants ... to be accepted!

You know great things are coming when everything seems to be going wrong. Old energy is clearing out for new energy to enter.
Be patient!

3 stupid stages of life!

Teen age:

Have time + energy..... But No Money

Working age:

Have Money + energybut No Time

Old age:

Have Time + Moneybut no energy

Don't regret growing older..... It's a privilege denied to many.

