

Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

August

- 5th Colin & Margaret (Read service)
No service
12th Brenda Gutberlet (S)
Brenda Gutberlet
19th Worship Leaders (*Sing a New Song*)
No service
26th John & Cecile Low
Brenda Gutberlet

September

- 2nd Len Ward
Circuit Welcome Service (**3pm at Highlands**)
9th Val & Dave (Read service)
Mike (Meditation service)
16th Brenda Gutberlet (S)
Sue Manning
23rd **Harvest Festival and Lunch**
Brian Gameson
Brian Gameson (4pm)
30th Bryan Imbush
Brenda Gutberlet

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:

September

- 2 Circuit Welcome Service at **Highlands**, with Rev Anne Brown, District Chair, 3pm
23 Harvest Festival with Brian Gameson (services at 11am and 4pm)
25 Church Council Meeting, 8pm

October

- 6 Music evening with Peter & Shirley Spreadborough, in aid of Citizens Advice Bureau
7 *Pilgrims Way* Review Day
13 Organ Concert featuring Simon Gledhill at Chalkwell Park
14 James Duddridge MP will be answering questions during the service. Important - see article on page 2
14 Circuit Service at Rayleigh celebrating Charles Wesley's 300 Anniversary and the chance to sing the winning competition entry.

November

- 2-3 Musical Evening(s), Leigh Wesley (in aid of their building fund)
4 Guild Anniversary, Rev Clifford Newman, 11am
10 **Annual Bazaar, WI Hall**
25 *Worship For All* Circuit Service at Belfairs, 6.30

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Thanks to Mikel Rice (See Genesis 6-8)

07-11-2007

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(See Mark 10:25)

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, IT PROBABLY IS "CAMEL THROUGH NEEDLE" ... SORRY ABOUT YOUR CAMEL

06-27-2007

The **Methodist Church** 



The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof Psalm 24

Harvest Festival and Lunch - September 23rd

**Aug/Sept
2007**

Visit our website at
www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk

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

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

Gift Aid

Our tax recovery from our gift aid giving has been paid into our bank account. The tax recovery this year was £2520:41. If anyone would like to know exactly how much tax was recovered from their giving please let me know and I will provide details.

From 6 April 2008 the tax rate changes from 22% to 20% and this means **our tax recover will be reduced**. If we gift aid the same amount next year as we have done this year we will get approximately £289:00 less in tax recovery.

To make up for this short fall if you are a tax payer please can you consider Gift Aiding your giving. All I need is your name and address and a signature.

You do not even have to agree a set amount each week or year.

Please consider this tax efficient way of giving.

Please let's talk about it the next time you see me.

Bruce Glendenning

This is one of the easiest ways for members to fund our church and thanks are due to Bruce for the work he puts into keeping it simple for the rest of us. Gift Aid is legal, it's simple, it's painless - and has the approval of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. If you pay income tax (even the tax paid on your Building Society savings) we can reclaim it to help the work of our church in the community. So, as Bruce says, see him soon.

James Duddridge MP

Our local MP will be taking part in our service on the morning of 14th October and he will be answering your questions. **No political questions can be asked**, but must be only on moral, ethical; and local community issues.

Questions must be submitted in advance and Brenda will actually ask the questions. See Brenda's letter for more information

The next planned publication date is 7th October 2007. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 23rd September please.

I prefer articles by email, floppy disc or typed with a good DARK 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)
6.00 - 6.45 pm *Body Magik* Aerobics

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 - 7.30 pm Hildale School of Dancing
7.30 - 9.30 pm Table Tennis

Friday

6.30-7.30 pm *Body Magik* Aerobics (6.00-7.00pm on 2nd Friday of month)
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 newer members of the Church and is by invitation only.

Lost in Wonder

Well over 5000 people have taken a journey through an online prayer labyrinth launched by the Methodist Church last October. A labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool that represents a path to the presence of God and then a return to daily life. This labyrinth offers a place for meditative prayer for anyone at their computer through images, words, music and actions to inspire and challenge. It also now includes an online gallery where people have shared paintings they have created as part of their journey through the labyrinth.

To access the labyrinth, just go to www.lostinwonder.org.uk.

This can also be accessed from the Links page of our own church's website at www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk

Bibles on your Phone

If you have a WAP phone, you can now download both the Old and New Testament from the Bible Society.

VirtualBible offers a choice of 6 languages (including Welsh, Spanish and Russian) and can be accessed from any network. By the end of 2007 they aim to get a further 12 European, five African and seven Asian languages on the system.

By using the service you can download and read the Bible almost anywhere - on the train or bus, sitting in church, or talking to someone about your faith where a paper Bible is not available. The development manager for the Bible Society says the Bible is no longer a dusty book on a shelf. It becomes part of a person's daily culture as natural as personal ringtones. It's as normal as making a phone call.

The service costs around £12 (depending on your contract and/or provider) and can be accessed by entering the site at <http://wapbibles.com>.

Cake Circles

A Methodist in Aylesbury came up with the idea of a Cake Circle a few years ago. Bill Drummond takes a map and draws a circle on it which is centred on his own home. He then bakes a cake (a simple Victoria sponge, for example).

Using the connections of the members of his local church, he makes contact with someone who lives in a village on the line of the circle, goes to their home and delivers the cake. If they are not in then he gives it to a neighbour. If he is lucky he is invited in for a chat and a cup of tea (and cake?). He then goes home.

He says that when he knocks on the door and says 'I have baked you a cake, here it is' they often seem to think he is either mad or bad but he is neither. He repeats the exercise every so often as the mood takes him, taking the freshly baked cake to a different house each time - decided by drawing a different sized circle.

As he says "It's a friendly thing to do".

From our Minister

Dear Friends,

As I write this article, holiday season has begun but going away is not always possible for a variety of reasons. Nevertheless as Ecclesiastes reminds us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven..." (Eccl. 3: 1). The chapter continues reminding us through the use of contrasting activities of the need to be 'well balanced' in our lives.

In our Western culture so much of life is pressured and materialistic so how much **more** we need to mark out time for reflection, refreshment and relaxation. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "There is more to life than increasing its speed" –how true! Speaking personally, I both need and relish the opportunities to be quiet and to re-focus on Christ Jesus and reflect on life and ministry. Our nearest Retreat House is in the beautiful village of Pleshey (near Chelmsford). In addition to running a variety of courses it is possible to book as an individual for some quiet space and good hospitality either for the day or longer.

Whether you are able to be away or not, take time this summer to be open to the refreshment which God offers to all who seek Him (See Matthew 11: 28-30 ; Mark 6: 31).

With love and prayers,
Revd. Brenda Gutberlet.

On October 14th we are hoping to welcome James Duddridge our Member of Parliament to share with us in the Morning Service. (This is subject to his Parliamentary duties). I will be conducting the Service and he has agreed to having a conversation based on **moral, ethical or local community issues which we as Christians wish to raise with him**.

So please be thinking of suitable questions in the above categories and hand them to a Steward before September 24th. For example you might wish to ask his views on the future development of Rochford or our schools or a local concern. It may be that you wish to ask how he would vote on particular ethical or moral issues which are often in the news.

If you need further help please speak to a Steward or leave me a message on the Manse Phone-01268 770333. We are taught in the Bible to pray for those in authority and by hearing our MP it is my hope that we might be better informed in our prayers for **all** those who serve in Parliament, whatever their political party and that he will be more aware of our concerns as Christians.

At the time of writing our prayers and thoughts are with Margaret and Barry, as Margaret recovers from her fall. We hope you will soon be back amongst us.

Please continue to remember in prayer little Ben and his family and our housebound friends.

Legal Matters

In the last edition I said that if Rochford District Council inspectors find the Church failing to prevent people from smoking on the premises, we can be fined up to £2500. A pub landlord in East Anglia has already been charged with allowing several of his customers to smoke on the premises. He has been warned that he faces a fine of up to £2500 *for each person caught smoking*.

It is important that we ensure nobody is smoking inside the premises and that anybody who is found smoking should be asked politely to stand outside.

Fire evacuation

Just to update everyone and thank you for your cooperation, the practice evacuation on 15th July was a great success. We managed to empty the building in 50 seconds - in just over half the time allowed by the regulations. Val and Dave had a 'wash-up' meeting where they identified a couple of areas which we could have done better.

1. Someone should be designated to check that the toilets and rooms other than the main halls are cleared.

2. With the present front door set-up, we need to ensure someone holds the spring-loaded door open and assists the less mobile members out.

These aspects will be addressed when we have our next practice. Meanwhile, if you noticed anything else that can be improved, please let Dave know.

Evacuation guidance

This is shown in the 'Fire Action' notices opposite the main front door, but briefly:

When you are told to leave, you must make your way as quickly as possible to the nearest signed fire exit. Do not stop to pick up belongings. Do not stop to shake hands with the preacher!

Make your way to the nearest clear path out of the building. During a service this is usually your nearest aisle, but those in the centre block may find it better to go to the other one if this is clearer.

If you have mobility problems, walk on the right hand side of your exit path to let the more mobile pass by on your left. If you are mobile, you must **walk** to the exit and leave the building. Less mobile people can and will be assisted to leave the building.

Once you are in the street, make your way to the fire assembly point, which is on the grass opposite the *White Horse* pub.

You *will* be allowed back in to the hall for coffee once everyone has been evacuated, but do not re-enter the building until you are told you can.

The Bible

Testament 3.0 leaked on the internet

Extracts from the eagerly awaited book *The Bible – Testament 3.0* filled the internet a couple of weeks ago, and several websites posted what appeared to be copies of the complete manuscript, which has been kept in a tightly sealed cave of secrecy leading up to its Sunday release.

Eager fan Archbishop Rowan Williams, downloaded a copy of the wildly anticipated threequel and revealed details in his Sunday sermon. 'Without giving too much away', he preached, 'I can confirm rumours that a major character is killed off about half way through the book. However, he comes back to life again before disappearing for several years, and after a triumphant return he dies again, rises from the dead and once again disappears with a promise to return later.'

The new book, which has been dubbed 'the most exciting yet', will feature all of the thrills and spills of the first two testaments, including walking on water, flying, and water-to-wine magic. Jesus Christ and his twelve friends will also encounter a host of new sins to tempt them, including smoking in a public building, using a mobile phone when driving, and many old favourites like betrayal, adultery and ox-coveting.

Catastrophes including floods, locusts and Chris Moyles will hinder the thirteen friends on their quest, and fans will be pleased to note that old adversary The Devil will return, this time as an evasive Afghan terrorist.

If the online material is genuine, it would represent a major breach of security that God Inc. have been working feverishly to protect. The publishers of the blockbuster fantasy series released a statement saying 'Thou shalt not read our book on thy internet', at which lots of excited fans were alerted to the fact that it was on the internet.

(This item was loaded onto the Internet on the day the latest Harry Potter book was published).
See the news before it happens on www.newbiscuit.com

Roadworks in Rochford

Over the next four or five weeks in Rochford, Hockley, Hullbridge and Rayleigh the road cones are going to be busy as a lot of roadworks are planned. Luckily most of the work will be done overnight but there will be traffic controls (a man on a quad-bike?) to lead you through safely.

On 24th August, for example, the road under the railway bridge at Hall Road will be closed while Network Rail clean off the graffiti. And a week or so afterwards Ashingdon Road from Hall Road up to Dalys Road will be resurfaced.

These are just examples, so keep an eye open for the yellow signs that tell you precisely when and where work is taking place.

STEWARDS CORNER

Well, it's Steward's Corner time again. It has been pretty quiet lately, as everyone (or almost everyone) has been going on or coming back from holiday - Marian and I being the exceptions as we don't seem to have found the time to fit one in.

However, we have had a few family days with our own family and enjoyed the last church Family Fun Day which was held at Chalkwell Park again. The weather held out for us on the day and a good time was had by one and all as we played football, cricket and even boules - Cyril being our current boules champion.

I can't write a piece for the stewards corner without mentioning last Sunday morning, 12th August when

Rev. Brenda led a service containing not only a christening, but also a communion. The christening party filled the church to overflowing - and, not being on duty myself, I watched in admiration as the well-oiled wheels of the machine which is the Rochford stewards, Worship Leaders and Communion Stewards swung into action. Extra chairs appeared from nowhere, extra hymn books and service books also appeared as if by magic, so everyone had a seat and at least sight of hymn and service books.

Rev. Brenda, of course, coped admirably with the huge influx of visitors even completing the service and communion on time. Even the advent of police officers appearing in the middle of communion to warn the members of the congregation parked outside on yellow lines that they were about to be booked did not phase anyone. I do hope none of the congregation actually received tickets - I haven't heard that they did. Despite the crowded conditions and the police interruption, it was a lovely service and I hope that it encouraged anyone who perhaps hadn't been to church before to see what a good thing it is to come and be part of a Christian fellowship.

Following the service, when we had our usual tea, biscuits and chat, Rev. Brenda updated us on the situation with her family troubles and we all hope and pray that the final outcome will give them the justice and closure they deserve.

Anyway, I don't want to finish on a sad note, but instead I am going to leave you with a joke (Dave Dobbin style).

An old couple entered a McDonalds and ordered just one hamburger and chips. They sat down at the table and carefully cut the hamburger in half and divided the chips equally between them. As the old chap started to eat, a young man went over to their table and offered to buy them another hamburger so that they didn't have to share. "No thank you" said the woman, we share everything equally and sat watching her husband eat. "Why aren't you eating?" asked the young man. "I told you", said the old lady, "we share everything - I'm waiting for the teeth".

John

Bazaar

Yes, it's nearly that time again! The Bazaar is on 10th November.

Carole is looking for empty *Pringles* tubes for something she had planned. If you want to find out what it is, you'll have to come along to the Bazaar, but in the meantime keep munching on *Pringles* and recycle the packaging by giving it to Carole

Women's Fellowship

The last 'Tea on the Lawn' session before we return to our usual programme is on August 20 at the Church where Gwenda will host.

Our planned programme for the next few weeks is:

September	3	Revd Brenda Gutberlet	
	10	Alan Murray	<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>
	17	Barry Stoll	
	24	Diana Bosman	<i>Harvest Festival</i>

We meet every Monday at 2.30pm at the Church and all ladies are welcome to come along.

The full programme can also be found on our website at

http://www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk/content.php?page_id=8

Circuit Plan Updates

There are some changes to the Circuit Plan that was issued recently.

To bring you up to date, here they are:

2nd September. The evening service is a Circuit Service at **Highlands** and it is at 3pm, **not** 6.30pm as shown.

9th September (am) Val and Dave will be using a Read Service.

9th September (pm) Mike will be leading one of his meditation services.

7th October (am) *Pilgrims Way Review Day*. The Worship Leaders will be joined by Pam Smith, our PW Partner.

28th October (pm) John Stanton will be leading our worship

4th November (pm) *Guild Anniversary Sunday* Guild Members

25th November (pm) *Worship For All* at Belfairs.

Please amend your copy of the Plan

Property News

Tuesday night is working-party night! Now that the Guild has finished, we are inviting everybody to come along any Tuesday evening from about 7.30pm to freshen the building up, get rid of the grime and generally sort the building out for the rest of the year.

A new dado rail has been put round the walls of the Benson Room and this should now be complete by the time you read this. The roof lights in the Benson Room have been cleaned and repainted and the kitchen windows and frames have been cleaned.

The entrance lobby is getting a coat of paint to freshen it up - and so has the lower wall in the Greaves Hall.

Some brickwork on the front of the church has been re-pointed where the mortar had crumbled away and the gate at the bottom of the garden has been replaced..

There is a bit more outside decorating to do but we need more people so we can attack the work before it gets dark - the evenings are drawing in quickly so the more people we have the quicker we can get finished. And, of course, weather permitting

What do you have to do? Just come along on a Tuesday evening about 7.30 wearing work-clothes and be prepared for anything! If you want to know more, see Colin.

Yes, Minister

On **Sunday 2nd September** (3 pm) at Highlands Methodist Church, there will be a welcome service for the new ministers: Norman Hook (Thorpe Bay, Shoebury, Great Wakering and Whittingham Avenue), Keith Page (Wesley, Belfairs and New Road) and Diane Smith (Chalkwell and Trinity). Sue Manning, having given up Chalkwell and Trinity) will take on Highlands; the changes will give her more time to devote to Circuit matters.

If you go to this service, you can be sure that you will find new ways of worship and some new hymns to learn. So, if you want to go, we are more than willing to provide transport. All you have to do is to mention it to one of the stewards.

Oh no, Minister

A local preacher had cycled a dozen miles to a village chapel in the wilds of Yorkshire only to find that there was just one lady in the congregation. She was sitting in the middle of the front pew.

“Well,” he thought, “I’ll still have to go ahead with the service even though she is the only one here”.

So he stood up and announced his first hymn:

*Come thou traveller unknown
Whom still I bold, but cannot see!
My company before is gone,
And I am left alone with thee;
With thee all night I mean to stay,
And wrestle till the break of day.*

“Not with me, lad,” said the woman, “I’m off!” And with that she walked out.



August	5	Beryl Scoging
	12	Olive Pavitt
	19	Joan Beehag
	26	Sue Edwards
September	2	Judy Garner
	9	Carole Glendenning
	16	Lucy Woods
	23	Harvest Festival
	30	Ida Hearn



August	4	Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
	11	Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
	18	Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron & Carol Castle
	25	BIG CLEAN
September	1	Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
	8	Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull
	15	Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber
	22	Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
	29	Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb

The new list is now available, so if you haven't got your copy yet, see Val.

Roasting in Africa . . .

If you fancy a two course Sunday Roast meal when someone else does the cooking, Ian and Diana Bosman are offering you the chance on 23rd September - and there will be a choice of three desserts [Namibian, Kalahari and Sahara?? - Ed]. All they ask is a donation of at least £8 a head and this will go to the village school near Cape Coast in Ghana where they have worked as Methodist Mission partners since they left the UK in April 2003.

Ian and Diana live at 116 Flemming Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea and can be contacted by phone on 01702 474214, 07913 820191 or 07905 556068. Or by email at iandiana@webandmail.co.uk.

But hurry because places are limited.