

Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

April

- 5th **Palm Sunday**
Family Day, Worship Leaders
No evening service
- 12th **Easter Sunday**
Brenda Gutberlet (S)
Mike Sims (Easter Meditation)
- 19th **Women's Fellowship Anniversary**
Brenda Gutberlet
Rev Diane Smith
- 26th
Sue Sigfrid
Rev Keith Page

May

- 3rd Peter Reed
"Songs of Praise" service
- 10th Bob Clipsham (AAW)
No evening service
- 17th **Church Anniversary**
Rev Martine Stemerick
Circuit service at Highlands, 4pm
- 24th Local Arrangement
Brenda Gutberlet
- 31st Brenda Gutberlet (S)
Rev Michael Hayman

There are some changes from 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:

April

- 5 Family Day. *Godly Play* with Diane Smith
- 5 Extraordinary Church Council Meeting, 2pm
- 6 *Stations of the Cross* service, St Teresa's, 8pm
- 9 Afternoon service at Hockley Sisterhood
- 9 Maundy Thursday service at Hockley, 8pm
- 9 All night prayer vigil, at Rayleigh, 9pm - 9am
- 10 *Silent Walk of Witness*, Hockley, Starting outside Somerfield, 11am
- 19/20 Women's Fellowship Anniversary
- 25 Guild AGM and Supper

May

- 16 Coffee Morning for Nigeria Healthcare at 130 Ashingdon Road
- 16 Organ dedication and recital (fund-raiser)
- 17 Church Anniversary, Rev Martine Stemerick
- 17 **Last date for items for the Newsletter**
- 18 Women's Fellowship AGM

June

- 6 *Food, Faith, Fun and Flowers* event at Rayleigh Methodist Church
- 7 Next planned publication date for Newsletter
- 20 Church outing to Maldon

July

- 12 Family Day and Picnic in the Park

August

- 8 *Summer Fayre*, 8 Dalys Road

September

- 22 Church Council, 8pm
- 27 Harvest Festival

October

- 11 Pilgrims Way Review

Would you like to make your offering by Standing Order?

Do you sometimes find you have forgotten your collection? Is there sometimes too much month at the end of your money? Would you like to make your offering in a way that means you give to the church while the money is still in your bank account?

Other churches have members who use Standing Orders and we have recently had enquiries about making the facility available at Rochford Methodist Church. If you are interested in setting up a Standing Order so that you can pay directly into the church bank account in a way that fits your budget, please ask Colin for details.

Rochford Methodist

The Methodist Church 

Easter 2009

- 6th April *Stations of the Cross* service at St Teresa's, 8pm
- 9th April Maundy Thursday service at Hockley Methodist Church, 8pm
All-night prayer vigil at Rayleigh, 9pm - 9am (breakfast provided!)
- 10th April *Silent walk of witness* in Hockley (all ages), meet outside Somerfields, 10.45am
- 12th April Easter Sunday
11 am, Revd Brenda Gutberlet
6.30pm, Easter meditation,
Mike Sims

Apr / May 2009

The Newsletter of
Rochford Methodist Church
77-79 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

Food, Faith, Fun and Flowers

Following on from last year's *Ho Ho Lympics*, this year's event at Rayleigh Methodist Church involving Brenda's three churches takes place on 6th June.

There are a variety of stalls and your help (and especially support on the day) is requested. Making lots of money is not the aim of what we are doing; what really makes the day is lots of people actually being at the event and taking part - working together and playing together.

Margaret Rayner is our representative on the organising group this year and can answer most of your questions, but the current state of play is:

- Each of the churches will keep the money they take on their stalls.
- The stalls this year will be more mixed-up, rather than each church having their own discrete area of the grounds.
- Rochford plan to have the following stalls:
 - Home made cakes (large cakes only)
 - Guess the weight of the cake
 - Fairtrade
 - Gift Stall
 - Two or three games
- Other events will include bouncy castle, sumo wrestling and face painting (for the children), Tombola, Floral displays and flower festival, teas and refreshments, country dancing and 'Name the bear'
- There will be a raffle and each church will be asked to provide three **good** items - but **no** alcohol!

We learnt from our mistakes last year so this year we expect it to be better still. Entry will be free.

If you can help on the day, please see Margaret as soon as possible so she can plan who is doing what. And Margaret would be delighted to receive items for the Gift Stall. But hurry, the event takes place before the next edition of the *Rochford Methodist*.

The next planned publication date is 7th June 2009. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 17th May please.

I prefer articles by email, floppy disc or typed with a good DARK original (because I can handle these without re-typing them!), but I am happy to receive them in any form - so long as I get *something*!

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

10.55 am FJ Club
10.55 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.

Women's Fellowship

The final weeks of this year's session are in sight now and we continue to have a good range of speakers on interesting topics. Carole is already planning the next session and it's looking good already.

If you are free on a Monday at 2.30pm, why not come along to the church. There will be a warm welcome and a cup of tea waiting for you. Don't leave it too late!

April

- 6 Revd Benda Gutberlet
- 13 No Meeting (Easter Monday)
- 19/20 Our Anniversary
 - Sunday 19th Revd Brenda Gutberlet
 - Monday 20th Cecile Low
- 27 *Community Policing in Rochford*, Andrew Hill

May

- 4 No Meeting (Bank Holiday)
- 11 Revd Brenda Gutberlet
- 18 Annual General Meeting



Step out for Children - 6th June

Every year for many years now *Action for Children* have held sponsored walks all over the country and Southend's has consistently had more people and raised more money than any other walk.

If you would like to be a part of it this year, the local walk is on 6th June at 9.30am.

The Southend walk is also different in many ways from the other 45 walks taking place this year. It has several options and a choice of starting point, it is also completely on level ground and on tarmac, and it's along the seafront.

You can start at Leigh Station or at Shoebury Common and there is a checkpoint halfway along at Adventure Island. So you can walk the 7 miles between Shoebury and Leigh (or the other way round), with the really keen ones doing the 14-mile round trip. Or you can do a 7 mile walk to the pier and back, or just 3½ miles and stop at the pier, or do the full 7 miles and back to the pier, or . . .

If you don't feel up to the walking, you can always sponsor someone to walk on your behalf.

If you want to take part either as a sponsor or as a walker, see Val who has all the details.

An Easter message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

As I write this article the signs of Spring are everywhere—daffodils nodding in the breeze; buds and blossom on the trees; ladybirds and even honey bees! All these are signs that a seasonal change is happening bringing new life and transformation. So too with the Church year as we move through the weeks of Lent to Holy week with its culmination in the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May I commend 1 Corinthians chapter 15; verses 3-11 for your personal reflection? In it St Paul lists some of the many resurrection appearances of our Lord and in the Gospels some of these are recorded in more detail. Whichever we read what NEVER alters is the fact of His empty tomb.

Ever since that first Easter Sunday there have been those who have tried to 'explain away' the resurrection but none of these theories has sufficed—WHY? The Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be. His sinless life and sacrificial death perfectly fulfilled the many prophecies in Holy Scripture. He died for the sin of the world and rose triumphant from death because He is the resurrection and the life (John 11 v 25).

We often celebrate Eastertime (especially the children) by eating Easter eggs—a chocolate symbol of new life! This custom reminds us that the joy of believing in and experiencing the transforming Friendship of Christ Jesus is too good to be kept to ourselves. That's why we are called as Christians to share and show God's love in everyday life.

“No work for Him is vain, no faith in Him mistaken,
For Easter makes it plain, His kingdom is not shaken.

Come share our Easter joy, that death could not imprison,
Nor any power destroy, our Christ who is ARISEN.”

(F. Pratt Green; Hymns & Psalms 213).

May the joy, love and peace of the Risen Christ bless you throughout the year.

Revd. Brenda Gutberlet

A reminder that our Section Service for Maundy Thursday this year (9th April) is at our Hockley Church at 8pm. All welcome.

Thank you for your cards, letters, love, kindness and prayerful support as I recovered from surgery. All these have helped and strengthened me especially when I was housebound. Thank you also for those who have provided transport so that I could at least do some work!

Brenda



April

- 4 **BIG CLEAN** (Everybody welcome at Big Cleans, cleaner or not)
- 11 Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron Castle
- 18 Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
- 25 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull

May

- 2 Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber
- 9 Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
- 16 Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
- 23 **BIG CLEAN**
- 30 Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron Castle

April

- 5 Kathy Mortlock
- 12 *Easter Sunday*
- 19 Rosie Martin
- 26 *Women's Fellowship Anniversary*

May

- 3 Maureen Whalley
- 10 Carole Glendenning
- 17 *Church Anniversary*
- 24 Kathy Mortlock
- 31 Jan Willson



Amazing anagrams

Dormitory = Dirty Room
 The Morse Code = Here come dots
 Snooze alarms = Alas! No more Zs
 Alec Guinness = Genuine Class
 A decimal point = I'm a dot in place
 Eleven plus two = Twelve plus one
 Contradiction = Accord not in it

And what Neil Armstrong claims he actually said as he stepped on the moon was:
 "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind"
 becomes:
 "A thin man ran, makes a large stride, pins flag on moon, left planet. On to Mars!"

Wesley Guild

It seems so long ago but the beginning of February was snowy and icy. In Rochford we missed most of the worst of it, but Southend had several inches of snow. However, in view of the weather, we did not meet on 3rd February. The following week, Colin and Margaret held their *Quiz with a difference*, a mixture of *Blockbusters*, *Eggheads* and bingo!

On the 17th Andrea came to tell us about the very interesting work of the SOS bus. It's existence would be news to most of us as very few of our members go clubbing in Southend on Friday or Saturday night! Meanwhile on the 24th, John Lorrimore came to tell us how they had organised (and were planning to present) the *Year in the Life* at Rayleigh Methodist Church.

Into March and we started the month with a visit by Rev Diane Smith who told us about (and demonstrated) 'Godly Play'. As it is suitable for all ages, this is the activity planned for our Family Day on 5th April, so we can look forward to a fun time.

On the 10th, Roy Pavitt talked about Electricity and brought along some demonstrations - shocking! We visited Rayleigh Guild to join in their anniversary on Sunday 15th and this was followed by tea. On the 17th, Sandy Burnett came to talk on her and her husbands experiences as volunteers on a Mercy Ship, and told us about the organisation.

Due to some misinformation, we had two meetings the following week - John Downer took us through some of his favourite Gilbert and Sullivan pieces on the 24th, while we went to see the SODS presentation of *Calamity Jane* at the Cliffs Pavilion on the 26th. Excellent show as usual and I am sure that there were at least two other Methodist churches in the audience (Rayleigh were right next to us!)

Our month rounded off with a visit from Keith Page for a devotional.

And now we start the wind-down to this year's session as we head towards our AGM and Supper on 25 April 25. Then it's a break and we look forward to next year.

Please do try and come along next year - the more people we have in the audience, the better the evening seems to be

April

- 7 No Meeting
- 9 Maundy Thursday service at Hockley, with Rayleigh church, 8pm
- 14 *Beetle Drive* (This is a **fundraising** event and is open to everybody)
- 21 *Ups and Downs on wheels*, Julie Lockhart
- 25 AGM and Supper (Sat 7pm)

Sue is stepping down as our Literary and Cultural Secretary after several years. If you feel this worthwhile job is one you could (or should) do, please see Margaret for details as soon as possible.