

## Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

### October

- 1st Sue Sigfrid  
Pam Freeborn  
8th Pam Smith  
Rev Gordon Bates  
15th **Pilgrims Way**  
Brenda Gutberlet  
No Evening Service  
22nd Worship Leaders (LA)  
Brenda Gutberlet  
29th Val Windsor  
Bryan Imbush

### November

- 5th **Guild Anniversary**  
Rev Leslie Wallace  
Heather Sims (LA)  
12th Bert Fuller  
Brenda Gutberlet  
19th Brenda Gutberlet (S)  
Sue Sigfrid  
26th Len Ward  
Rev Gordon Bates

*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:

### October

- 3 Wesley Guild restarts  
15 *Pilgrims Way* Review/Progress Report  
(Service includes a Christening and JMA awards)  
28 **Clocks go back**

### November

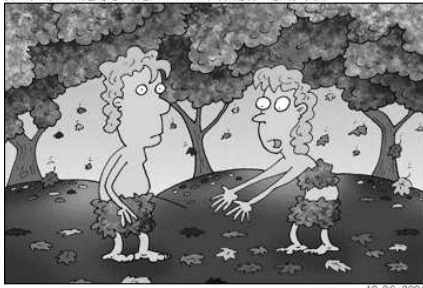
- 4 3-churches fellowship at Rochford, 9.30am  
16 *The King and I*, Cliffs Pavilion (SODS)  
18 3-churches fellowship at Hockley, 9.30am  
25 *Retreat* (see page 4)

### December

- 2 Bazaar, WI Hall, 9.30am  
2 3-churches fellowship at Rayleigh, 9.30am  
3 *Festival of Lights*, St Andrews Ashingdon, 3pm  
6 Circuit Meeting, Rayleigh, 8pm  
17 Christingle service, 4pm  
24 Carol Service, 4pm (?)  
25 Christmas Day service, 10.30am

Benfleet Methodist Church is arranging a church holiday in Jersey 15-22 September 2007 and there are expected to be some spare places. The cost is still being determined but if you are interested in taking one up, contact Chris or Val Windsor on 01268 755846

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10-06-2006

WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

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Thanks to David Litchfield. (See Mark 10:21) 09-15-2006

YOU SAID TAKE UP LACROSSE AND FOLLOW YOU ... NOW WHAT?

The **Methodist Church** 



**Clocks Back**  
**28/29 October**

**ROCHFORD**  
**Methodist**

**Oct/Nov**  
**2006**

[www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk](http://www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk)

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

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

## 2007 is celebration time

Next year is a celebration time for Methodism. It is:

- the 300th Anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley
- the 200th anniversary of the first 'camp meeting' which developed into the Primitive Methodist Church
- the 150th anniversary of the first assembly of the United Methodist Free Churches
- the 100th anniversary of the formation of the United Methodist Church
- the 75th anniversary of Methodist Union, when the Methodist Church as we know it today was formed.

Look out for special events and 'sing-ins' celebrating Charles' contribution to worship for Methodism and for many other churches.

And if you are near Englesea Brook Chapel or Mow Cop (or Burslem) next year, the Prims have one or two special events going on.

More information available at [www.methodistanniversaries2007.org.uk](http://www.methodistanniversaries2007.org.uk) where churches will also advertise any celebrations they will be holding.

**We know that Rayleigh will be holding a special service to which Rochford and Hockley are invited to celebrate Wesley 300 - 4pm on 14 October 2007.**

## Just who *do* you think you are?

The world's most popular hobby has just arrived at Rochford Methodist Church! You can get started with compiling your Family Tree with a series of talks on the techniques you need, given by a qualified lecturer who has been researching his family for over 30 years.

The first talk will already have taken place by the time you read this, but you still have time to catch the talks on the sources of information and how you can access them.

The lectures are from 1pm to 3pm at the church on Wednesdays 11th and 18th October. Each session will cost £4 and includes handouts, and forms to help you.

The next planned publication date is 3rd December 2006. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 19th November 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.

### Minister:

Revd Brenda Gutberlet, 259 Eastwood Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7LF (01268) 770333.  
Email: [brenda@canvey.com](mailto:brenda@canvey.com) (not for urgent messages)

### Editor:

Dave Dobbin, 130 Ashingdon Road, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1RR (01702) 544096  
email: [dvdobbin@aol.com](mailto:dvdobbin@aol.com) or [rochfordmeth@aol.com](mailto:rochfordmeth@aol.com)

## 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. Listen out for the dates and venues.

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

## Doesn't it just get your goat?

The Housegroups had to make a decision. Each time they met they held a collection; it was only 50p a person, but in a year this built up to a significant amount of money. It had been agreed that it would be given to charity - but which ones?

One of the groups suggested *Mission Aviation Fellowship* and *Great Ormond Street Hospital* for half the amount and the other meeting was left with the task

of suggesting something for the other half. There was a bit of indecision, until one of the assembled company said 'what about buying a goat?'

And so the deed was done. But isn't it a strange thing to buy? Where are we going to keep it - actually 'them', because we've bought two? The church garden isn't big enough, surely.

Well, we won't actually see them. The nannies will be sent to Mozambique or somewhere else in the scheme, and two villagers will be given one each to look after.. As a goat eats it clears and fertilises the ground, making the soil more suitable for growing crops. When the time comes for the nanny to start breeding, their first kids will be given back to the scheme, so allowing someone else to benefit.

Milk will be used as part of the diet of the villager and any excess can be sold/given to other villagers, or sold in nearby towns. Other kids can grow-on to be sold, or fattened up and used for meat to supplement the diet.

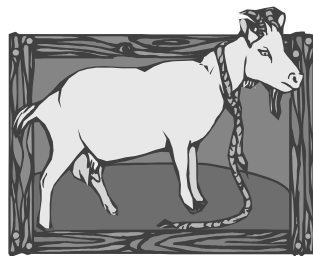
In time the villagers should be able to establish their own breeding flock and to grow better crops using the natural fertiliser and so improve the financial situation of the village as a whole.

The scheme is run by *Oxfam* as part of *Oxfam Unwrapped*, and includes many other items. Further details, or a catalogue, can be obtained by phoning 0870 410 5030 (or ask at any *Oxfam* shop).

A similar scheme is run by *World Vision* (a group of aid charities). Their *Alternative Gift Catalogue* has gifts from £6 which buys a mosquito net for Malawi or a water tap for Myanmar, right up to £3660, which buys a complete maize grinding mill for the Sudan. In between there are chickens, oxen, solar panels and medical or school equipment, including buildings. There is a whole range of items.

You can buy the gifts in your own name, or buy them in the name of that family member you never know what to give them for their birthday. *World Vision* even have a range of alternative wedding gifts where instead of asking for gifts for themselves a couple can ask for the money to be spent giving, say, a fruit tree for someone in the Third World.

More details or a catalogue can be obtained by phoning World Vision on 0845 600 6446.



## From our Minister

Dear Friends

I am writing this at the beginning of the autumn season in which we shall celebrate Harvest Festival - an ancient Biblical feast when the people of God paused in their labours to celebrate God's goodness and share what God had given to them so that nobody went hungry or lonely (Deuteronomy 16:9-17).

Harvest is an opportunity to remember with thanksgiving God's faithfulness, provision and care but also our God-given responsibilities to be good stewards of the earth's resources. Harvest Festival is indeed an opportunity for THANKS and GIVING. In this country and overseas there are those who know what it is to be hungry and homeless. Therefore we need to 'keep the feast' throughout the year by supporting HARP (Homeless Action Resource Project), based in Southend, and an overseas charity such as Christian Aid, Tear Fund or Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF).

As a harvest-time reflection why not read through the story of Ruth in the Bible, or Christ's words about a different type of harvest in Matthew 9:35-38 or the section in Hymns and Psalms (341 - 363 and 804) which covers harvest hymns? Our daily response to the Risen Christ should be thankfulness and an offering of our lives in His service for He gave all for us upon the Cross.

It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the global nature of the problems that the world faces but remember that we can make a difference by prayerful action beginning where we are - so thank you to all those who contribute toiletries, tinned and packet food throughout the year in support of HARP. Your practical help makes a difference to those in need locally as I can confirm, having worked at the HARP Centre in Valkyrie Road.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done;  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done;  
In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done  
(Fred Pratt Green: *Hymns & Psalms 342, v2\**)

With love and prayers as we journey on together . . . upwards and onwards.,

*Revd Brenda Gutberlet*

## Church Retreat

Brenda apologises for a change in date for the Retreat which is now on Saturday 25th November and will be held at 26 St Vincent's Road, Westcliff (near the Cliffs Pavilion) from 10am to 3.30pm.

The cost will be £10 per person and the theme is *Pilgrims Together*. There are only 14 places and these are open to anyone from the congregations at Rayleigh, Rochford and Hockley Methodist churches. If this is over-subscribed, Brenda and Len will host another one.

No experience of being on a Retreat is necessary as this will be an introduction. There will short periods of teaching followed by quiet times of personal reflection. Phone Brenda to book your place on 01268 680844 by November 1st at the latest.

## Saturday morning sessions

There will be an opportunity for learning and fellowship similar to the 3-church Fellowship sessions Brenda held last year. This new short course with the theme *Preparing for Advent - Gold Frankincense & Myrrh* will take place on 3 Saturday mornings (9.30 - 11) and will be held as follows:

4th November (at Rochford Methodist Church)  
18th November (Hockley)  
2nd December (Rayleigh)

If you need a lift let us know and something will be arranged, although the one on 2nd December does clash with our Bazaar!

## 200 years baht 'at

A bicentenary that passed by last year almost unnoticed was the writing of the Methodist hymn tune *Cranbrook*. Although it is often called the *Yorkshire Anthem*, it was actually written by a boot and shoemaker from Canterbury, Thomas Clark (1775 - 1839).

The first words set to the tune was a hymn written by Philip Doddridge with the first line *Grace, 'tis a charming Sound* but in the early years it was the tune used for *O for a thousand tongues to sing*. It also became popular in Yorkshire for *While shepherds watched their flocks by night* and the tune is still used today in some Yorkshire country churches.

On a choir outing some time during the late 19th century the choir (thought to be from the Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Chapel in Halifax) were walking over Ilkley Moor, no doubt singing hymns as they walked. One of its members wandered off and on his return someone jokingly asked what he had been up to, but it was natural for them to ask the question in song with the consequences of his actions being spelt out in the same way.

The song developed and became known outside the church and once it became known as a comic dialect song with 'dodgy' lyrics it soon disappeared from the hymn books although it did appear in the *Redemption Hymn Book* (published in 1954) where it was used for Wesley's *And are we yet alive?* If you haven't already guessed, it's more well-known title is *On Ilkley Moor baht 'at*.

## What's an Assessment?

A few weeks ago, Mike asked in a service that we prayerfully re-consider our giving as the total of our weekly collections was not enough to pay our Assessment. A blank look passed across the faces of many of the congregation, so what exactly is the 'Assessment'?

It is the amount each church is required to pay to the Circuit in order to meet the expenses of running the Circuit and, to some extent, the District.

It's the Circuit that actually pays ministers, including their housing, phone charges, expenses, stipends (salaries), pension contributions, etc. In addition there are other Circuit-related expenses, such as the production of the quarterly preaching plan. The housing costs include Council Tax payments as well as repairs and maintenance on the Manses.

You are probably aware that some ministers look after more churches than others, some churches have more members than others and some churches have more income than others. To even out the cost of the Circuit, each church is 'assessed' by calculating a figure related to the number of members and this figure is the amount the church is required to pay. This is what is meant by the 'Assessment'.

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## Gift Aid envelopes

By the time you read this we *should* have a supply of the correctly worded Gift Aid envelopes.

In the last edition of the *Rochford Methodist* we told you that HM Revenue & Customs said the old ones did not comply with their requirements. When we were ordering something else from the Methodist Publishing House the new envelopes had been announced so we took the opportunity to add the envelopes to the order.

## Methodist Publishing House

This is the organisation that publishes and distributes all sorts of things on behalf of the Methodist (and other) Church and organisations. It is not just limited to books, there's a whole range of items for personal worship as well as communal worship and church administration.

No article like this can do it justice, so get your copy of the MPH Resources catalogue from the back of the church or contact MPH at Methodist Publishing House, 4 John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6ZP, or phone them on 01733 325002 or email them at [sales@mph.org.uk](mailto:sales@mph.org.uk)

They also have a website where you can order online at [www.mph.org.uk](http://www.mph.org.uk)

They often have half-price offers for personal visitors and you can call in

## Property News

Tuesday Evening Working parties were fairly successful and we managed to get a good deal of those niggling tasks done. Since the last report:

- The outside top window of the Greaves Hall has at last been painted and the window ledges along the outside have also been done.
- A drip strip has been fitted to the outside of the external door of the Hall
- We have started getting quotes for various roofing jobs that have become apparent, including loose/missing tiles and re-fixing of flashing. The major cost on this seems to be for scaffolding for health and safety reason.
- A quote for a vertical blind to be fitted for the window over the vestry door is in the process of being obtained.
- A camera has been used to check the drains in the ladies toilet and this shows the pipes to be clear. The cubicle just inside the door frequently blocks and we are looking at ways of stopping paper towels from being put down the toilets. Investigations continue!



October	1	Judy Garner	November 5	<b>Guild Anniversary</b>
	8	Heather Sims	12	Margaret Rayner
	15	Jean Startup	17	Jean Startup
	22	Val Dobbin	26	Pat Rubidge
	29	Ida Hearn		



October	7	Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
	14	Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
	21	<b>BIG CLEAN</b>
	28	Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron & Carol Castle
November	4	Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
	11	Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull
	18	Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber
	25	Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews

## Women's Fellowship

We are well under way with our programme now and the next two months are as follows:

October	2	Pam Freeborn
	9	John Gentry - <i>Watercolour Artist</i>
	16	Bruce Glendenning
	23	Jenny Sims
	30	Packing Shoe Boxes for <i>Samaritans Purse</i>
November	6	Margaret Rayner - <i>Round the world cake</i>
	13	Jim McAvoy
	20	Maureen Hall
	27	Bert Fuller

So book Monday afternoons in your diary now - 2.30pm sharp.

## Wesley Guild

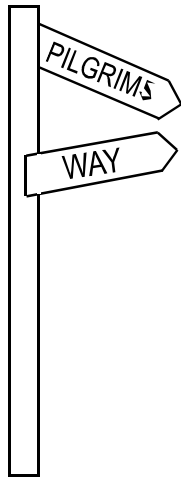
You can tell when autumn is here - the Wesley Guild has started and it looks like yet another good year's programme, with our usual mix of Devotional, Social, Christian Service and Literary & Cultural entertainment.

For the next couple of months, the programme is as follows:

Oct	3	<i>Guild opening evening</i>	Revd Brenda
	10	<i>Easy as ABC</i>	
	17	<i>My experiences in Vietnam</i>	Jackie Hall (with friend who raises money for orphans and hospital)
	25	<i>National Parks</i>	John Wyatt
	31	Len Ward	
Nov	5 (Sun)	Guild Anniversary	Rev Leslie Wallace
	7	<i>Policing in the Community</i>	Michelle Rawson
	16(Thu)	<i>"King and I"</i> at the Cliffs Pavilion	
	21	<i>Musical Evening</i>	John Downer
	28	Rev Brenda	

We meet at 8pm *sharp* on Tuesday evenings at the church and we will be delighted to see you.

## Pilgrims Way



A final reminder that we are holding our annual Pilgrims Way review on 15 October.

Just to remind you, Pilgrims Way is the way our church looks at what it does and how well it does it. As part of the process we hold a meeting once a year where everyone has an opportunity to comment and to decide what we should be doing during the next year, and in the future.

So it is important for as many people as possible to come along and take part. How have we done so far? What did we do that

you liked? What didn't you like? What direction should the church be going - for itself or the community as a whole?

This year's will be a similar format to our big kick-off event we held last year, with lots of participation and opportunity to feedback on your thoughts for the last year and hopes for the coming one.

We have already implemented some of the things that were suggested at that meeting and we have investigated others. Come and find out what we have done - you might be surprised!

We will be having a 'Bring and Share' lunch, so see Val if you are coming on 15th October so we can make sure you are catered for **AND BOOK THE MORNING SERVICE ON 15TH OCTOBER AS ONE YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS!**

### What do you do with your old inkjet and toner cartridges?

Don't forget to pick up an envelope from the back of the church to send your old cartridges to Christian Aid (no stamps needed).

For laser cartridges, phone 0800 435576 to arrange a free collection.

For each cartridge sent in, Christian Aid receive £1.

## Stewards' Corner

All has been fairly quiet in the Vestry over the Summer. We have just had our quarterly meeting with Brenda and the stewards from Rayleigh and Hockley, already putting plans into place for next Easter. (We can even say that it is our turn to have Brenda for Maundy Thursday 2008!)

In July Mike and I both went to a meeting with the Chair of the new District (ie, Beds, Herts and Essex). She is certainly enthusiastic and keen to know what is going on in our Circuit.

We also, of course, now have a new Superintendent, Sue Manning. It should be noted that the first Circuit meeting chaired by her involved a great deal of laughter!. No more will attending these meetings need to be looked on as a duty or chore. It was even over promptly as well.

Locally we continue to work together, with a rota that becomes very flexible where needed, like when I phone on Saturday evening to say that I will not be there the next morning!

Please continue to work with us and tell us anything that you feel could, or should, be changed, especially as we come towards our review of Pilgrim's Way.

Sue

## Methodist Definitions

(Things you never thought you would need to know! This is a very simple outline of a very complex setup!)

**General Church Meeting** - An annual meeting, held in the spring, where the church members receive reports and elect the Church Council and Stewards.

**Church Council** - Legally, the local trustees who manage the church on behalf of the members and who are responsible for discharging the church's obligations under the law and Conference decisions.

**Circuit** - An administrative grouping of churches which forms part of the communication between the church and the Connexion. The Circuit employs the ministers and the Superintendent of the Circuit allocates preachers for each Sunday.

**Assessment** - the amount required from each church to pay the cost of running the Circuit.

**District** - A further layer of Administration between the Circuit and the Connexion.

**Synod** - A meeting where ministers and representatives of each Circuit in the District meet to discuss matters of common interest and share information.

**Connexion** - A term that refers to Methodism in general.

**Conference** - The ruling and decision-making meeting of the Connexion. Decisions made at Conference are binding on the Connexion.

**CPD** - *Constitutional Practice and Discipline*, the 'book of rules' for administering Methodism.