

Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

June

- 7th Brenda Gutberlet
Circuit Service at Rayleigh 4pm (*Diane Smith's pre-ordaining Testimony Service*)
- 14th Sue Sigfrid, (AAW)
Rev Keith Page
- 21st Len Ward
At Hockley (Brian Gameson)
- 28th Andrew Farmer
Brenda Gutberlet (S)

July

- 5th Brenda Gutberlet
Andy Thomas
- 12th **Family Day**
Worship Leaders
No evening service (*Picnic in the Park*)
- 19th Peter Reed
Rev Gordon Bates
- 26th Jim McAvoy
Brenda Gutberlet (S)

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:

June

- 6 *Food, Faith, Fun and Flowers* event at Rayleigh Methodist Church
- 13 Street Collection for *Action for Children (below)*
- 20 Church outing to Maldon
- 27 Silent Auction, 6pm £3 a head, includes meal

July

- 1 '3-churches' stewards meeting at Rayleigh
- 12 Family Day and Picnic in the Park
- 18 Big Clean
- 26 Last day for articles for next edition

August

- 8 *Summer Fayre*, 8 Dalys Road
- 9 Next planned publication date
- 29 Big Clean

September

- 22 Church Council, 8pm
- 27 Harvest Festival

October

- 11 Pilgrims Way Review

November

- 1 Guild Anniversary
- 14 Christmas Bazaar, WI Hall.



Volunteers urgently needed for the annual Street Collection on Saturday 13th June

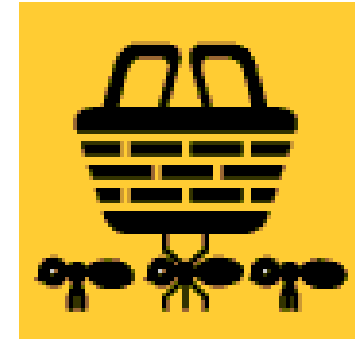
If you can spare an hour or so, either in the Square or at Golden Cross, please see Val NOW.

Puzzle answers

Across
1. Subs; 3 Rochford; 8. Buff; 9. Hanger-on; 11. Archangels; 14 (&18D) Holman Hunt; 15. Enough; 17. Incidental; 20. Unsettle; 21. Zinc; 22. Tapestry; 23. Onus.
Down
1. Sabbaths; 2. Bi-focals; 4. Orange; 5. Highlander; 6. Ours; 7. Done; 10. Canaanites; 12. Austrian; 13. Chalcies; 16. Tiller; 18 (See 14A); 19. ASAP

Rochford Methodist

The **Methodist Church** 



Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer.
Proverbs 30, verse 25 (NIV)

Have a good holiday!

June/July 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

Editorial

As I write I have a window open on my computer and it's displaying live images from the BBC *Springwatch* webcams. At the moment they are watching the nests of robins, swallows, goldfinches and kestrels. The parent birds are constantly on the go, bringing food, cleaning and rebuilding the nests. The programme last week showed the kestrel chicks being fed with a lapwing chick from one of the other nests.

It seems incredible that the adult swallows have travelled all the way from the southern tip of Africa to nest in Britain, have spent a few weeks building the nests before the eggs were laid and are still on the go as they look after their chicks. In a few weeks time this stage will be over and the adults will be off to Africa again, with the young birds following on, to start the cycle all over again.

As I watch I also wonder about the love of God, who looks after us all much like those parent birds look after their chicks. The young birds at this stage are ugly little creatures but the parents care for them all the time. God fusses over us day in and day out, checks up on us at regular intervals and provides us with what we need. This is not necessarily what we think we want, though. There are rough times in our lives and we can use these to appreciate the good times more.

The fact that the kestrels on *Springwatch* were fed with one of the lapwing chicks was bad for the lapwing parents who had expended a lot of effort to produce it, but it was good for the baby kestrels who had a meal.

We have to remember that when we wish for something for ourselves, if it is granted then it may not be good news for someone else; in the same way, if someone else's wish is granted it may have a bad impact on us! There is an ancient saying - "be careful what you wish as you might get what you asked for".

We are told that God answers our every prayer. I believe this is true, but sometimes his answer is an emphatic "no".

The next planned publication date is 9th August 2009. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 26th July 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)

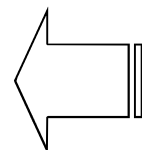
Saturday

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.

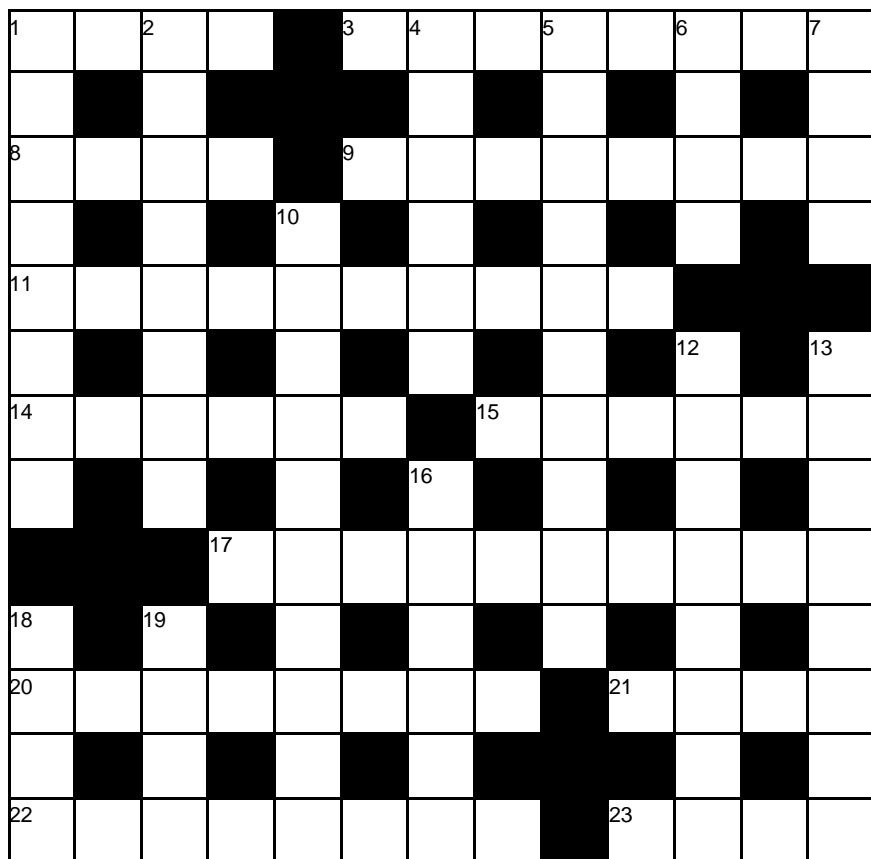
And in addition . .

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.



If you have a flair for Crossword puzzles and would like to produce one on a regular basis for us, see Dave. A 13 x 13 grid works best and it must contain at least one reference to Methodism and/or Rochford.

The return of the Crossword Puzzle!



Across

1. Membership fees for short submarines (4)
3. Our town (8)
8. Light brown and naked (4)
9. Unwanted follower in sound aircraft store with no backing (6-2)
11. Guardians of bridges? (10)
- 14 & 18D. Revelation 3:20 artist (6,4)
15. Plenty (6)
17. It's a type of film music, by the way (10)
20. Disturb by removing the pew? (8)
21. This metal sounds like the kitchen one (4)
22. Cartoon strip from Bayeaux (8)
23. Our responsibility (4)

Down

1. Weekly holy days (8)
2. Twin lens glasses (2-6)
4. Fruity mobile? (6)
5. Northern Scot, or Leigh Methodist (10)
6. It sounds like we own a long time (4)
7. Finished! (4)
10. People from a Biblical land . . (10)
12. . . or one from a European country, mostly Australian (8)
13. Holy goblets! (8)
16. Pole used for turning a boat, or the soil? (6)
18. See 14 Across
19. As soon as possible, shortly (1,1,1,1)

A Pentecostal message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

When someone is in daily paid employment they may say such things as, "When I am retired I shall be able to do . . ." Then when retirement comes retirees may say,

"I don't know how I ever found time to work" or "Retirement? I am working harder now than when I went to work!" There are those who are in satisfying work and others who are not, but at least it is a job. As I write a huge rise in the numbers of unemployed has just been announced. Let us remember those adversely affected in our prayers and ask how we can offer support as Churches.

The Bible can inform us on the ethics and practice of employment. When I was in training for the Methodist ministry one of my essays in the ethics section of the Course was on "Work". What an interesting subject to research in the Bible, secular sources and by personal reflection having spent the majority of my working life in nursing as a Registered Nurse in the NHS and at Fair Havens Hospice. God has dignified work by His own working commitment to this cosmos, in creation, preservation and our redemption through Christ Jesus upon the Cross. Furthermore Jesus would have been raised viewing Joseph at work in the carpentry trade

and also have been taught that trade. As we move from the season of Easter towards that of Pentecost (31st May onwards), we should reflect on what it means to work in partnership with God as individual Christians and as Churches for God's work requires His power within us to enable and equip us to live faithfully for Him in daily life.

At Pentecost (See Acts Ch. 2 and *Hymns & Psalms* 328), Christians celebrate the fulfillment of our Lord's promise to the first disciples (and us today) -- 'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you: you will be my witnesses. .' (Acts 1:8). What is this power? It is power to love, live, serve, witness to and worship God. It means to be transformed by God's grace day by day so that we reflect Him in our daily lives. It is not 'going through the motions' of being a Christian, it is permitting God to reign in us moment by moment so that we work in partnership with Him, and live to glorify Him in the ordinary routines of life. (*Hymns & Psalms* 381).

At our Hockley, Rayleigh and Rochford Churches may we continue to pray, "Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us". There is much to be done if our Churches are to continue to grow in every way. Why not reflect on a hymn from the Pentecost section of a hymn book or read afresh the account of Pentecost and ask God to fill you and the Churches anew? God's work requires His power within His people--nothing less will achieve His purposes in and through us

"Jesus confirm my heart's desire
To work, and speak, and think for Thee;
Still let me guard the holy fire,
And still stir up Thy gift in me."
(*C. Wesley H & Ps. 745 v.3*).

Yours with love and prayers,

Rev. Brenda Gutberlet

Have you had your copy of Brenda's quiz? Stewards have copies at 50 pence each and all proceeds are in aid of Church funds. There are questions for all abilities including children. So enjoy and at the same time help us raise the monies needed for new flooring in the Hall and the replacement organ.

Fundraising Fun quiz

Brenda has devised a travel quiz that is suitable for all the family to share. Copies of the quiz are available at the back of the church and they cost 50p each (paid to a steward).

If you want an answer sheet - you will have to cross Dave's palm with £1.

All the money will go towards raising money for building up our funds again after buying the organ and a bit towards the new floor in the hall.



June

- 6 Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
- 13 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull
- 20 Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
- 27 Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber (++ change from original rota ++)

July

- 4 Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
- 11 Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron Castle
- 18 **BIG CLEAN**
- 25 Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards

June

- 7 Sheila Webber
- 14 Pat Rubidge
- 21 Helen Willson
- 28 Jean Startup

July

- 5 Win Cogar
- 12 Ida Hearn
- 19 Beryl Scoging
- 26 Gwen Smith



This is my Story

If you were at the morning service on 31st May, you would have heard Barry Stoll giving his testimony. He has kindly allowed me to print it.

I won't bore you with the gory details but in October of last year I was admitted to hospital and spent 4 days in Intensive Care with a blood cell count of 800 (yours will be around 10) and it whilst I was unconscious that I had a frightening, mysterious yet wonderful experience.

I went to the edge of the abyss and looked over and had a glimpse of a hideous and frightening face, like the ugliest gargoyle you can ever imagine.

Then something wonderful happened. I felt warm and loving hands holding me in a tender embrace and I heard a gentle voice say "Not today my son, come back with me." Don't anyone ever try to tell me that there is no God in Heaven because here I am, large as life and twice as ugly with a brand new knee (the 5th) ready, willing and able to fight another day.

Thank you Lord for giving me back my life; for the care and dedication of all the medical staff; for the support and encouragement of family and friends and of this Church; for Margaret without whose intervention I wouldn't have had a leg to stand on.

Now I try to live my life by 4 simple rules. To drink, steal, swear and lie.

1. DRINK from the 'everlasting cup' every day.
2. STEAL a moment to help someone who's in worse shape than me.
3. SWEAR that I will try to be a better person today than I was yesterday.
4. And last but not least, when I LIE down at night I never forget to thank God that I live in England and have freedom.

Lord

I know that I'm not as good as I should be, I'm not as good as I could be, but I thank you Lord that I'm better than I used to be.

Amen.

THE STEWARD'S NIGHTMARE

"I'm not on duty today", she said
as she rolled and snuggled in the warmth of her bed.
"I'll just go and see all is well", she thought,
"the steward new may be hassled and fraught".

In slippers and gown she found herself there
among hymn number boxes and with unbrushed hair.
The numbers had shrunk to all shapes and sizes,
with postcards and pictures and labels for prizes.

The water carafe lay smashed on the floor
and water was running in stream to the door.
The organist hovered, hands in pockets,
a smirk on his face with nonchalant air
His instrument ready, plugged into its sockets!

Congregation sat in yellow backed chairs,
not a smile or a glance but stony faced stares,
No one moved to help the poor steward
all seemed frozen as statues bent forward.

"Where, oh where are the hymn number cards,
and why is the water glass lying in shards?
Then the minister clad in ominous black
seemed to fade into mist, turning his back.

The steward shed tears and in slippers all pink
turned to flee in a turnside and think --
When a faraway voice seemed to puncture her head,
"It's time to get up and out of your bed---

You'll be late for chapel, come on my beauty
for I seem to recall you should be on duty!"

Joan Lovatt

(from another church magazine, the name of which didn't
come with the page!)

Organ fundraising

You will have noticed a sudden increase in special fundraising events recently and you might have wondered why.

Late last year the organ we were using (kindly donated by John Low) started to get unreliable. Several attempts were made to repair it, but each repair was only lasting a short time before something else went wrong. We took the view that further repairs would not be worthwhile and that it would be better to replace it. So, a new organ (better suited to our building) was ordered and delivered at the beginning of this year.

This organ cost about £11,500, and we had funds to pay for it, but our problem was that this money had been originally earmarked for a new floor in the Greaves Hall - and this work still has to go ahead on Health and Safety grounds.

So we are running a series of fund-raising activities to replenish the funds. Don't feel that only church members have to contribute - bring along your friends and families to the events! The more money that comes from outside, the less our members have to find.

Ssssh - I'm bidding! 27th June, 6pm

Heather is once again holding a Silent Auction but what *is* a "Silent Auction"?

People will have provided lots - goods or services such as a trip somewhere, or an hour's cleaning, etc. The lots will be numbered and displayed for you to see. You will be given a booklet of numbered tickets at the beginning of the evening and all you have to do is to put down on every slip how much you want to bid for each item and the highest bid wins the item.

You *must* enter a bid for *every* lot, so if you don't want an item you bid low and if you do want it you bid high.

During the meal (did I mention there would be food?!) Heather and her team of stalwarts will sift through the bids and identify who has won each lot. The successful bidders will be announced after the meal and the funds will be collected. Even if you don't want to bid for items, it's a great social event and real fun watching the results and raising funds towards the organ. So come along - tickets only (and only available in advance) £3, includes the meal.

Can't I just give money?

Is a question that someone asked recently when we announced a fund-raising event. Of course you can! If you can't get to an event, just give the organiser (or Colin) a donation. Better still, if you pay tax, put your contribution into a Gift Aid envelope (always available at the back of the church) and add your details - even if you have already signed a form.

Next year's assessment (and our weekly income)

We have just been warned that our Circuit Assessment for next financial year (starting in September) is likely to be £17,850. This will work out at about £345 per week or £6.90 per member per week - and that's every week, whether or not you come on a particular Sunday.

As we said in an earlier edition of the *Rochford Methodist*, the Circuit Assessment has first call on our weekly collections and the money is used to pay for running the Circuit. Without it, the Circuit could not afford to pay staff or house them.

Put crudely, if the amount of the collections printed in the weekly notices is less than £345 a week, then we are not paying our way.

Rochford got Organ-ized

Our fundraising for the organ started in earnest on May 16th when four organists from around the Circuit (Eric Rowe from Shoebury, John Downer from Benfleet, John Low from Chalkwell and Keith Norman from Rayleigh) entertained us in an informal concert.

We were delighted to find at the end of the evening that we had raised around £315 on the night and that some people had Gift-Aided their donation, which will result in about £35 more being provided by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

This was good start to a busy round of raising funds and we thank everyone who came along and helped - either by doing a job, or by just being there (and chirruping!). We have already written to the organists and thanked them individually.

Do you shop at ?

Rochford Methodist Church has a Rewards Account at Staples. This is a loyalty card for business users and we get money back on any stationery we buy, as well as our photocopying. We also get money-off vouchers on a wide range of stationery products, such as paper and ink cartridges. It's not just business stationery either - there's furniture, artists requisites and 'Back to School' promotions, as well as computers, telephones, software, shredders and domestic stationery.

We use the Rewards to pay for photocopying the *Rochford Methodist* and our weekly notices but sometimes they are fed back to the church indirectly. For example, those who regularly produce documents on behalf of our church were able to receive free packs of paper a while back using the vouchers and a special offer. And recently I was able to get a substantial discount on toner cartridges so I can continue to produce posters, etc.

Dave and Marian hold the special cards, so if you're planning a visit to Staples (by the Airport) at any time, ask one of us for the card and the church can benefit at no additional cost to you.

Worship Leaders' Report

(This report, for one reason or another didn't make it into the Annual Report. It covers 12 months up to last March)

Dave & Val Dobbin, Sue Edwards and Mike Sims continue to undertake the role of worship leaders. This has involved planning and leading entire services, either using all the leaders, or Val/Dave and Sue/Mike pairing, and we also regularly assist the appointed Preacher with prayers, readings, intercessions (or anything else we may be asked to assist with)!

Mike took an evening service last May based on the Methodist Worship Book service "Second Service". Service sheets were prepared specifically for the act of worship and were given out to people as they arrived so that the service could flow uninterrupted.

All the Worship Leaders prepared and help lead the morning service on 25 May when we considered the theme of "God and Possessions", and Sue led the service for the Family Day on 29 June on the title "Giving and Receiving". Mike led the service on 5 October based on the 10 Commandments and many people from the congregation were also involved with readings and prayers. Christmas Day was a local arrangement led by Dave and assisted by Val, Sue and Mike, and then for the Family Day on 18 January Sue led. All the worship leaders are also often called upon to lead the intercessions during either morning or evening services.

We are delighted that the church has decided to invest in the multimedia system. This has added an extra dimension to our worship and opens up a whole new area of resources that were difficult to use before. (We remember that Dave would faithfully bring along and set up his own laptop and projector when needed — but no more!) The books are still available for all those who prefer/need to see print in front of them, but if you can see the screen we think that it frees up the individual from needing to find pages in the books etc.

We have not yet been able to continue our on-going training through the joint meetings with the Worship Leaders from Rayleigh and Hockley but, with Brenda's agreement, Mike has now canvassed all the Worship Leaders concerned for areas that they would like covered and these include: revisiting the "Worship Leaders Training Pack" and firming up on any areas that may not have been covered in detail; the practicalities of speaking in front of a number of people; what WLS can put in a service to replace the "sermon slot". We are now waiting for dates when Brenda will be free to progress these.

We make no apology for reminding everyone that the Worship Leaders are not an exclusive group. If you feel that you are being called to this ministry, please do have a chat with Brenda, or any one of us and we would be happy to give you any background or answer any questions you may have.