

Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

August

- 6th Brenda Gutberlet (S)
No evening service *
- 13th Worship Leaders *Sing a New Song to the Lord*
Brian Gameson
- 20th Roger Thomas
No evening service *
- 27th Pam Smith
Brenda Gutberlet

Plan for September not received in time for publication

(* Where 'No evening service' is shown, you are invited to go to a service at Hockley instead.)
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.

Where your pleasure is, there is your treasure; where your treasure, there your heart; where your heart, there your happiness

Augustine of Hippo

Dates for your diary:

August

- 12 Coach trip to Bunyan's Bedford from Canvey, 8.30am (see Gwenda)
- 31 Induction of new Beds, Herts & Essex District Chair (Anne Brown), Chelmsford Cathedral

September

- 2 (Sat) Circuit welcome service for Suzette Manning and Martine Stemerick, time to be confirmed
- 4 Women's Fellowship restarts
- 9 Coffee Morning for Building Fund, 38 King Henry's Drive
- 12 Circuit Meeting, New Road, 8pm
- 24 Harvest Festival

October

- 4 Wesley Guild restarts
- 15 *Pilgrims Way* Review/Progress Report
- 28 *Retreat (and intro)*, 'Somewhere in Essex'
- 28 **Clocks go back**

November

- 4 3-churches fellowship at Rochford, 9.30am
- 15/18 *The King and I*, Cliffs Pavilion (SODS)
- 18 3-churches fellowship at Hockley, 9.30am

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

The **Methodist Church** 



Harvest Thanksgiving
24th September

Rochford Methodist

Aug/ Sept
2006

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Thanks to Karl N
ALTHOUGH HE HAD STOOD STRONG AGAINST THE SIX OTHER DEADLY SINS, JAKE WAS OVERCOME BY SLOTH

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Thanks to Cale Hamblin
ABSOLUTELY NOT ... I DON'T WANT YOU SEEING HIM

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

Get it first, get it late

If you want to get your copy of the *Rochford Methodist* before anyone else does, let me know your email address and I will add you to the mailing list - you will get it soon after I finish the final 'camera-ready' copy. It will arrive at some unearthly time of the night (probably), but you will be able to read it, print it, or forward it to someone else

To read or print your own copy you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader but this is normally on everyone's PC so you probably don't need to load any extra software. However, if you haven't got it or you want a later version, let me know and I can advise you on how to get a copy that is risk-free, legitimate, and costs you nothing. Copies of Adobe Reader is usually available on cover mount CD/DVDs on PC magazines.

Newsletter, Notices and Website

There appears to be some confusion about the role of each of these. Hopefully the following will clarify things.

Weekly Notices

Marian produces these and they are for short-term news, eg meetings and events happening over the next 2-3 weeks, announcements about the amounts raised at special events, etc.

Rochford Methodist

Produced by Dave, this is for the more long-term announcements and longer reports. As it is produced 2½ months (or more) in advance of the last date in Dates for Your Diary it can only include meetings, etc that are planned or notified well in advance. Sometimes the times of meetings are not known, so look in the Weekly Notices for confirmation of this. To be on the safe side, when you wish to make an announcement, let both Marian and Dave know and we will work out what to do

Website

Again, maintained by Dave, it is for more fixed information and long-term plans although it can be updated fairly quickly if required. It will also hold copies of the electronic *Rochford Methodist*. The URL for the site is www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk.

The next planned publication date is 8th October 2006. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 1st October 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

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

7.00 - 10.00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Thursday

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

Friday

8.00 pm Rochford Floral Group (2nd Friday of month)

Saturday

9.00 am - 2.30 pm Hildale School of Dancing
(Times changing in September)

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.

A warning for the Working Party?

There was a tradesman, a painter called Jock, who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often would thin down paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time.

One day a Methodist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the painting of one of their biggest buildings. Jock put in a bid, and because his price was so low, he got the job.

And so he set to erecting the trestles and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Jock was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened. The rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Jock clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by tell-tale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Jock was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried:

"Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke...

"Repaint! and thin no more!"

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo.

Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fella.

Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles, she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek.

"Freckles are beautiful!"

The boy looked up, "Really?"

"Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles." The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

From our Minister

Dear Friends

I write this article on return from a wonderful touring holiday in Northumberland. This beautiful part of Britain has produced many saints over the centuries, such as St Cuthbert and St Bede who are both buried in the Galilee Chapel within Durham Cathedral. They were given the title 'Saint' by ordinary people who witnessed their everyday lives and recognised in them the presence, power and peace of God..

Of course, their time and culture was very different from ours today but our need to live in harmony in relationship with God in Christ Jesus remains the same. Whether you are able to go away on holiday or not, please take time over the summer break to reflect on your Christian Discipleship. Remember those who have taught and inspired you by their example and ask God if the balance in your life between contemplation and action is right.

It is so tempting with the hectic pace of life today to neglect the importance of time alone with God in prayer,, Bible readings and meditations. To help with this aspect I am arranging a Day Retreat in Essex in the autumn in 28th October for my three churches.

There will be some teaching but also plenty of space to be quiet whilst resting, walking, reading, etc. This will be an introduction to Retreats, so if you would like to to know more, please speak to me.

I close with the following prayer by St Augustine of Hippo, one of the Early Church Fathers which has much to say to us today:

“All shall be Amen and Alleluia;
We shall rest and we shall see;
We shall see and we shall know;
We shall know and we shall love;
We shall love and we shall praise;
Behold our end which is no end. Amen”

With love and prayers,
from Revd Brenda

Women's Fellowship

Everyone is welcome to come along at 2.30pm to our final *Tea on the Lawn* session on August 14th where we will be at 21A Sutton Court Drive; Jean, of course, will be our hostess.

Our Autumn/Winter programme starts on 4th September with our own minister Brenda Gutberlet as our speaker and looks to be our usual interesting and varied range of Monday afternoons. There will be contributions from our own church members as well as visiting speakers. Topics range from people's life stories to watercolours, as well as fun afternoons and our time together filling the Samaritans Purse shoe boxes.

The full programme is on our website at www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk, but here is September's:

September 4 Rev Brenda Gutberlet
11 Betty Fox - *Derek's Life*
18 Gwenda Andrews
25 Harvest. *Member's Afternoon*

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



August 6 Joan Beehag
13 Olive Pavitt
20 Wendy Wilson
27 Carol Castle
September 3 Sue Edwards
10 Marie Denny
17 Lucy Woods
24 **Harvest Festival**

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

Your used printer cartridges could help to raise funds for Christian Aid and their work around the world. For each cartridge they receive £1.

Just pick up an envelope from the back of the church and put your empty inkjet cartridge(s) in it; seal it and post it (no stamps needed).

Sadly, Epson cartridges cannot be recycled.

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

The envelopes also have details of how you can enter a monthly draw.

URGENT - Gift Aid problems

Following a recent inspection by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), officers have drawn the attention of the Methodist Finance department to some deficiencies in some Gift Aid envelopes in use for Single Gift Declarations throughout the Methodist Church.

The supply of existing envelopes has been suspended pending the printing of new envelopes that fully comply with Gift Aid legislation. This applies to the use of the following envelopes

Fund for World Mission (GA117)

Fund for Home Mission (HA351)

General Gift Aid – fund unspecified (XA280)

JMA (GE125)

Until the new envelopes are available you can still use these envelopes but you must:

- Cross out the phrase at the back towards the top end with the words, **“(not necessary if you have signed a long-term Declaration for your church giving)”** and complete the declaration regardless;
- Enter your *home* address
- **Pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax reclaimed on your donation in the appropriate tax year;**
- For envelopes with no space for a date, enter the date at the end of the postcode line.

We will notify you just as soon as new correctly worded Gift Aid envelopes are available to us.

Methodist Web Radio

Recent podcasts

You can hear the new President of Conference Graham Carter as he made the opening speech at Methodist Conference 2006, but due to a ‘technical problem’ a large chunk is missing from the middle of it. Other speeches and discussion from Conference are also available to listen to on your own PC and the links are from the podcast page.

To listen to these and future podcasts you need to download them to your PC or iPod. More information can be found at www.methodist.org.uk/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.webradio where you can also find links to get the necessary software if you do not already have it.

Property News

Tuesday evening Working Parties have started and we would love to have more than half a dozen people to come along and help - the more we have the more we can do. Just pop along at 7.30 and you will be allocated a job. You don't have to be a church member - or even a regular attender!

So far we have stained the church floor, washed down the walls in the Greaves Hall and painted the walls in the entrance, as well as a few odd maintenance tasks.

There are a couple of jobs that need to be done that require ladder-work, so if you are happy to stand high up on a ladder and wield a paintbrush, you are just the person we need!

There is a list of jobs - see Val if you want to find out what needs to be done

The CO₂ fire extinguisher by the main entrance has been replaced at a cost of around £85.

And if you have any specialist skills that you want to offer, please don't wait to be asked!

The pastor, with arms extended and a rapturous look on his upturned face, began his prayer.
 "Dear Lord, without you we are but dust,"
 He would have continued, but he paused for a breath, and in that silent, awkward moment, one very obedient little girl who was listening carefully leaned over to her mother and asked in a quite audibly shrill little girl voice, "Mummy, What is butt dust?"
 Church was pretty much over at that point.



Subject to seasonal variations
and issue of new rota

August	5	Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber
	12	Helen Willson, Jan Willson, Beryl Scoging, Mick Ellis!
	19	Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
	26	BIG CLEAN
September	3	Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
	10	Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron & Carol Castle
	17	Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
	24	Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull

Going green - free offers

Whether you subscribe to the theory of 'global warming' or not, most people agree we should be saving water. And we all want our sewage and waste water to be removed efficiently.

In Rochford, water is supplied by Essex & Suffolk Water and waste is removed by Anglian Water - and *both* of them have a free offer for you that will improve matters.

Essex and Suffolk Water will send you one or more *Save-a-Flush* devices **totally free of charge**; all you have to do is to pop it into your cistern and it swells up. In a modern small toilet cistern it won't be necessary but in a standard 1 or 2 gallon flush cistern, a *Save-a-Flush* will save about a litre of water *on each flush*. There's no plumbing involved and anybody can follow the instructions printed on the *Save-a-Flush*.

Anglian Water are finding that modern diets mean a lot more solid fat is being poured into the sewage system. Fat from the Sunday roast, for example, is coating the walls of the sewers and clogging them up with the result that a lot of your sewerage charges are being spent on just unclogging the drains. Anglian are offering one **free Fat Trap** per household. The *Fat Trap* is a plastic container and can be thrown away in your dustbin when it is full - or you can mix the fat with wild bird food to make a fat ball that birds just love, and you can re-use the container. If you want more than one (or replacements), they are available from the manufacturer at about £1 each and details are available on each *Fat Trap*.

To get your free Save-a-Flush, contact Essex & Suffolk Water at Hall Street, Chelmsford, CM2 0HH giving your name, address, phone number and the number of units you want (and email address and mobile phone number if you have one). Or you can request them online, by going to www.eswater.co.uk/domestic/saveFlush.asp

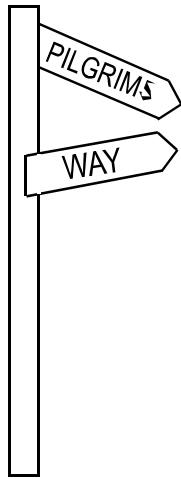
To get your free FatTrap write to Anglian Water, Customer Services, PO Box 770, Lincoln, LN5 7WX, giving your name and address (and email address if you have one). Or you can request one over the internet at www.anglianwater.co.uk/formprocessor.php?mode=fat

Don't forget our Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 24th September. This year our Harvest meal together will be a Harvest *Lunch*.

As usual, any harvest gifts (food, tins, etc) will be a token offering, as our main effort goes towards helping others less fortunate than ourselves through the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, which celebrates its 21st Anniversary of becoming a registered charity this year.

Collection envelopes will be given out nearer the time.

Pilgrims Way



Don't forget, we are holding our annual Pilgrims Way review on 15 October.

It 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.

Some were nice in theory but, on investigation, proved to be impractical at

this time, or would involve significant expenditure. Maybe this year . . .

Please continue to pray for Rochford Methodist Church as we proceed along the Pilgrims' Way. All our best efforts will come to nought without this essential prayer support.

AND BOOK THE MORNING SERVICE ON 15TH OCTOBER AS ONE YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS!

In your prayers . . .

Please remember the ministers and their families who are changing posts over the next few weeks. We think particularly of our own Circuit and District:

Margaret Deans as she moves into retirement
Graham Hindle as he moves out of Circuit ministry for a while
Vincent Canning as he moves to a circuit in Hampshire

We also welcome the new ministers:

Rev Suzette Manning
Rev Dr Martine Stemerick
Rev Anne Brown as she takes over the Chair of the new District of Beds, Herts and Essex.

Stewards' Corner

Another quiet time?

As you may be aware, Brenda has asked for an extension of another two years and there was a short period of frenetic activity when the stewards interviewed a representative sample of members. If you were not interviewed, please don't feel slighted - there just wasn't enough time to talk to everyone. The reports of the interviews were passed to the Circuit Team. In the fullness of time we will hear the result, but my experience of the appointments exercise is that someone willing to stay is usually allowed to - but this has to be finally confirmed by Conference.

At a stewards meeting in June, the following items were discussed:

9 September - at Bramerton Road URC, Hockley. Internationally renowned Doug Horley and his team have been invited to run a Seminar for Children's Workers from 2- 4.15pm with a Praise Party from 6.30 - 8pm. The praise party is open to everyone, but is aimed at the 5-11 y-o and their families. Brenda has arranged with Len Ward to book one ticket for each church. At least one person from each church is encouraged to attend. www.duggiedugdug.co.uk should give more info. Further bookings through Len who is co-ordinating Brenda's Section.

28th October - 3-churches retreat. See Brenda's message on page 3.

Brenda will be running her 3-church Fellowship again. These will start at 9.30 and finish at 11am.

4 November - Rochford
18 November - Hockley
2 December - Rayleigh

On 3rd December there will be no evening service at Rochford but the *Festival of Light* service will be held at St Mary Ashingdon at 3.30pm

On 17th December at 4pm Brenda will lead a Christingle/carol service at Rochford. This is especially aimed at children and all families are invited to come along.

Christmas services were arranged and there will be no evening service on 31st December.

On 13th January 2007 the Circuit are holding a meeting to update stewards, local preachers, worship leaders, workers with children and each church's safeguarding officer. This is to bring everyone up to speed on *Safeguarding* and to allay fears and misconceptions .

Our Covenant Service will be held on the morning of 21 January.

"Time for God" is a report passed to Conference last year and has been passed back to Synod. It is about sharing conversations about our faith. Brenda has ordered 50 copies for use by her churches to study.

Brenda will continue to support Canvey until Christmas, after which she will step aside as the new minister takes over.