

Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

April

- 1 Family Day
No evening service
- 8th *Easter Day*
Brenda Gutberlet (S)
John and Cecile Low
- 15th Roy Girling
Local Arrangement (Sue)
- 22nd *WF Anniversary*
Rev Peter Powers
Local Arrangement (Gwenda)
- 29th Brenda Gutberlet (New Members)
Brenda Gutberlet

May

- 6th Local Arrangement (Wendy Wilson (AAW)
Brian Gameson
- 13th *Church Anniversary*
Suzette Manning
Ian and Diane Bosman
- 20th *Aldersgate Sunday*
Brian Gameson (AAW)
Bryan Imbush
- 25th Bert Fuller
Brenda Gutberlet (S)

Some of the services are different from the Circuit Plan - the ones above are correct at the time of printing. But all services are subject to change at short notice - see your printed notices for up to date information each Sunday.

Dates for your diary:

April

- 1 Family Day
- 2 *Stations of the Cross* service at St Teresa Roman Catholic Church, 8pm
- 5 Maundy Thursday service, Rayleigh
- 6 *Stainer's Crucifixion*, Stambidge Parish Church, Stambidge Church Augmented Choir
- 22 *Women's Fellowship Anniversary*, Rev Peter Powers, 10.30am
- 23 *Women's Fellowship Anniversary (part 2)*, Rev Margaret Millar

May

- 5 *Christian Unity Global and Local* Mary Tanner, President of the World Council of Churches, Chelmsford Cathedral, 10am
- 12 Multimedia Equipment Training Day, Thundersley, 10am-4pm
- 13 Church Anniversary
- 15-18 Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park (Esher)

June

- 2 *Step out for Children* sponsored walk for NCH along Southend seafront
- 22 Mark Topping *Being Mister Wesley*, Benfleet, 7.30pm

July

- 14 NCH Collection, Rochford Square and Golden Cross
- 15 Family Day
- 15 Circuit Farewell Service at Leigh Wesley, 6.30pm

The **Methodist Church** 



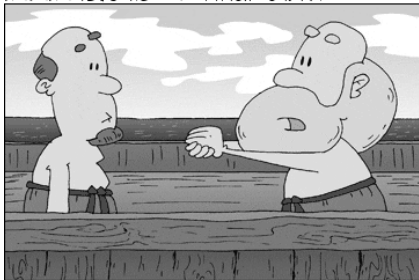
On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father

Apostles Creed

ROCHFORD Methodist

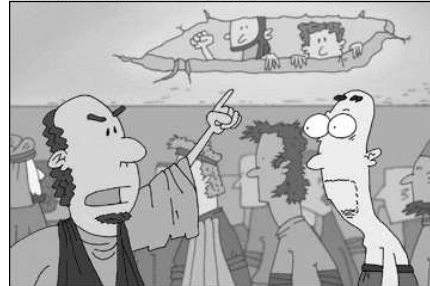
**Apr / May
2007**

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Thanks to David McCrea (See Genesis 6-8) 02-19-2007
THESE BEES NEED TO BE FILED DOWN IN THE ARCHIVES

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Thanks to Michel Rice (See Mark 2:1-13) 03-16-2007
I'M GLAD YOU ARE HEALED, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO NEED HELP FIXING THAT ROOF

www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk

Rochford Methodist Church is a member of Southend and Leigh Circuit, part of the Beds, Essex & Herts District

The Newsletter of
Rochford Methodist Church
North Street
Rochford
SS4 1AD

LWPT

We are constantly assaulted, these days, by abbreviations and acronyms. Read any newspaper or magazine and one is faced with 'briefspeak' – shortened version of complicated titles – and Methodism is no exception.

Our Church is governed by CPD and more locally our current Circuit plan is sprinkled with such examples as LA, AAW, CTL and MHON, to name but a few. The heading of this article, LWPT, is a relatively new one to Methodism. We used to know it as LPMAA – Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association but now it is the Leaders of Worship and Preachers' Trust.

Among other things the Trust is responsible for the four LWP Homes in England – one of which is just round the corner from the Cliffs Pavilion in Westcliff.

Known as *Westerley*, it's a residential care home of the highest standard set in a prominent position a few minutes' walk from the cliffs and Westcliff Parade. The accommodation is spacious and pleasurable; the care given to the residents is outstanding and the catering superb. The accommodation is constantly being upgraded adding to the already elegant building.

The Home has as residents –

- Retired Deaconesses
- Retired Local Preachers
- Ministers' widows
- Christians from all denominations

In fact, any elderly person with a Christian outlook can be accommodated.

Come and see for yourself – there's an **OPEN DAY** on **Saturday 26th May** from **10am to 3pm**. The address is **1 Winton Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea**. There'll be competitions, cakes for sale, lunches and teas/coffees. Meet the residents in their congenial surroundings and join them in conversation. Share their experiences at the Home and support the work of LWP Homes.

Make this day known in your Church and come to support your Methodist Residential Retirement Home.

John Downer (Westerley Social Committee)

P.S. And if you're stumped CPD is short for *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church!!*

The next planned publication date is 3rd June 2007. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 20th May please.

I prefer articles by email, floppy disc or typed with a good BLACK original (because, being lazy, I can handle these without re-typing them), but I am happy to receive them in any form—so long as I get something from you!
Emails can be sent to me at either of the addresses shown in the box on the right.

The **Rochford Methodist** is published on behalf of Rochford Methodist Church. Opinions expressed in this newsletter may not be those of the Methodist Church.

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What goes on at Rochford Methodist Church?

Sunday

11.00 am FJ Club
11.00 am Morning Service
6.30 pm Evening Service

Monday

10.45-11.45 am *Body Magik* Aerobics
2.30 - 4.30 pm Women's Fellowship (Sept - May)
7.00 pm *Blossom on the Oasis* (Ladies Dancing Group)

Tuesday

9.30 - 11.30 am *Happy Hands* Toddler Group
12.00 - 2.00 pm *Happy Hands* Toddler Group
3.00 - 7.30 pm Hildale School of Dancing
8.00 pm Wesley Guild (Oct-Apr)

Wednesday

10.45-11.45 am *Body Magik* Aerobics
7.00 - 10.00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursday

9.30 - 12.30 *Music Dreams* (for 0-2 years)
3.45 - 7.30 pm Hildale School of Dancing
8.00 - 9.30 pm Table Tennis

Friday

10.45-11.45 am *Body Magik* Aerobics
6.30-7.30 pm *Body Magik* Aerobics
8.00 pm Rochford Floral Group (2nd Friday of month)

Saturday

9.00 am - 3.15 pm Hildale School of Dancing

The premises are available for use outside the above times. Contact Margaret Rayner on 544252 for more information.

And in addition . .

Two open House Groups meet each month in a different place each time. One usually meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month and the other on the 3rd Wednesday. Look in the weekly notices for the dates and venues.

A third House Group is for new members of the Church and is by invitation only.

And a *fourth* one meets at the church during the daytime in the winter. This is currently not meeting (it's not winter!) but see Gwenda if you want more details.

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us.

We ask ourselves

Who am I to be so brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?

Actually

Who are we not to be?

You are a child of God....

Your playing small doesn't serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you, we are all meant to shine, as children do, we are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.

It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we're liberated from our own fears, our presence automatically liberates others.

Nelson Mandela

MURPHY'S LESSER KNOWN LAWS

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
2. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
3. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine
4. Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't
5. Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.
6. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
7. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
8. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
9. The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.
10. The shinbone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
11. A Fine - is a tax for doing wrong. A Tax. - is a fine for doing well.
12. When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who, weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Dear friends,

Do you know the old spiritual which begins with the words, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" (Hymns & Psalms 181). Of course, the answer for us today is "No, we weren't there" yet through the re-enactment of the events of Holy Week we try as Christians, to walk more closely with our risen Lord and Saviour.

That old spiritual is right to challenge us so that we think more deeply on the cost of our salvation (John 3:16). *Were you there?* is a beautiful and simple re-telling of the main events on that first Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The second verse begins with the words, "Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?" and the third verse asks the question, "Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?" Then the final verse, "Were you there when God raised Him from the dead?" This spiritual hymn has a chorus which says, "Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble." Do the events of that first Good Friday and Easter Sunday cause us to tremble in awe and wonder? – if not, why not?

May I invite you to read again the events of Holy Week as recorded in the four Gospels. Imagine you were there in that Upper room as Jesus shared in the Passover and instituted Holy Communion. See Judas departing to betray Him then imagine yourself in the Garden of Gethsemane - that agony of prayer, the struggle to stay awake and then the noise and confusion with the arrest and the various trials throughout the night. Follow Christ as He is scorned and rejected, mocked and spat upon then nailed to the cross between two thieves. Stand at the foot of the cross with Mary, his mother, and see his lifeless body taken down and laid in the tomb. Go with the women to the tomb very early on that Sunday morning and tremble with joy as you receive the angel's message, "He is not here, He has risen" (Luke 24:6). Finally read one or two Easter hymns, such as Songs of Fellowship 780 "How deep the Father's love for us" or Hymns and Psalms 196 "I know that my Redeemer lives". In this way the events of that first Good Friday and Easter Sunday should indeed cause us to tremble in wonder, love and praise.

So let us celebrate this Easter remembering the words that Charles Wesley wrote in one of his hymns, "Haste then, ye souls that first believe, who dare the gospel word receive, your faith with joyful hearts confess, be bold, be Jesus' witnesses" (Hymns & Psalms 188). This is still our task and privilege today, so upwards and onwards!

Alleluia – Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

With love and prayers

Rev. Brenda

THANKFULNESS TO GOD

Hello, it is time for Len the Lay Worker and his wandering thoughts. One of the main thoughts that my mind is pondering at the moment is thankfulness to God. It is now six months since my wife completed her chemotherapy treatment for bowel cancer. Babs has been scanned and all is clear, she has seen the specialist who said that Babs is completely normal. That alone is an interesting thought, that my wife is normal. What does normal mean? Are any of us completely normal?

It is such a relief that Babs has come through this ordeal, especially as the original prognosis was dire. My own emotional journey through this ordeal has gone from one end of the emotional spectrum to the other, from the prospect of death to overwhelming joy and elation. So when I think of thankfulness to God where do I start? Babs was transferred from Swindon Hospital to Southend Hospital where she was operated on that same evening. This event Babs and I see as God's intervention, the attitudes at Southend Hospital were so positive and were a turning point in this whole episode.

The fact that I still have Babs as my wife is so much comfort and joy to me that I cannot describe my thankfulness to God. In the Bible there is a section regarding sowing generously (2 Cor 9:10-12) it mentions the fact that God provides each of us with seed for the purpose of sowing generously, verse twelve states, 'this service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God'. Southend Hospital certainly supplied the needs of God's people. Many people were praying for Babs to come through this ordeal, now that she has officially, we could all join together in many expressions of thanks to God. I am certainly thankful to God in ways that I cannot express.

I pray that the work that I do in the Rayleigh, Hockley and Rochford Methodist Churches, as part of my service to the Lord, in some way reflects not only my openness and willingness to God, but also my thankfulness to God for His intervention in my life. Maybe we all need to reflect on God's intervention in our lives in so many and diverse ways and give Him the thanks and the glory and be overflowing in our expressions of thanks.

God's Blessings upon you all.

Len Ward

Days of the week

MONDAY - Wash Day

Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity,
So I may serve you with perfect humility
Through the week ahead.

TUESDAY - Ironing Day

Dear Lord, help me iron out
All the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years
So that I may see the beauty in others.

WEDNESDAY - Mending Day

O God, help me mend my ways
So I will not set a bad example for others.

THURSDAY - Cleaning Day

Lord Jesus, help me to dust out
All the many faults I have been hiding
In the secret corners of my heart.

FRIDAY - Shopping Day

O God, give me the grace to shop wisely
So I may purchase eternal happiness for
Myself and all others in need of love.

SATURDAY - Cooking Day

Help me, my Saviour,
To brew a big kettle of brotherly love
And serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

SUNDAY - The Lord's Day

O God, I have prepared my house for you
Please come into my heart
As my honoured guest so I may spend the day
And the rest of my life in your presence.

Source: MCCA Women Newsletter, June 2004

THE STEWARD'S NIGHTMARE

“I'm not on duty today,” she said
as she rolled and snuggled in the warmth of her bed.
“I'll just go and see all is well,” she thought,
“the steward new may be hassled and fraught.”

In slippers and gown she found herself there
among hymn number boxes and with unbrushed hair.
The numbers had shrunk to all shapes and sizes,
with postcards and pictures and labels for prizes.
The water carafe lay smashed on the floor
and water was running in stream to the door.
The organist hovered, hands in pockets,
a smirk on his face with nonchalant air
His instrument ready, plugged into its sockets!

Congregation sat in yellow backed chairs,
not a smile or a glance but stony faced stares,
No one moved to help the poor steward
all seemed frozen as statues bent forward
“Where, oh where are the hymn number cards,
and why is the water glass lying in shards?”
Then the minister clad in ominous black
seemed to fade into mist, turning his back.

The steward shed tears and in slippers all pink
turned to flee in a turnside and think - - -
When a faraway voice seemed to puncture her head,
“It's time to get up and out of your bed - - -
You'll be late for chapel, come on my beauty
for I seem to recall you should be on duty!”

Joan Lovatt
(from *The MID Link*, the Mid -Lincolnshire Circuit Newsletter)

Christian Resources Exhibition

Do you want new resources for your personal worship? Do you want to find out what is available commercially for helping worship in your church?

Tickets can now be ordered for the CRE, held as usual at Sandown Park Racecourse, Esher, Surrey from 15 to 18 May. See the last edition of the *Rochford Methodist* and also the notice in the lobby for more details.

The Devil's Beatitudes

Blessed are those who are too tired, busy or disorganised to meet with fellow Christians each week. They are my best workers.

Blessed are those who enjoy noticing the mannerisms of clergy and choir. Their hearts are not in it.

Blessed are those Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked. I can use them.

Blessed are the touchy. With a bit of help they may even stop going to church. They are my missionaries.

Blessed are those who claim to love God at the same time as hating other people. They are mine forever.

Blessed are the troublemakers. They shall be called my children.

Blessed are those who have not time to pray. They are easy prey for me.

Blessed are you when you read this and think it is about other people and not about yourself. I've got you.....



Something's happening for NCH

A couple of dates for your diary:

Step out for Children will take place on 2nd June and this is an opportunity for you to take part either as a walker or as a sponsor. The local walk will be along Southend seafront and back (up to 14 easy miles on the level) more details later.

The NCH Street Collection in Rochford Market Square and Golden Cross will take place on 14th July. See Val if you want to volunteer.

Samaritan's Purse

The ladies of our Women's Fellowship packed and wrapped 38 shoe boxes for the *Samaritan's Purse* shoe box appeal last December.

We thank them very much for their donations of gifts, time and money for this very worthy cause.

(This item was accidentally missed from the last edition - sorry)

Wesley Guild

As we move towards the end of this year's session, we reflect on what we've done this year and look forward to what's ahead. Looking back over the last couple of months:

On February 6th Peter Hall came from *Fair Havens* and told us about how he had become involved with the organisation, the support and treatment he had received and what he was giving back. On a completely different tack, the following week Brian Williams showed us he had more than one string to his bow, when he told us about his collection of violins and bows. A devotional turn, and Tim Clay came and gave us food for thought on the 20th, and the month was rounded off with a *Quiz with a difference* from Colin.

March opened on the 6th with *I'm forever blowing bubbles*, a talk by Rev Brenda in which she told us about the role of churches in the establishment of football teams and the creation of the Football League. - and now we know that Liverpool FC was an offshoot of Everton!

There was a change of programme on the 13th, and Sue had us enthusiastically making a Tea Bag Folded Greetings Card - in Holland they get their tea bags in decorative paper bags and this is a way of using them artistically instead of throwing them away. On the 20th Margaret Deans returned to us for the first time since she was our minister and led a Devotional evening. And the month finished with a *Beetle Drive* for charity where we welcomed some visitors and raised £89.

Don't forget, we meet at 8pm *sharp* at the church and we would love to see you, but April marks the end of our session. We won't be at the church on 3rd April because we will be at Rayleigh Methodist Church where Revd Brenda will be leading the Maundy Thursday Service on the 5th. This isn't just for Guild members - it's for anyone who wants to come along.

April 10th is *Experiences of a Police Inspector* with Bill Pirie

April 17th is *Alpine Experience* with Diane and Paul Nice

And on April 21st (Saturday) is our final (and some think our most important) meeting when we hold our AGM. Oh, and it's our Annual Supper as well.

And then we look forward to October when our next session starts!

Southend and Leigh Circuit

Wesley 300 Competition

Write new words or new music (or both) for a congregational hymn or song and win a prize.

2 competitions - for 16 and under and for the over 16s
The closing date 1st June 2007

Leaflets giving details are available at the back of the church. Application forms are available from the Circuit Administrator
The winning entries will be sung at the Circuit Service on October 4th 2007

Congratulations

Win and Roy Bayford on your recent Golden Wedding Anniversary



from all your friends
at Rochford
Methodist Church

HOCKMIRA

HOCKLEY METHODIST'S INACTIVE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

Mike Pregnell of Hockley Methodist Church is the organiser of HOCKMIRA and has 'done the job' for 2007. All he is waiting for is people to join him on a walk or three - and **you** are invited.

We will be getting more information as details are confirmed and we will put it on the notice boards and in the weekly notices as we get it, but if you want to find out more then phone Mike on 01702 204748 or email him at mumic@pregnell.freeserve.co.uk.

The walks Mike has organised for this year are:

Date	Day		Place	Distance (miles)
14th April	Saturday	last Saturday of Easter Holidays	Earls Colne	6½
28th May	Monday	Spring Bank Holiday	Manningtree	7
17th June	Sunday	Fathers Day (afternoon)	Hockley	4
21st July	Saturday		Ugley	5½
27th August	Monday	Summer Bank Holiday	Rochford	8
15th September	Saturday		Stansted Mounfichet	5¾
13th October	Saturday		Canewdon	6½

To take part you will need sturdy walking shoes or boots (not 'fashionable' trainers), plus waterproofs and something warm to wear. Always bring something to drink, and you will be told when you will need to bring packed lunches. If there is to be a pub stop, you should bring a couple of plastic shopping bags to put over your boots.

More details of each walk, including start times, meeting points, parking, requirements for picnic baskets, wine coolers, etc will be circulated before each walk. The walks usually start mid-to late-morning aiming to finish mid-afternoon.

These walks will be fairly straightforward and young people are welcome but you must keep a careful eye on them, and watch what *you* are doing.

If you need a lift then feel free to contact Mike as above.

Blessings Bunch

We've all heard of a *bouquet garni* - a bunch of herbs to make food nicer but you can also make a Blessings Bunch for a friend.

Broom for Humility
Box for Courage
Cedar for Constancy
Fern for Sincerity
Fir for Attracting Friends
Holly for Protection
Ivy for Truth and Loyalty
Jasmine for Grace and Elegance

Laurel for Inviting Success and ensure Peace in the House
Myrtle for Love
Pine for Prosperity
Rosemary for bringing Joyous Surprises
Sage for Wisdom throughout the Year
Yew for Long Life

All tied with red ribbon to Ensure Good Health

Women's Fellowship

February opened on the 5th with a visit by Joyce Saunders and we entertained ourselves the following week with a Members' afternoon. Joan Clark came the following week and David Tysoe closed the month when he told us about some of the great hymn writers.

Maureen Chambers entertained us in our first meeting in March, with Revd Brenda talking on the following week. The last two weeks were Lucy on the 19th and Father Gerry Drummond on the 26th.

April	2	Revd Brenda
	9	No meeting (Easter)
	16	Lyn Sapwell
	23/24	Our Anniversary (Sunday) Rev Peter Powers (Monday) Rev Margaret Millar
	30	Barry Stoll
May	7	No meeting (Bank Holiday)
	14	Members' Afternoon
	19	AGM

Coffee Morning

At the Coffee Morning on 27th March we raised £315 after expenses.
We thank everyone involved in the magnificent achievement

Meetings are on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm.

(Continued from page 9)

Museum is being converted into a recording studio where visitors can record themselves singing along to Charles Wesley hymns. There will be enough space for about a dozen singers in the studio and it will also be possible to have additional microphones in the main building so that larger numbers can be accommodated. The chapel has a wide range of MIDI tracks so that 'choirs' can sing along to the tunes of their choice.

If wanted, these recording sessions can be videoed onto DVD (even in both High Definition TV formats) in *Songs of Praise* style programmes. A church can use the DVD as the basis of their own public Charles Wesley 300 celebration, as all Performing Rights and Copyright aspects have been negotiated as 'exempt items'.

So that Steve and Anna are not overrun with phone calls during this extremely busy period, they have arranged for one person in each Circuit to be a 'focal point' for enquiries and bookings - and Dave Dobbin has been selected for the Southend and Leigh Circuit (probably on the basis of leaving his name and address in the Englesea Brook Visitors Book!).

So, if you want to know more, or want to arrange a visit to the celebrations at either site this year, see Dave. Bookings will be taken from 1st April.

Stewards Corner

Well, although it has been ten months since I took on the role of Church Steward, I feel I still have a lot to learn about procedures and what goes on at the Stewards' meetings. I still feel very much the new boy as everyone else seems so prepared and I am very much unprepared. Until now I had never been to meetings with stewards from other churches as when I was a steward in Leytonstone that was very much the job of an elected Circuit Steward, so I am now learning a lot about what goes on in the circuit.

I have a great admiration for the Stewards here in Rochford. They are always willing to help if you are uncertain about something and will willingly step in if you are unable to make it on a particular duty. As you well know, three of the stewards are also Worship Leaders and I have a great admiration and respect for them in the way that they take a service. They are not shy and self-conscious, like me, they just get on with things, take everything in their stride and do not seem to worry about anything at all.

Whilst writing this, it occurred to me that it has been four years almost to the day that Marian and I arrived in Rochford. Rochford was not our first choice as we wanted originally to live in Hullbridge to be near our daughter and her family. It was not to be, but as it has turned out, it was very fortunate for us that we could not find a house in Hullbridge as by moving to Rochford we found ourselves welcomed into the church here, and very happy we are to be here. I don't think I will ever forget the warm welcome you all gave us. We had left a lot of friends behind in the church in Leytonstone and it meant a lot to us to find we had left one very friendly church and straight away found another. It was really lucky for us and, of course, it could have been so very different and we could have found ourselves isolated and very far from home.

It is a privilege to serve as a steward and I would like to thank the people who put my name forward. It is not easy for me, as I said, I am, believe it or not, quite a shy and retiring person, but, with the help of my fellow stewards I will endeavour to do my utmost to make the grade.

John Webb

Multimedia Equipment Training Day

For leaders of worship, for stewards, for anyone - technical or not

Are you apprehensive of how to use multimedia equipment? Want to conquer the fears? Do you want help to get over them?

The Circuit is running a training day led by the District Training Officer. The morning session will be at the level of finding out which plug goes where. The afternoon session will cover the use of software to produce a presentation.

May 12th, Thundersley Methodist Church, 10am - 4pm
Refreshments and lunch will be provided

Property News

There's nothing much to say in this edition, but when the Wesley Guild finishes then Tuesday nights will be free again. This can only mean one thing - maintenance of the church! This is when we do the bigger jobs such as painting walls, etc, to freshen the building up, get rid of the grime that builds up over the previous year and generally sort the building out for the rest of the year.

For example, this year we have work to do in the Benson Room - fitting a dado rail and gloss-painting the lower half of the wall to resist scuffing and marking of the walls by chairs, tables and feet. But there will be much, much more to do.

So, if you have an hour or so spare and can wield tools, including drills, hammers and paint brushes, or if you have specialist skills such as sweeping floors, making tea, or just standing around going 'Hmm, I wouldn't have done it like that,' feel free to come along at about 7.30 pm. And listen out for the actual starting date.



April	1	Kathy Mortlock
	8	Easter Sunday
	15	Heather Sims
	22	Women's Fellowship Anniversary
	29	Gwenda Andrews
May	6	Maureen Whalley
	13	Church Anniversary
	20	Kathy Mortlock
	27	Jan Willson



April	7	Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
	14	Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull
	21	Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber
	28	Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
May	5	Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
	12	Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron & Carol Castle
	19	Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
	26	BIG CLEAN

A sense of history

Ignore this story - check date!

Steve Hatcher, the Director of the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Englesea Brook Chapel hasn't been in 'the office' much recently as he's been heavily involved in two special celebrations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the first camp-meeting of the Prims, and also the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley.

The first camp-meeting took place on 31st May 1807 at Mow Hill near HARRISEHEAD (now known as Mow Cop) and is recognised as the start of the Primitive Methodist movement.

With the agreement of English Heritage, a Primitive Methodist Living Museum (similar to the Beamish or Black Country Living Museums) will be established next to the folly at Mow Cop. In this first year there will be no permanent residential accommodation but a camp site will be established on the edges of the main area for visitors to bring their own tents and caravans; purpose-built buildings will be constructed next year. For the less-hardy among us, the nearby Mow Cop Methodist Chapel will be fitted out with beds and catering facilities. Local members who work for the railway carriage works at Derby and for a local caravan firm have freely given their expertise in fitting as much accommodation as possible in a small area.

At Mow Cop itself a new building is under construction with an exhibition area and a range of activities to be enjoyed by visitors so that they can relive that first camp meeting.

Actors (members of a top local amateur dramatic society) will play the parts of Hugh Bourne, William Clowes and other main participants, and will put on a show twice a day to tell the story. Other examples of the 'Methodist Experience' will include Love Feasts, Class Meetings and even a Circuit Meeting. They will also hold those events that Methodists hold dear, such as coffee mornings, jumble sales, and even a Sunday School Anniversary is planned for mid-July. The second-hand books currently being sold at Mow Cop and Englesea Brook Chapels will be transferred to the new museum in the expectation that a larger audience will help to sell more and provide much-needed extra cash to maintain Englesea Brook Chapel Museum.

To recreate the weather, says Anna Conder (Steve's assistant minister) they will hire-in wind and rain machines, so be prepared for rain even on a fine day!

Visitors will be able to take part in all the meetings; visiting ministers and local preachers will be welcome to lead some of them, but must be prepared to preach for at least an hour (and preferably 2!). Church groups from around the Connexion will be welcome as day visitors (or overnight) and will be encouraged to hold their own meetings that other groups can join in with.

High-quality video facilities will be available to record camp meetings, with copies of DVDs being supplied as part of the cost. Sound-only recordings (on CD) will also be available. Meanwhile, at Englesea Brook Chapel, a spare room at the back of the

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