

Sunday Services

Evening services are at 6.30pm unless otherwise shown.

June

- 6th Val Windsor
Circuit Vision update, Highlands, 4pm
- 13th Colin Turner
Mike Sims (Music and Meditation)
- 20th Brenda Gutberlet (S)
Rev Gordon Bates
- 27th Worship Leaders
Brenda Gutberlet

July

- 4th Sue Sigfrid
Rev Bryan Imbush
- 11th Family Day (Picnic in *Priory* Park)
No evening service
- 18th Stephanie Njeru
Rev Diane Smith
- 25th Jane Fulford
Brenda Gutberlet

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

- 12 *Action For Children* Rochford street collection
- 19 *Energise* Summer Charity Show, Benfleet
- 26 *The Mikado*' mini-Glyndebourne at 221 Vicarage Hill, Benfleet, 5.30-9.30. Tickets £10 (see poster and handbills to order)
- 28 Circuit Choir meeting for anybody who wants to share together in song, no experience of choral singing needed, 8pm (coffee 7.30pm)

July

- 3 Highlands *Open Gardens* day, tickets £2, phone Ros Bryant on 478631 for more details
- 10 Rev Sue Manning's Retirement Organ concert, Highlands, 7.30pm
- 11 Church Family Day - picnic in *Priory* Park

August

- 2 (and week) Greaves Hall floor maintenance
- 13/14 Model Railway Exhibition and Charity Car Wash, Chalkwell Park Church, 10-4
- 21 **BIG PAINT** (see article on page 6)

September

- 4 Circuit Welcome service for our new Superintendent Minister, Rayleigh
- 13 Women's Fellowship restarts.
- 21 Circuit Meeting, , 8pm
- 21 Church Council, 8pm

} Dates to be confirmed

New Superintendent

Sue Manning, our current Superintendent Minister, retires at the end of this Methodist year. She and Peter will be moving to Chelmer Village where she will still be active in Methodist and ecumenical activities. Her last service in Rochford was at the beginning of the year when she stood in for Brenda. To mark her leaving, there will be a concert at 7.30pm at Highlands Methodist Church on 10th July , and everyone is invited to come along

Her replacement will be Bryan Tolhurst (married to Credwyn) from Nantwich who is taking up a Superintendency for the first time. The Circuit will be holding a special service to welcome him on 4th September, so if you want to see what he's like, nip along to Rayleigh. Our District Chair, Anne Brown, will be there.

Your prayers are asked for Sue as she moves to a new stage in her life, and for Bryan as he takes on his new role in an unfamiliar part of the country.

Rochford Methodist

The Methodist Church 

All of you are Christ's body
and each one is part of it

1 Corinthians 12:27

June/July 2010

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

So what is Methodism?

When John Wesley started the Methodist movement he preached only one thing - and this is summed up in the traditional summary of Methodist teaching:

“All need to be saved.
All may be saved.
All may know themselves saved.
All may be saved to the uttermost.”

This article is largely taken from the ‘What is Distinctive about Methodism’ pages on the Methodist Church website at www.methodist.org.uk

All Wesley’s sermons were based on this premise. God’s love is for all who want it and need it. And it is this love and this message we must continue to share with others. Methodists have always been clear that no-one is beyond the reach of God’s love. Salvation is there for everyone who turns to God, and not just for a chosen few.

Why do we need salvation?

As human beings we find ourselves part of an unjust, sinful and violent world, which we may feel individually helpless to change.

We may feel driven by urges such as anger, lust or greed, that we wish did not control us.

We may have personalities which are difficult to manage, for instance being prone to despair.

We may be enduring poverty and hardship.

The demands of modern life leave many of us stressed and overloaded, or isolated and feeling useless.

Loss, fear, grief or guilt may be weighing us down. We need salvation.

What do Christians believe?

Jesus preached the Gospel - the good news of the Kingdom of God. Through Jesus’ death on the cross, and his resurrection, Christians believe that God has broken the power of all that is evil, in the world and in ourselves. If we accept forgiveness and liberation, and are willing to be open to the Holy Spirit, God can enable us to resist evil and to live life to the full.

So tell your friends. We have been given the task, the ‘Great Commission’, by Christ himself; wherever we go we must tell of God’s love for each person. It is only by sharing this Good News, or ‘Gospel’ that the church may grow.

The next planned publication date is 15th August 2009. Articles, etc, should be with Dave by 18th 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 pm Women’s Fellowship (Sept - May)
4.30 - 6.30 pm The Urban Street Dance Group
7.00 - 9.00 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

3.45 - 6.30 pm The Urban Street Dance Group
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

4.00 - 6.00 pm The Urban Street Dance Group
8.00 pm Rochford Floral Group (2nd Friday of month)

Saturday

9.00 am - 2.30 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 House Groups meet each month in a different place each time. Look in the weekly notices for the dates and venues.

Everything’s quiet for the summer as the Wesley Guild and Women’s Fellowship relax in the sunshine and plan for the next session.

Women’s Fellowship are first past the post with their first meeting on 13th September when Rev Brenda will be the speaker. The Wesley Guild will start on 5th October.

It's in your pocket

You may have been given a small booklet with this newsletter. If not there should be some copies around the church.

Prayer in your pocket is one of a series of booklets that are designed to be given to anyone who might find them useful. Even if you don't feel you need one at this time, please don't just leave it lying around in the church like junk mail - pass it on to a friend who might like it. It is particularly useful for those people who might wish to pray but want some ideas on how to do it.

Further copies will be available in the entrance lobby for anybody to take, or give, away.

The other booklets we have available are on the themes of Grace, Joy and Peace and contain quotations on these themes from a Christian perspective. These will be made available over the next few weeks.

Join our Big Paint!

The back corridor and rooms of the church suffered from water damage due to the theft of the lead from our roof and need a bit of TLC.

On 21st August we are planning a "paint-in" and you are invited. More details to follow, but please put it in your diary and bring a paint brush or two so we can slap on the emulsion and gloss.

Tea-makers and go-fers are needed as well so don't rule yourself out!

Singing the Faith

The new authorised hymn collection for the Methodist Church has now reached the next stage. Back in 2004 it was decided to look into producing a new collection that better reflected the reality of hymns and worship songs today - *Hymns and Psalms* is now nearly 40 years old (although some of the hymns in it date back to the 1200s!). The new collection will be available in both book and electronic form.

The Music Resources Group of the Methodist Church issued a potential list of hymns, etc, for discussion in November 2008. They have worked very hard since then and have now produced a revised list which will be given to Conference in July for authorisation and publication in Spring 2011. The Faith and Order Committee has looked at the list and is now recommending that Conference agrees to this.

If you want to see what the expected final list looks like, they were published in the *Methodist Recorder* on 20 May and the pages can be found near the computer desk at the back of the church.

Wow

What a few weeks in the Circuit. If you've *not* been coming along to the Circuit Vision days or if you *don't* involve yourself with the Circuit then you might have a surprise or two coming! And it's the first time I've ever seen a Circuit Treasurer vote to reject the budget that he himself had put forward.

Methodism is under-going a top-to-bottom review at the moment. The Connexion (the central bit of the Methodist Church) has been through it and the Districts (that's the bit between the Circuit and the Connexion) are being reviewed at the moment. Southend and Leigh Circuit will have the District Reviewer visiting us in early 2012 (probably) and everything is up for grabs.

Under review will be how the Circuit functions and the remit appears to be wide-ranging. The Circuit Vision days were our circuit's kick-start to the process and we are being encouraged to look at the way our individual churches work to fulfil the mission of the Methodist Church.

After looking at how the Circuit works, where the churches are, how it is staffed, etc, the Reviewer will make recommendations. Bristol Circuit had some very radical changes when they took part in a pilot scheme.

At the Circuit Vision Days one suggestion was that we should have, say, five 'centres of excellence' each staffed by one minister. Quite how this would work is unclear but seemed to have the basis of closing the rest of the churches. What is clear, however, is that with falling membership numbers across the Circuit we will not be able to afford to maintain the structure (or the number of paid staff) we have at present and we must look at possible new ways of working. The falling numbers of available local preachers in the Circuit and the lack of ministers across the Connexion, mean we also need to look at different ways of worship and winning disciples and this will have to come from the members of the churches themselves or, to put it another way, from *you*.

In a separate series of meetings about next year's Assessment, the way the churches work, the number of churches, the number of members and the number of ministers and lay assistants was also touched upon. We have the stark option of raising a lot more money to pay the Assessment or lose staff. We are already required to pay to the Circuit £6.50 a week for each full member of our church to pay for our ministers and the District and the potential was that next year we will have to raise **over £7.50 each and every week for each member** and, don't forget, we have to raise that money even when the member does not come to church.

After a long discussion, the Circuit Meeting voted to **reject** the budget proposals for 2010/11 by 43 votes to 16. The Circuit Leadership Team must now revisit the costs and reduce them somehow. With three ministers due to leave the Circuit next year and the shortage of ministers available in the Connexion being so high, it is inevitable that our Circuit will have to drop at least one minister in 2011/12, which will lead to yet another re-organisation of the Sections. This will force on us a saving, but this will only be a

respite, because we will still have to make continuing savings over the next few years.

So what ideas do **you** have? Methodism will die on its feet if, and only if, you let it. We have our backs to the wall, do we just roll over and bow to the inevitable, or do we fight for Methodism?

We spend a lot of time (and money) looking after our buildings but the church of Christ is not the bricks and mortar - it is the people. I have heard one idea that churches could give up their buildings, continue to meet at Methodists, but use other church buildings and share the costs of one building rather than two or more churches carrying the burden of one each.

Within Rochford we have several buildings each belonging to a different denomination and each one with the same problems of heating, lighting, maintenance, etc. Why couldn't we hold our services at, say, the Congregational church, Hawkwell Baptist, or one of the Anglican churches? I hasten to add that I am just making suggestions to get you thinking - there are no plans to do this at the moment and the options have not been discussed with any of these churches.

We could meet in people's houses, as Methodists did up to a hundred years ago. Some modern Methodist churches started meeting wherever a room could be found - even in the back room (or bar) of a pub.

And a Methodist 'service' does not have to be all hymns and prayers - a walk together somewhere (Hockley Woods? Southend seafront?) or a Sunday evening barbeque, so long as it is in God's name, is also an act of worship - and can be used to encourage your friends to share with us.

Now is **not** the time to be the silent majority, nor is it time to mumble your ideas away in a corner. Let everybody know what you think we can do. I'm happy to receive your ideas and put them into print (anonymously if you want - as long as **I** know who you are). I will *not*, however, print anything that is not written down - my memory is getting worse and I can't remember everything that six people tell me in the rush of a Sunday morning!



June

- 6 Jean Startup
- 13 Sheila Webber
- 20 Helen Willson
- 27 Val Dobbin

July

- 4 Gwen Smith
- 11 Ida Hearn
- 18 Judy Garner
- 27 Pat Rubidge

At the recent Fun Day at Rayleigh, our stalls took around £330 with about £55 of this being taken on the Fairtrade stall.

Once the expenses have been deducted, we will also receive a share of the general money raised, which is expected to be about another £70-£90.

A full statement will be posted on our notice boards when the final accounts are completed.

'Well done' to all those who took part.

As I was saying at the General Church Meeting . .

Recent events, Vision Days, etc, have confirmed my concerns that we are not making the best use of our premises. Yes, we have a lot of hirings by various organisations but there is, to my mind, one big obvious failing - the worship area of the church is not used enough. *None* of the parents who wait for their children, or members of the organisations using the church actually step across the threshold during any form of worship.

The worship area (the 'church' rather than the hall) is heated and occupied from around 10.30am on a Sunday morning until about 12.15pm and again in the evening from about 6pm to 7.35pm. For the rest of the week it is empty and cold. It wasn't always so; going back a hundred years Rochford Wesleyan Church had a Tuesday evening service as well as the morning, afternoon *and* evening service on a Sunday. In fact the official opening and dedication of our current premises took place during a Tuesday service. A dark church is not a good advertisement - it should be alive and active, preferably full of happy people. We should be encouraging the general public into this part of the church.

I believe we should be using the worship area more - and I mean for activities that add to the 'value' of the worship area. I have had ideas, but you might have ideas too.

Obvious things are bible study meetings, prayer meetings, Christian social evenings of some kind. Others have suggested that the Guild might have its meetings there instead of in the hall.

At the last Pilgrims Way Review play readings were suggested; could these take place in the worship area? What about a book circle, where a group of people agree on a book to read and at their next meeting they discuss what they thought of it?

Over to you. One person cannot have *all* the ideas, or all the answers.



June

- 5 Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
- 12 Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron Castle
- 19 Bruce & Carole Glendenning, George & Sue Edwards
- 26 Mike & Heather Sims, Jan Willson, Sandra Hull

July

- 3 Judy Garner, Rosie Isaacs, Maureen Whalley, Ivy Blenkinsop, Sheila Webber
- 10 Dave & Val Dobbin, Roy & Olive Pavitt, Gwenda Andrews
- 17 **BIG CLEAN**
- 24 Malcolm & Pat Rubidge, John & Marian Webb
- 31 Colin & Margaret Rayner, Ron Castle