

## Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

### August

- 3rd Michael Hayman  
Service at Hockley
- 10th Colin Turner  
Brian Gameson
- 17th Brenda Gutberlet (S)  
*(includes welcome to new members)*  
Service at Hockley
- 24th Brian Gameson  
Brenda Gutberlet

**A new Plan is awaited - some of the anticipated services are shown below**

- 31st  
Circuit Service at Leigh Wesley (pm)

### September

- 7th Brenda Gutberlet (pm)
- 14th Brenda Gutberlet (am)
- 21st Len Ward (am)
- 28th **Harvest Festival**  
Bob Clipsham  
Member's Own (4pm)

*There may be changes to the Circuit Plan - the ones above are correct at the time of printing. All services are subject to change at short notice - see your printed notices for up to date information each Sunday, or go to our web site.*

## Dates for your diary:

### August

- 9 Summer Fair, 8 Dalys Road, from 12 noon
- 16 Coffee Morning and Table Sale, 10am (see advert on page 5)
- 17 *Welcome to membership* service, 11 am
- 17 Extraordinary Church Council Meeting (organ update), about 12.30pm
- 31 Circuit Service at Leigh Wesley, 6.30pm

### September

- 16 Circuit Meeting, Shoeburyness
- 21 Deadline for October/November edition of *Rochford Methodist*
- 28 Harvest Festival and Family Lunch, services at 11am and 4pm

### October

- 19 Pilgrims Way Review and lunch
- 26 End of British Summer Time - clocks go back

### November

- 2 Guild Anniversary, 11am and 4pm
- 9 Remembrance Sunday
- 26 Circuit Meeting, Hadleigh
- 30 *Festival of Light*, St Andrews Ashingdon, 3pm

### December

- 7 Gift service for HARP
- 21 Carol Service & Nativity, 4pm
- 25 Christmas Day family service - come and show off your Christmas presents. Local Arrangement, 10.30 am.

# ROCHFORD Methodist

The Methodist Church 



**Harvest Festival and Family Lunch  
28 September**

**Aug / Sept  
2008**

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

## Time to talk of God

As part of the *Pilgrims Way* initiative, it has been suggested that our church should help those of us who find it difficult to discuss our faith with others. Brenda has agreed to run a short series of meetings, starting on 1st October and running generally fortnightly, in conjunction with the House Groups.

The meetings will be based on a Lenten course called *Time to Talk of God*, which is designed to give members confidence when talking to others about Christianity - and will provide guidance on where to find the answers to our own questions.

## Property News

Nobody has been around or available over the last few weeks, so we haven't been getting any jobs done. As a result, we have decided not to have a regular Tuesday evening working party this year after all, but odd jobs will be fitted in by people who are available to do them.

The main job to be done will involve guttering replacement, but we will be doing some minor repairs with a bit of a touch-up on the painting.

Some of you may know someone attempted to remove the lead over the old porch a few weeks ago. We reported it to the police and enquiries seemed to indicate it was only a half-hearted attempt by two or three drunks, but it would still have cost us several hundred pounds to have repairs done professionally. Thanks are due to Roy for giving his time and skill at doing the repairs for us.

Brenda is in discussions with Essex Highways department about the provision of a pedestrian crossing outside the church to improve road safety for the public as they cross the road on the blind bend.

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## Wot, no organ?

We have been doing more work on obtaining a new organ. An Extraordinary Church Council Meeting agreed to a replacement costing up to £9,999 - it gets complicated if you go over £10,000 as Methodism wants more paperwork before we can actually order the instrument.

Discussions have taken place with Cathedral Organs and our District Organ Advisor (as well as our organists) and we think we now have identified the most suitable instrument. However, we do need to call another Extraordinary meeting of the Church Council to agree the way forward and this will take place after the morning service on 17th August.

The next planned publication date is 5th October 2008. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 21st 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)  
7.15 - 8.45 pm *Blossom on the Oasis.*

### Tuesday

9.30 - 11.30 am *Happy Hands* Baby and Toddler Group  
12.00 - 2.00 pm *Happy Hands* Baby and 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 - 11.30 *Music Dreams* (for 0-2 years)  
3.45 - 7.30 pm Hildale School of Dancing  
7.30 - 9.30 pm Table Tennis

### Friday

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.

This page included an

## Acts of the Apostles Word Search

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For various reasons it has not been possible to include this in the electronic version, so you are invited to visit the BibleQuizzes website if you wish to try it

## From our Minister

Dear Friends,

I write this article in the week following the 'HO HO LYMPICS' so firstly may I thank all who supported or contributed to this event, especially John Webb for being your representative on the Committee. It was a very good day in which we worked together as a Section of Churches ( Rochford, Hockley and Rayleigh) and we were blessed with good weather. Thank you to all who served behind the Stalls.

Many people enjoyed the races, special events and the relaxed atmosphere. Since much is more 'hi-tech' these days the traditional games which were on offer were greatly appreciated and 'tossing the cardboard caber' caused much laughter! Rochford's Stalls raised £149-95 pence. Net funds raised overall are £1,025--10pence. To this sum will be added additional sponsor monies and a full account will be available shortly. Each Church will receive what it raised from its own Stalls. Once all expenses are paid, monies from sponsorship, programmes and donations will then be shared between the three churches.

Events like these help to foster that sense of community. A Church is a community of believers whose foundation is the Lord Jesus Christ. That is why worship is central to our life together. That Early Church community is described thus in Acts 2: 42 "They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." As Methodists we too are committed to worship, learning and caring, service to others and evangelism. If anyone reading this would like to know more about Membership of the Methodist Church, please speak to a Steward, or leave me a phone message (01268 770333).

Enjoy the summer season and take time to be refreshed and renewed.

With love and prayers,

*(Rev.) Brenda Gutberlet*

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For those who missed the announcement on 27th July, Brenda is fine following a series of medical checks.

Firstly, she had an operation to remove a rogue mole from her face and tests proved that it had been cancerous but the surrounding area appears to be clear. However, she will have to go back to the consultant every 3 months over the next year to make sure the cancer is staying away and she has to monitor the situation between times.

Secondly, a scan had shown possible nodules on her lungs but a further check showed they had disappeared, so they may have been cysts after all.

And finally, an MRI scan of Brenda's kidneys confirmed the existence of something that the doctors think is benign, but they will be keeping an eye on it.

In the meantime, if you see someone vaguely familiar coming towards you wearing a large hat, clothes that cover her from top to toe, and using Factor 15 sun-block, do say "hello" - it might be Brenda!

The message from Brenda is that if you have a mole that changes in any way - get it checked by your doctor straight away!!

## Lay Worker Thoughts (Held over from the last edition)

Hello, it is time again for the thoughts of Len the Lay Worker.

So far, every time I have written for the newsletter the subject has been about health issues, and I find myself doing so once again. This time there is an underlying question, and that is, 'Do previous experiences deepen trust in God?' Let me explain.

My wife, Babs, was advised to have a precautionary operation, because she had had two separate cancers already, and this operation was preventative, all very wise, for the best purposes. The operation date was the 18th March 2008.

At 5pm on the day of the operation I telephoned the ward and was told that she had not yet returned to the ward. I repeated this process every thirty minutes until 8pm when I was told to telephone again at 9pm, at 9pm I was told that she had just returned to the ward. I asked if I could visit her there and then for five minutes, this was agreed, so I visited Babs straight away and found her weak but fine.

'Do previous experiences deepen trust in God?' Was a question that formed in my mind as I reflected upon this latest experience? It transpired that Babs was the last patient to be operated on that day; she had gone down to the theatre at 4pm returning to the ward at 9pm. I knew that Babs would come through the operation, but my stress levels had been tested once again, during those four hours of waiting for news, with my anxious thoughts filling my mind.

Previous experience told me that God knows the situation and that God wanted me to trust Him, after all the Bible says, 'Do not be anxious about anything.... the peace of God.... will guard your hearts and your minds'. (Phil 4:6-7)

It would seem that we go through each crises with our feelings and emotions fully engaged in each and every situation. God made us with feelings and emotions and it seems to be His purposes that we engage with our feelings and emotions. On this particular occasion I have found that my bodily reaction has been to close down. I have literally been sleeping a great deal more and find it difficult to wake up. The conclusion that I have come to is that it is probably emotional exhaustion that has accumulated over time, and my body is telling me that it needs to recuperate.

In coming through this particular experience with my emotions being touched again, seems to suggest that previous experiences were for that particular time and place and this experience is for this particular time and place, with each situation demanding our emotional attention for itself. In



Just when you think you've got a handle on it (or just when you've got the 'handle'!) they change the name - again! NCH announced recently that they will be changing their name to **Action For Children**.

The organisation, at one time, was known as the National Children's Home and Orphanage and to many people it is still the 'National Children's Home'. However, in tune with modern childcare procedures, all orphanages have closed, with the emphasis now being in care within a normal family environment.

National Children's Home renamed itself 'NCH' with the 'strapline' of 'Action For Children', as this still kept the link between the old name while telling everyone where its work is targeted. This is important when applying for grants, as much of the effort is done by providing support and services on behalf of local authorities and government for families with children.

The strapline was dropped a couple of years ago and for a while it was just 'NCH'. Many people (especially Methodists, who have a 'special relationship' with the organisation) just couldn't get their heads round the full name - mind you a lot couldn't get their heads around the contraction of the name to NCH!

Because of the laws governing charities, NCH broke its formal link with Methodism, but retained various leading Methodists on its governing body.

The organisation has now decided the time has come for the transformation and the name will shortly officially become *Action For Children*.

As you can imagine, there has been a lot of discussion in the *Methodist Recorder* with strong views and support on both sides of

- wanting to keep the old names and links, and
- moving forward and changing the name.

The transformation will take a long time as approval has to be given by various official bodies so, if you want to find out more, information will appear in the *Methodist Recorder* as well as on the NCH website ([www.nch.org.uk](http://www.nch.org.uk)).

<b>August</b>	3	Carole Glendenning
	10	Olive Pavitt
	17	Joan Beehag
	24	Win Bayford
	31	Sue Edwards
<b>September</b>		
	7	Rosie Isaacs
	14	Judy Garner
	21	Marian Webb
	28	HARVEST FESTIVAL



## 9 Days on Canvey Island

My daughter and her husband had booked a holiday to the South of France for a week, so had to find a place for me to stay. It was a job, everywhere Gail phoned said that they were all booked. When the nurse arrived one morning I said we had not had much luck in finding a place for me and I did not want to go far away.

The Nurse said on one visit there is a private place on Canvey Island that she knew of. After she had re-dressed my leg the nurse gave us the address.

Gail phoned and asked if they had got a single room just for a week, and yes they had, a woman had just left that morning.

So we booked that room from Thursday afternoon and Gail left for her holiday Friday morning.

Gail and Pete took me there, it was a big place and it looked like a private hotel.

I must say after they had locked the front door we were introduced to a big man, the manager, who was foreign. We went to the first floor in a room where he interviewed me. There were several beautiful armchairs that we sat in. The manager asked us if we would like tea or coffee and I had water.

I had a lovely room with a big wardrobe and a small table, an easy chair and a trolley which you could wheel up to your chair. There was a foot rest also, and a big television and bathroom.

I was on the ground floor and my room looked out onto the front garden where all of the tables and chairs were out and the big umbrellas were up.

I sat outside every day reading and the nurses would bring the people out in their wheelchairs. The sun shone everyday and there was blue sky all day long - it hasn't been the same since. Nurses brought tea and biscuits outside for us sitting in the garden at 10:30 and also at 3:30 in the afternoon.

The week went quickly what with my brother John coming Tuesday, arrived Wednesday and my grandson came Thursday afternoon.

Gail and Pete arrived Sunday to collect me. It was nice going home, I thank everyone for looking after me.

**Marie Denny**

trying to get to grips with this I asked God what He would like me to learn from this latest experience. What seem to be coming back to me are Bible verses that reflect upon perseverance.

Romans 5:1-3 says, 'We have been justified (Forgiven by God) ....we have peace with God'. These verses then go on to say, 'We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance'.

James 1:3-4 says, 'The testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything'.

So to attempt an answer to the question, 'Do previous experiences deepen trust in God?' I find that I cannot give a definitive answer. What I do know is that feelings and emotions are touched with each and every experience we go through, which can only be God's intention, as He made us that way.

I conclude that for me, at this time, God seems to be encouraging me to persevere. In the meantime the relationship between my wife and I is even more precious.

God's Blessings upon you all,

**Len Ward**

**Summer Fair  
9th August  
12 noon at  
8 Dalys Road**

**Book your lunch NOW**

**Margaret is taking  
orders - the charge for  
adults is £5, and for  
children £2**

**(price includes dessert and  
drink)**

**Coffee Morning  
and Table Sale  
in the Church Hall**

**16th August  
10 am - 1 pm**

**If you have any good  
quality bric-a-brac we  
can sell (no clothes,  
bedding or books), see  
Margaret**

**All proceeds towards  
our new organ**

## Brenda's re-invitation

A few months ago we announced that Brenda has asked to stay in the Circuit at the end of her current appointment. The consultation period starts on 3rd August and finishes on the 17th.

The church stewards have to interview certain people (chosen by the office they hold in the church) but everybody is entitled to comment, even if they are not on the list. If you want to take part in this process, please tell Dave and he will make sure you are included.

It is important to understand this is a consultation exercise - it is NOT a vote. All comments will be depersonalised and all comments made will be passed on to the Circuit Re-invitation Committee. All comments must be addressed to the set questions; any that do not address the questions are not acceptable. Unfortunately, those people who jumped the gun when we first told you about the process have not answered the questions and will have to comment again.

The questions that **must** be answered are:

- What contribution has Brenda made to the ministry, spiritual life and mission of the church?
- What contribution has Brenda made to the wider community?
- What do you appreciate about her ministry?
- How can the mission of this church be further advanced through the gifts/skills of Brenda?
- Is there on-going work in the church that needs to be completed using Brenda's leadership? If so, what?
- Are there any ways in which her ministry within this church could be more effective?
- Any other comments?

**Although Brenda is fully aware of what is going on, she must stay out of the discussions, so please do not try and talk to her about it.**

### **Do you want time to think?**

Do you just want a day away from the world? Are you caught up in so much hustle that you sometimes feel like stepping aside for a while just to think?

Brenda and Len are providing just that! They are holding a Retreat Day, as before, but this time it is at the Church of England Retreat House at Pleshey (just the other side of Chelmsford). The date is yet to be confirmed but there will not be the limit on numbers there were at the retreats held in Westcliff.

Lifts can be provided, and if we have enough of us going from Rochford we may be able to hire/borrow a mini-bus. Keep an eye open for the date (probably October) and costs.



### August

- 2 Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron & Carol Castle
- 9 Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
- 16 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull
- 23 Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber
- 29 BIG CLEAN

### September

- 6
- 13
- 20
- 27

See new rota - if you want to be on it, see Val as soon as possible.

## Recycling

In common with the rest of Rochford we are changing the way we deal with our rubbish.

You will notice that all our bins have been labelled in line with the Council collection system and we are asking all users of the hall to make sure their rubbish goes into the correct bins.

Recyclable [cans, glass (washed/rinsed of course!), paper and compostable rubbish] should go in the bins in the kitchen. Compostable rubbish includes tea bags and all food waste. Further details can be found in the book by the First Aid box - please leave it for other users.

### Note for cleaners:

The liners for the compostable bin are in the cleaner's cupboard. If any of you are unable to take the rubbish for any reason, please let me know and I will deal with it on a Tuesday (or Sunday) when I'm at the church.

**Val**

### **"Welcome to membership" service**

On August 17th, we will be delighted to welcome Paul Sims, Paul Gibbinson and Ida Hearn into membership.