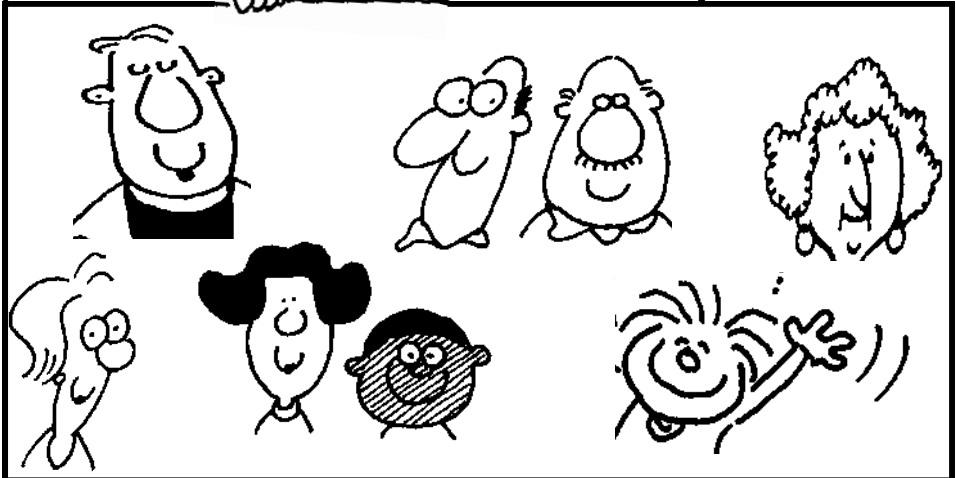


CHALKWELL NEWS

Issue 271 - March 2024



*A warm
welcome
awaits you*



Church website: www.chalkwellpark.co.uk


Our minister: Rev. Peter Moorhouse
07500 770999 / 01702 557070
peter.moorhouse@methodist.org.uk

and shared pastoral oversight of Chalkwell
Rev. Margaret Deans 01702 432328

Chalkwell Park Methodist Church is a member of
the Southend and Leigh Methodist Circuit
(www.southendandleigh.org),
and in turn part of the
Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District
of the Methodist Church

Diary Dates

March

Friday 1st 10 ~ 12	Coffee Morning - have a cuppa & a chat
Sunday 3rd 10 a.m.	United Service @ Trinity
Monday 4th 7.30 a.m.	Church Council
Fri 8th & 22nd 10 ~ 12	Crafty Friday (all adults welcome)
Sunday 10th 10.45 a.m.	Mother's day Service - Church Parade
Monday 11th 2 p.m.	Ladies Monday Club - Rev Pete
Monday 11th 7.30 p.m.	Men's Supper Club - Criminal Courts
Monday 18th 7.30 p.m.	Reading Group
Monday 25th 2 p.m.	Ladies Monday Club - Easter with tombola
Good Friday 29th 10 a.m.	Good Friday service
Sunday 31st	BST starts - Clocks go forward 1 hour 
Sunday 31st 10.45 a.m.	Easter service with Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 31st 6.30 p.m.	Circuit 'Prayer & Praise @ Belfairs SS9 4NG

April

Friday 5th 10 ~ 12	JMA Coffee Morning with Big Book Sale
Monday 8th 2 p.m.	Ladies Monday Club - Essex Police
Monday 8th 7.30 p.m.	Men's Monday Supper Club - VAR
Sunday 14th after service	Annual Church Meeting
Monday 22nd 2 p.m.	Ladies Monday Club - Social
Friday 26th 10 ~ 12	Crafty Friday (all adults welcome)

May

Friday 3rd 10 ~ 12	Coffee Morning - have a cuppa & a chat
Fri 10th & 24th 10 ~ 12	Crafty Friday (all adults welcome)
Monday 13th 2 p.m.	Ladies Monday Club - Food Quiz
Monday 13th	Men's Supper Club - Spaghetti Junction
Saturday 18th & 19th	Church Anniversary with Exhibition
Sunday 26th	Deadline for Chalkwell News

June

Friday 7th 10 ~ 12	Coffee Morning
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There are also other regular activities - see back page

Minister's Article - Rev. Pete



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Spring Quarter Newsletter.

As I write this article, March is only around the corner and in the manse garden we have our first daffodil of the season.

This month we gear up to celebrate Easter again for 2024. More importantly, this like most years is the month of Lent. It seems every year March is taken up with Lent. During Lent we are encouraged to think about what Jesus went through as he journeyed towards Easter. In the early church it was a time when new Christians were prepared for their baptism which traditionally took place on Easter Day. So, for them, it was a time when they learnt more about what the faith really meant and how they might respond to it.

Lent is also a time when we remember the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry after being baptised by John. We might recall how he was tempted by the devil but was able to resist all his offers and did not succumb. This is because he walked closely with God his Father and was filled with God's Holy Spirit.

Sometimes we try and emulate Jesus - who went without food for those 40 days - by giving up something ourselves during Lent. This is meant to help us concentrate on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us. If you're anything like me all you end up thinking about is Chocolate! Not really the idea. So how about taking up something new. Lent may be a couple of weeks old when you read this but it's never too late. If you're not sure what that could be look around and I'm sure something will come to mind. As I type on one side of the computer screen adverts bombard me on the other. As I grew up in the 80's it seems that the Christian Church had a slogan for everything. Do you remember 'Live simply so that others may simply live,' or 'If you were accused of being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?'

Recently I heard a saying which was featured on a television advert for Kenco Coffee which was – 'We rise by lifting each other.' Why not, this Lent, do one thing a day to lift someone else up? Hope you have good Lent and a happy Easter.

God Bless



Rev. Pete's Sabbatical

Rev. Pete will be on sabbatical from 1st May until 14th August. Rev. Zena Smith will be acting as Circuit Superintendent.

We pray that it will give him time to catch up with family and friends and come back spiritually refreshed.

Annual Church Meeting

On Sunday 14th April we will be having our Annual Church Meeting (AGM if you like) after the morning service. This is our once a year opportunity to hear about the life of our church, to hear what has happened in the past year, and to make plans for the future.

It's an ideal time to have your say if there has been anything on your mind about our church life. You might not be a member of the Church Council, for example, but would appreciate the chance to get involved.

The meeting has business to be done; elections and so forth, but really it can also be an open forum for your voice to be heard.

Please do come along and take part or just listen. Everyone is very welcome!

Glynis Ward
Church Council Secretary

Ladies' Monday Club

The Christmas Curiosity meeting in November was enjoyed by all. It was great to see the Christmas items that members brought as well as sharing with us their stories about them.

On December 11th at 6pm we held our Christmas Carols and Songs celebration in the Church lounge. We were very fortunate to have Laurie and Alan accompanying us on their guitars while we had a good old sing song! Afterwards we indulged in a varied and very yummy buffet followed by some tasty desserts! Altogether a very enjoyable evening.



Our first meeting of the New Year was a social with tea and cake, it's hard to believe that its 2024 already.



On the 22nd January we had Cheryl's Chair Workout which I was unable to attend but have it on reliable information that Cheryl was very informative, and showed those present how to exercise safely in a seated position, which she did in a light hearted and easy way. It's really important to exercise as much as our various ailments allow as we get older, I do hope you're all doing your daily exercises ladies!!

On Monday 12th we had our Valentine's meeting and Linda decorated the tables with red cloths and with little red hearts together with a red heart shaped chocolate each! There was a quiz, puzzle and wordsearch to do plus a short bingo session. It was all very enjoyable and also interesting to hear some members recalling romantic gestures by their partners (maybe a bit in short supply now!)



As always we are very happy to welcome new members to the group, we're a friendly bunch so don't be shy and come along! See 'Diary Dates' on page 3 for our next few meetings or check the church website chalkwellpark.co.uk

Anne Perrin
Ladies Monday Club

Girlguiding

1st Leigh-on-Sea Brownies

At Christmas we enjoyed crafts, decorated biscuits as baubles and had a 'Glow in the Dark' party.



This term started by completing several varied UMAs.

We coloured in a Tartan kilt for Burns Night and a colour-by-numbers dragon for the Lunar New Year of the Dragon.

We have worked on and completed our Skills Builder Stage 2 Communicate badge with topics of Act it Out and Picture Perfect.

We tossed 'pancakes' in a race for Pancake Day and shared Love Hearts with someone special for Valentine's Day.



We created designs for a new Brownie uniform. We celebrated World Thinking Day in Girlguiding with fun activities about WAGGGS.

Congratulations to two of our Brownies who completed their Bronze Award badge.



We are looking forward to the Southend West Division Renewal of Promise event which will be on the theme of International Women's Day with lots of different fun activities.

We have more activities and crafts planned for the rest of the term, including Easter Fun.

We have spaces for more girls aged 7-10 to join Brownies and anyone interested in helping. See contact details on back page.

Come and
Join Us

Thanks to our helpers, parents and all who continue to support Brownies and Girlguiding.

The Leaders



Book Sale and Coffee Morning Friday 5th April 10 a.m.~12 noon

Join us for a chat and refreshment
Various stalls: Gifts & Toiletries,
Raffle and Big Book stall
Plus home-made cakes

In aid of
Junior
Mission for
All

Come and
join us
for a cuppa



www.chalkwellpark.co.uk

Good quality donations for our gift/bric-a-brac stall would be most welcomed to keep our monthly coffee morning stalls with new stock. In April we are holding a big book sale so why not have a sort out of your bookshelves. Any items please pass onto Gill or Marjorie.

Church Anniversary Exhibition

“A CELEBRATION OF STORIES & RHYME” SATURDAY 18TH MAY 10AM - 1PM & SUNDAY 19TH MAY

We are looking forward to our Anniversary Weekend in May and are hoping groups within the church community, as well as individuals will be able to contribute by providing an exhibit for the exhibition. Feel free to interpret this as you wish; it may be to illustrate a book that is meaningful to you, a book from childhood, a Bible story or even your own or group's story.

This year we will also be having a 'Readers Corner' for which we would be very grateful for EVERYONE to donate ONE book. A book you can bear to part with, a book you think someone else would really enjoy, maybe include a review on a bookmark. If everyone from the congregation and members from all groups are able to do this we would have a great selection for sale. It would be lovely if all age groups could do this so we have a good selection for all ages to choose from.

Please put donations of books in the box that will be inside the church lounge from the first Sunday of April.

The Exhibition will be open from 10am – 1pm on Saturday with refreshments available and following the Anniversary Service.

With thanks for your support
Marjorie Ward (Crafty Friday Group)



Keith's Travel Blog - Thailand

A three centre discovery tour of Thailand, with varied scenery, colourful happy people who are very loyal to the monarch, play the national anthem at a railway station and every one stands reverently.

We put our own tour together and asked Kuoni to arrange it all, it proved both informative and relaxing.

Thai Airways 12 hour flight to Bangkok and transfer to a Sheraton Hotel, views from 21st floor, on the banks of the river Chao Phraya. Being here we were able to take a river dinner cruise next door with Radio City nearby. A good meal, we are not normally adventurous in our eating habits!

From our point of view this location was central enough and enabled us to see most of the main sites on foot, or Skytrain. The Royal Palace, one of the largest gold buddha statues, Wat Pho temple, Monica her first massage here, local market, Chinatown, floating markets, a lot to see. On one occasion we did venture into a taxi 🚗 ! Three attempts to find one who used a meter, hairy, had been given a price by the doorman, when driver asked for more, advised him of this and he gave way. Not so on return, so we refused to leave until correct change given, he had to go find! Teach us to try view red light district. In four days we saw what we had planned.

On to Chiang Mai in the north, really odd aircraft, Boeing 717 with three and two seating, took about ninety minutes and taxi to the Hotel Empress. it looked a bit run down, traditional, but interior sufficed. Here walking was the main way again, markets, street massages and temples where very young boys are being trained in Buddhism, but unlike some we have seen, very clean. One of these Temples even had a notice telling visitors to use the supplied slippers for trips to the loo!

Decided to buy a mini bus trip into the interior, more mountainous and with a more Thai feeling. Busy day, Elephant camp, where they actually paint with their trunks, river walk on Elephant and half hour raft trip . Next day, mini bus tour went to highest point Doi Inthanon and on to the future burial site built for the King, he has since been brought there. Return journey was by Sawthong ? sitting sideways to the road on a cart /taxi.



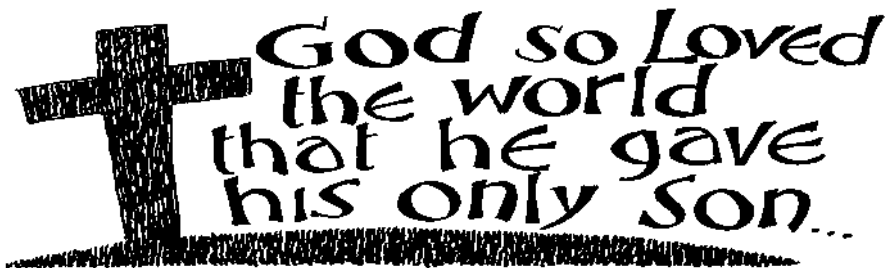
Wat Phra That Doi Suthep where you need toilet slippers!

Then south to Koh Samui for the relaxing bit, on the beach 🏖️ , Amari Palm Reef Hotel , twelve pillows each on the bed and golf 🏌️ buggy to our room, was just the location, for a few rays (beach chairs) and proximity of restaurants and town. Even a place with sawdust floor and tables made from packing crates, actually very good food also and cheap. The only excursion was to Ang Thong. A series of beautiful islands, seen properly after a short climb, but with the most talcum powder of sands. all set in a very blue sea. One evening, like them or not, happened to walk past outside a Ladyboy show, Monica was impressed at the clothes and make up they had on, but did not see the show.

The return journey to Bangkok was on a propeller plane covered with cartoon palms trees. 🌴 Called itself a boutique airline! Twelve hour night flight back to Heathrow.

Keith McLaren

Events for Easter



Mothering Sunday 10th March 10.45 a.m.

Parade and All Age Worship led by Mrs. Sue Hockett

with the presentation of posies

Palm Sunday 24th March 10.45 a.m.

Morning Worship led by Mrs. Pam Smith

with distribution of Palm Crosses

Good Friday 29th March

10a.m. Service led by Rev. Peter Moorhouse

Easter Day 31st March

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship led by Rev. Clifford Newman

This service includes decoration of our Easter Cross with flowers.

Please bring flowers to help us celebrate the risen Christ.

Don't forget to look for the small Easter eggs hidden in the church after the service



There is also a Circuit service on Easter Day 6.30 p.m. 'Prayer & Praise' at Belfairs Methodist , Eastwood Road North SS9 4NG

*Seen on a church door - Wesleyan Chapel,
Port Macquarie, Australia
by Chris and Glynis.*

Memory Worship ~ Who is it for?

Memory Worship was created with the vision of finding a space where people with or without dementia (often carers), could approach God, worship and feel God's caring presence together.

Worship can be a channel for recalling the past, creating feelings of comfort, familiarity and spiritual fulfilment. We all have continuing need to worship and experience a loving encounter with God.

The informal, structured part of the service lasts thirty minutes before leading into a craft activity and hospitality (tea and biscuits). Everyone has opportunity to connect with their own creativity by participating with our volunteers.

After each service, carers can chat with other people in a similar situation and with our volunteer team.

First Monday of the month (or Monday after if Bank Holiday) 2 - 3.30 p.m.
at Thorpe Bay Methodist, The Broadway, SS1 3HQ

Third Monday of the month 2 - 4 p.m. at Wesley Methodist, Elm Road SS9 1SJ

First Tuesday of the month 2 - 4 p.m.
at Rayleigh Methodist, Eastwood Road SS6 7JP

'Among all the things I've lost the one I miss the most is my mind'

Slimming World

Come Join us at

Chalkwell Park Methodist Church,

Sammi's Sensational

Slimming Worlders,

Saturdays 8am & 9:30am



Learn how to lose Weight, enjoy the food you love and never feel hungry.

Contact Sammi 07391 984 525

Community Page

Leigh Old Town Cash Injection to Safeguard Port

A HUGE £14.8 million cash injection is set to boost the cockling industry and safeguard a south Essex port for future generations. Southend Council plans to use Levelling Up funding from the government to rejuvenate Leigh Old Town, by revamping the quay and opening up improved access for fishing boats at the port. As part of the works, the quay will be resurfaced, the wall will be replaced, and the entrance will be widened for better vehicle access. It is hoped this will also reduce the risk of flooding for residents.

Meanwhile, a second project will see silt removed from a three-kilometre stretch of water to improve access for boats and hopefully boost the fishing industry. Fisherman and Leigh town councillor Paul Gilson stressed the importance of removing the silt soon. He said: “Unless we take urgent action, Leigh Creek will silt up to a muddy puddle.” Along with our cockle fishery, all being well, we should have two new clam fisheries which will want more space. That means more jobs should be created.

Sale of Southend United Football Club

THE new owners of Southend United will have to wait until about April as Southend Council and Ron Martin attempt to sign-off on a deal to allow the takeover to be completed. In December, Southend United confirmed that contracts were exchanged between former chairman Ron Martin and the consortium set to take control of the Shrimpers - led by Justin Rees. However, the deal relies upon Southend Council agreeing terms with Mr Martin for the 500 homes proposed for the Roots Hall stadium to be moved to the Fossetts Farm site increasing it to 1,400 homes. In the meantime the club has been left in limbo as the consortium wait to officially take control of the club.

The council said “There were draft terms agreed subject to due diligence which allowed the sale of the club to complete on December 23. In January, it was the scope of works in terms of what the due diligence would look like, because we had to go out and get those prices and costs of everything. We know how important it is and the urgency of it, but by all accounts the last of Fossetts took over a year to do all the due diligence so we are doing it at speed.”

TV Show - Come Dine With Me

Three local businesses will feature in a special vegan-themed episode on 'Come Dine With Me: The Professionals' - channel 4 on 25th April. The Oak Tree restaurant, Leigh Road and Stoked Vegan BBQ, London Rd, Westcliff were used as locations to host episodes whilst the Royal Hotel in Southend was used for the interview scenes.

Southend Hospital Extension Project

AN £8million expansion to modernise Southend Hospital's A&E department, improve care and slash waiting lists has been given the green light. The major work will see a two-storey extension between the Prittlewell building and the main emergency department which will increase capacity and improve patient waiting times. The start date for work to commence is unconfirmed, however in planning documents the hospital has stated it is hoping to begin later this year.

Alongside an extension, the ambitious project at Southend involves a new paediatric entrance, new emergency department entrance, improvements to ambulance parking with additional bays, new disabled parking bays, adjustments to existing car park layout and landscaping works.

Steam Train from Southend to Chester

A steam train day trip to Chester takes place on Thursday 8th August leaving at 6.55am and returning at 10.50pm. For more info steamdreams.co.uk/journey

Southend Threat of Flooding Plans

Southend's City Beach could be transformed into a green oasis with a "mini stream" and special gardens that collect, treat, store, and use rainwater under £2m plans to brighten up Golden mile and also includes building places where extra water can be safely stored during big storms, to prevent flooding. Southend Council has secured more than £2 million of external funding to support the project. This includes £764,290 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, £500,000 from Anglian Water and £800,000 from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

To have your say, visit yoursay.southend.gov.uk/marine-parade-sustainable-water-management-scheme-consultation The consultation period closes on 25th March.

Regular Activities & Contacts

SUNDAY

10.45 a.m. Morning Worship, crèche available in church lounge
We also have children's activities in the church during the service

MONDAY

Men's Supper Club (2nd Monday in month, Oct-May)	Alan	01702 332973
Ladies Monday Club (not every week - see syllabus)	Rita	01702 870608

TUESDAY

Brownies (girls aged 7 to 10), sch. term only	Karen	01702 345808
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WEDNESDAY

Caterpillars Baby and Toddler Group, sch. term only	Gill	07913 101021
Cub Scouts (aged 8-10), sch. Term only		

THURSDAY

Guides (girls aged 10 to 14 years), sch. term only	Joanne	01702 303077
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FRIDAY

Coffee Morning (1st Friday in month) 10 ~ 12	Gill	07913 101021
Crafty Friday (2nd & 4th Fri. in month, sch. term only)	Marjorie	01702 338824

Need a venue for a party or regular meeting? To hire hall Sue 07982 853674
or lettings@chalkwellpark.co.uk

Kingsway Pre-school open on Mon to Fri 9am to 3.30pm 07757 164206

See screen in foyer for other groups using our church premises

HOW TO FIND US:

Chalkwell Park
Methodist

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From the Editor :

Deadline for next issue is
Sun. 26th May 2024.

Send articles to: Gill Palmer
gill.l.palmer@outlook.com

OUR CHURCH

