

Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

October

- 5th *Members Own* (led by Mike Sims)
Brenda Gutberlet (S)
- 12th Sue Siigfrid
Bryan Imbush
- 19th **Pilgrims Way Review and Lunch**
Brenda Gutberlet
Worship for All service at Hadleigh,
4pm
- 26th Jim McAvoy
Brian Gameson

November

- 2nd **Guild Anniversary**
Brenda Gutberlet
Norman Hooks (4pm) *Rayleigh Guild
will be with us and a tea will follow*
- 9th **Remembrance Sunday**
Pam Freeborn
Rev Keith Page
- 16th Jane Fulford (AAW)
Brenda Gutberlet
- 23rd Brenda Gutberlet (S)
Gordon Bates
- 30th John & Cecile Low
Festival of Light service at St Andrews
Minster, Ashingdon, 3pm

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.

Dates for your diary:

October

- 4 *Music at Highlands*, "In Harmony"
- 11 *Simon Gledhill Organ Concert*, Chalkwell Park,
7pm, admission by programme £5
- 18 *Art & Craft Fair* Fund Raising for Fairhavens,
Highlands Methodist Church, 10am-3pm, £1
- 18 *5th Organic Extravaganza*, Shoebury Methodist
Church, 7.15pm
- 19 Pilgrims Way Review and lunch
- 19 *Worship for All* service, Hadleigh, 4pm
- Note this is not a Youth Service or a
Circuit Service - it is for everybody**
- 24 CAB Quiz Night, Holy Trinity Church,
Rayleigh, 7pm for 7.30pm, £6 a head (tables
of 8)
- 26 End of British Summer Time - clocks go back

November

- 1 *Music at Highlands*, "Chemistry"
- 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, 11am
- 21 Carol Service & Nativity, 4pm
- 25 Christmas Day family service - come and
show off your Christmas presents. Local
Arrangement, 10.30 am.

January

- 11 Covenant Service, 11am
- 18 Family Day

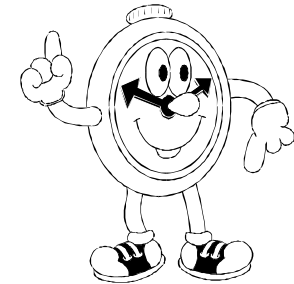
Time to talk of God

Our series of five meetings has now started. Colin & Margaret are hosting them and the first evening was well-attended. If you find it difficult to talk with others about your faith then there is still time to come along and catch up. Although the course is run in conjunction with the housegroups, they are open to everybody.

Some dates, though, have changed. Future dates are 15th and 29th October, 5th and 19th November. All meetings start at 8pm and finish about 9pm. If you want to come along, do have a word with Margaret first to make sure there are enough chars, cups, etc.

Rochford Methodist

The Methodist Church 



Clocks back, October 26th

Just a thought - how would they have put the clocks back when they used candles to judge the time?

Oct / Nov 2008

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

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

www.rochfordmethodist.org.uk

Property News

As we said in the last edition, we haven't had any working parties this summer. However a major task has taken place - the fascia board and guttering alongside the Greaves Hall have been replaced and one piece of downpipe, which was removed by an unknown vandal, has now been re-installed and moved inside the property. Our very grateful thanks go to Roy Pavitt for giving his time and skills to do this work which visibly improves the look of this side of the building. Thanks are also due to Colin for acting as Roy's gopher and support.

Brenda met with a representative of 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. There is a procedure to follow, and it will take some time as the Parish Council have to nominate sites to the District Council, who nominate sites to the County Council, who then make a decision on how much (if any) money is passed to the District to pay for them. So don't expect anything on the near future!

Wot, no organ?

All change on the organ front! Following further discussions, we have been persuaded that the organ we originally chose would not be suitable for our church. As a result, we have now ordered an Eminent DCS326 which will cost in the region of £11,300, which should be installed at the beginning of November (2008!). If you want to know more, Heather or Val has all the details.

The Circuit Meeting has agreed it and the necessary forms have been sent to 'Methodist Central' for their agreement. We don't expect any problems.

All we have to do now is to top the funds back up to pay for it!

The next planned publication date is 7th December 2008. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 23rd November 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.

IT'S EASY TO BE THE PERFECT MINISTER !!!

A recent survey has compiled all the qualities that people expect from the perfect young minister. They are easy to follow:

The perfect minister preaches for exactly 12 minutes. He/she frequently condemns sin but never upsets anyone.

He/she works from 8 a.m. until midnight and is on call 24/7, but is always relaxed, with time for a coffee with you whenever you like.

He/she makes £200 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a good car, and gives about £100 a week to the poor.

He/she is 28 years of age, but he's been preaching for 30 years.

He/she is wonderfully gentle with everyone and always gives people in the church their way, but the church is run supremely efficiently.

He/she is amazingly good-looking and eligible, but too committed to your church to want a private life.

He/she gives of themselves completely, but never gets too close to anyone to avoid criticism.

He/she speaks boldly on social issues, but never becomes politically involved.

He/she has an outstanding 'street cred' with the teenagers, spends many happy hours each week lighting up the lives of your church's senior citizens, and is very popular with all the mums and tots.

He/she makes 15 daily calls to church families, visits shut-ins and the hospitalized, spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, is something of a notable scholar (writing an authoritative book on Hebrews), and is always in the office when needed.

Told you — it's easy!

[Culled from *The Clarion*, the newsletter of Leigh Wesley Methodist Church]



Pilgrims Way Update – September 08

As it has been some months since the last update in the *Rochford Methodist*, I thought it was high time that this was remedied! The timing is also opportune, as we have been reviewing the achievements from 2007/08 in readiness for the next Pilgrims Way review meeting on 19 October.

We have had another successful year following on from the ideas raised at our last annual review (held on 7 October 2007). From all the ideas raised last October, your Pilgrims Way Planning Committee gathered together and formulated the specific action plans for us to follow. All these are based around and support our Church's Mission Statement, *We are all here to: worship God and spread His love; welcome everyone into our church family; serve the community in the name of Jesus Christ.*

We have continued with the Family Days, and this year tried an additional church outing to Maldon on 12 July. Despite the unseasonable weather (which did not stop the Rayners from sporting their shorts!) a very good number of us braved the grey and chilly day to have our picnics together overlooking the river in the Promenade Park. There was also an added attraction with the many Morris Dancers who were also performing that day. Olive, always being game for a laugh, joined in with one group, even down to having the black face makeup!!

With a faithful group of people we have continued to publicise the church's special events through leaflet drops to the local homes. Once again we have covered Harvest, Christmas and Easter. I must pay tribute to Dave who produces the leaflet, and also to Sonia who copies and folds the hundreds of copies. Finally, to the faithful souls who actually post through the letter boxes. We cannot tell how successful this initiative is, but we believe that it does raise the visibility of the church to the people closest to us geographically.

Another suggestion from last October's review was that the PA system was reviewed with proposals for upgrade. As you all know this has resulted in us now having a very fine audiovisual set up with excellent sound and also a projector and screen to display hymns, readings etc to assist the worshippers.

We have also been supporting two local charities under our aim of "being a good neighbour to people in need". As a direct result of our fund raising we have sent £960 to Rochford Citizens' Advice Bureau and £440 to Havens Hospices. Also we raised £87 for Christian Aid. All this is *over and above* the other fund raising that the church undertakes as a part of our regular giving.

Not everything we tried has yet borne fruit. We were hoping that Brenda would be able to agree a chaplaincy with the new Somerfield in Rochford. Brenda was willing to give of her (limited) time to be of service to the staff and shoppers, but despite best efforts they have not responded to this offer.

(Continued on page 5)

It's that time of year again . . .

. . . when we start to think about the Bazaar. It will be on Sat Nov 8th in the W.I. Hall.

The usual stalls will still apply but we are trying something different this year. Andrea and Jill have offered to make jewellery items on the morning.

We are also trying to organise a "Gift" Table, so if anyone has any suitable items that are no longer required please see Margaret. They must be in the original packaging or boxes etc.

Also, Ivy will be organising the Tombola, so she would appreciate items at **least a week before**, please.

To be a Christmas angel, you need a HARP

On the morning of Sunday 7th December we are holding a Gift Service for HARP. Many churches have toy services, but we are trying something different.

The Homeless Action Resource Project (HARP) is the local charity dedicated to homeless people in the area. Every year food is donated to HARP through harvest collections from schools, churches and local organisations. We are one of the churches that collect all the year round and the gifts we send are always gratefully received.

Their Christmas wish list (below) includes a few treats as well as basic necessities. Please consider donating one or two of these items at our Gift Service if you feel able.

- Gift vouchers (HMV, Boots, Superdrug, Argos, Woolworths)
- Book tokens
- Toiletries, gloves, scarves, hats, socks (for both men and women)
- Chocolate
- Stocking fillers
- Flasks and sleeping bags

If you can't decide what to give, money would be appreciated to help cover the cost of Christmas Dinners for their clients at both the Day and Night Services.



as long as it takes

The name change was completed in September when NCH finally became *Action for Children*. Everything else about the organisation remains the same, so any standing orders, wills, etc, will still be valid. If you have a Home Collection box you can continue to use it, but new ones are available.

Many people have asked why the change was thought necessary. Action for Children have replied as follows:

Why have you changed your name?

The name Action for Children clearly describes what we do: it underlines our focus on action and doing our best for children and young people. It also reflects the fact that residential care is now just one small part of the range of services we provide.

The name Action for Children also honours our heritage and our past: for many years, 'action for children' was our organisation's tagline, part of our ethos. Our tagline now is 'as long as it takes', which reflects our steadfast commitment to providing long-term support for children, young people and their families, for as long as it is needed.

What are the benefits of your name change?

As well as demonstrating who we are and what we do in a clear and simple way, a strong and consistent identity will enable us to:

- be a strong, campaigning voice for the most vulnerable children and young people
- distinguish ourselves and the services we provide from other children's charities
- have more influence on public and political opinion
- increase the breadth of our services for all vulnerable children
- expand our wide geographic reach, responding to local needs in the UK and beyond
- encourage and develop innovative and creative ways to transform young people's lives
- recruit and retain more staff and volunteers
- increase our voluntary income
- be clear about what we do

There is a new website at:
www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Wesley Guild

We're back again with a new session and ready to go! Tuesdays, 8pm sharp at the church, and we're open to everybody - men and women, young and old.

October

- 7 Presidential evening with Revd Brenda
- 14 *Pavitt's Puzzles*
- 21 *Caring for seafarers*, Rev Ray Trudgett
- 28 "*Something to do with canals*", Dave Dobbin

November

- 2 (Sunday) Guild Anniversary
11am Revd Brenda
4pm Rev Norman Hooks
Rayleigh Guild have been invited to the afternoon service which will be followed by tea.
- 4 Rev Norman Hooks
- 11 *Veterinary care for needy animals*, PDSA speaker
- 20 (Thursday) *West Side Story*, Cliffs Pavilion
- 25 *Musical Evening*, Roy Girling (+ wife)

Women's Fellowship

Somehow the dates for September missed getting into the last edition of the *Rochford Methodist*. My apologies - but they are in this one!

October

- 6 Maureen Sams
- 13 Joan Clark
- 20 Pam Freeborn
- 27 It's *Shoe box* time!

Meetings are held at the church starting at 2.30pm on Mondays. There will be a warm welcome and a cup of tea for everyone.

November

- 3 Revd Brenda Gutberlet
- 10 Len and Babs Ward
- 17 *Benefit of living in a Retirement Development*, McCarthy and Stone
- 24 Pastor Brian Gibson

December 1 will be a Members' Afternoon

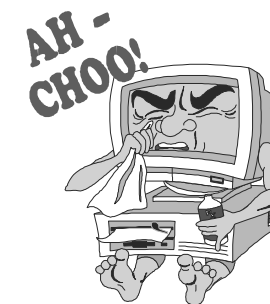
Dear Lord,

Every single evening
As I'm lying here in bed,
This tiny little Prayer
Keeps running through my head:
God bless all my family
Wherever they may be,
Keep them warm and safe from harm
For they're so close to me.
And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do;
Hope you don't mind me asking,
Please bless my computer too.
Now I know that it's unusual
To Bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second
While I explain it to you, Lord.
You see, that little metal box
Holds more than odds and ends;
Inside those small compartments
Rest so many of my friends.
I know so much about them
By the kindness that they give,
And this little scrap of metal
Takes me in to where they live.

(Continued from page 3)

Brenda continues to offer her full support to Pilgrims Way. Another example of this is the forthcoming series of meetings she has agreed to lead around the study book *Time to Talk of God* from The Methodist Church that aims to encourage Methodists and other Christians to renew their ability to talk about God. Meetings are held at the Rayners, 8 Dalys Road.

Thank you to all of you who have supported Pilgrims' Way through your attendance and interest and through your prayers (which I firmly believe is the most important aspect of all).



By faith is how I know them
Much the same as you.
We share in what life brings us
And from that our friendships grew.
Please take an extra minute
From your duties up above,
To bless those in my address book
That's filled with so much love.
Wherever else this prayer may reach
To each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail inbox
And each person who hits "send".
When you update your Heavenly list
On your own Great CD-ROM,
Bless everyone who says this prayer
Sent up to GOD.com

Mike Sims

Happy Hands Baby and Toddler Group

We opened on 8th September 1998. How the years have flown - we're 10 years old! To celebrate, 8 members of staff past and present (out of 10) went out for a meal together and on 30th September we held a party for all our present members. The Chairman of Rochford District Council, Councillor Jim Grey and his wife Mary came to join us. We were delighted to see them and Jim said a few kind and supportive words and cut the cake.



Revd Brenda and Len also came along to join the fun - musical chars, pass the parcel, food and balloons. Each family went home with a small gift provided by each other. As a 10th Anniversary is 'tin', everybody donated something in a tin which had a ticket attached. On leaving, they took another ticket from the pot and took home the tin with the matching number - it sounds complicated but was a bit of fun.

My grateful thanks go to all who helped to make this celebration such a success. Firstly to Gwen for making is such a beautiful cake. To Heather for making sure we had the finances and being in charge of the music for the games. To Wendy for ordering and collecting the shopping and helping with the food and prizes. To Andrea for organising the kitchen. To Paula and Gwenda again helping to prepare and clear up in the kitchen. To Wendy's sister-in-law Sam who sorted a sackful of rubbish into the correct bins. My last, but not least, thank you is to the group members who gave us such a lovely card - signed by everyone - and a gift to myself and each of my present helpers. These were very much appreciated. Thank you.

Val Dobbin



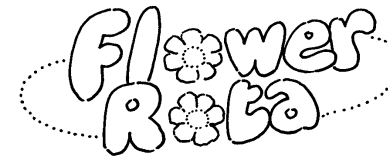
October

- 4 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull
- 11 Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber
- 18 Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
- 25 BIG CLEAN

November

- 1 Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
- 8 Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron Castle
- 15 Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
- 22 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull
- 29 Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber

-
- October 5 Heather Sims
 - 12 Jean Startup
 - 19 Val Dobbin
 - 26 Ida Hearn



November

- 2 **Guild Anniversary**
- 9 Rosie Isaacs
- 16 Jean Startup
- 23 Margaret Rayner
- 30 Joan Beehag

Brenda's re-invitation

By a vote of 67-2, the Circuit Meeting agreed that Brenda should have her appointment extended for a further 3 years. This means her appointment will last until August 2012. Thanks are due to all those who responded to the consultation.

Do you still 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 and, despite what appeared in the last edition of the *Rochford Methodist*, it will be held at Thorpe Bay Methodist Church on 22nd November. There will be plenty of room for anybody who wants to come and it is guaranteed to be thought provoking.

The members at Thorpe Bay have agreed to provide light refreshments and lunch, so all you will have to do is to say 'yes' to coming.

You can still help the Citizens Advice Bureau

**Quiz Night at Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh
Oct 24th, 7pm for 7.30pm**

Teams of 8 at £6 a head

Bring your own food, drinks, glasses, etc

Book your place with Mary Rolt on 01702 541289

Payment in advance is "encouraged"

Do you want to give 'tax efficiently'? Do you still want to give anonymously?

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) can now supply vouchers as well as the cheques they have always provided.

You buy a book of 20 Gift Aid vouchers for £100 and you are provided with vouchers to the value of £122.40, as CAF will already have recovered the Income Tax you have paid. You then just put one or more vouchers into the plate at the church or into a collecting tin of your chosen charity whenever you want

To order vouchers, phone 01732 520050.