

# *Southend & Leigh* CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER



Spring Edition 2023

*Second Quarter*

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## Welcome to our Circuit

We are a group of 15 Methodist Church fellowships, including a Zimbabwean fellowship, on 17 sites in the southeast corner of Essex. Our Circuit also incorporates 'Westerley', a Christian care home.

Our churches provide traditional services alongside an increasing number of contemporary and family-friendly expressions of worship.

We have a growing sense of service and mission to our communities, with a desire to love our Lord, and our neighbours.



## FOLLOW / CONTACT US



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[www.southendandleigh.org](http://www.southendandleigh.org)



# Message from a Supernumerary

*Dear Circuit friends,*

Those of you who know me may perhaps also know that for many years I have enjoyed an early morning walk. In the summer in the early light I believe it's the best time of the day. Not many people are about on foot between 6.30 and 7.30 a.m., but the few ladies that are, will usually greet me with a "good morning" and their doggies will sometimes join in too. One or two ladies though will quickly pass me with lips closed and eyes down. It seems that their tradition will not allow them to speak to a strange man. I sometimes wonder whether I should ask some of the regulars their names so that I could say "good morning Jane or June", or whatever. My only fear is that my poor memory would badly let me down!

All this has come to my mind after reading how many older refugee and immigrant women are now feeling unrecognised and unwanted after their job applications have been turned down time after time in a country that claims to be desperate for workers in industries and professions that many of them are capable and qualified to fill. Is it fear or prejudice that gets in the way and causes such hurt? If so those good women are not the only losers!

The Easter story tells of three brave women who, in the patriarchal society of their day, were brave enough to go secretly in the early morning to look for the body of Jesus so that they could anoint it with some beautiful spices to give it the respect it deserved. Unusually for the times, their names are recorded; Mary and Mary and Salome. So the Gospel writers recognised them and valued them. And, what is more, Heaven too valued them and rewarded them by making them the first to be trusted with wonderful news: Jesus' body was no longer in the tomb; the new living and resurrected Jesus needed it for all he now had to do to build up the faith of those he had loved and left behind. But how sad that when those women carried the news of the empty tomb to the disciples it was disbelieved and under-valued simply because of who the messengers were!

Sometimes our instinct is to scold those disciples for their prejudice or unbelief, but maybe instead we should ask ourselves if we are in danger of falling into the same trap. Is our Society losing out and failing to gain the help we so badly need to find carers and nurses and teachers and so many more, simply because of who it is that are offering to help us in our need? As I look back in life I know there are times when I could have used some help in all kinds of ways. Sometimes it was offered and sometimes I foolishly refused it, perhaps because I did not feel the person offering would perform the task in the same way that I would have done it! So, is my way or your way the only way – or even the best way? I'm glad to say that nowadays I have learnt to enjoy it when my son cooks me a dish of saltfish and ackee! I hope age and experience is teaching you too the wisdom of change where changes are capable of enriching our lives.

Bless you all,

*Rev Peter Perowne*





# Circuit Calendar 2023

## APRIL

- Sat 1st – Circuit Prayer Meeting, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)  
Sun 2nd – Palm Sunday  
Wed 5th – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church  
Thu 6th – Maundy Thursday  
Fri 7th – Good Friday  
Sun 9th – Easter Sunday  
Sun 9th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel  
Sun 9th – Circuit Service Easter Prayer and Praise, 6.30pm, Belfairs Methodist Church  
Wed 12th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm  
Sat 22nd – Representative Spring Synod, 10am-1pm, The Square Methodist Church, Dunstable

## MAY

- Wed 3rd – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church  
Sat 6th – Circuit Prayer Meeting, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)  
Wed 10th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm  
Wed 10th – Circuit Leadership Team, 7.30pm, location tbc  
Thu 11th – District Safeguarding Oversight Group, 2pm-4pm, Video Conference  
Sat 13th – District Circuit Stewards Meeting, 10am-12pm, Video Conference  
Sun 14th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel  
Sun 21st – Easter Offering Service, 4pm, Hockley Methodist Church  
Sun 28th – Circuit Service Christians United Together Family Picnic, 3pm, Canvey Methodist Church

## JUNE

- Sat 3rd – Circuit Prayer Meeting, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)  
Sat 3rd – Circuit Quiet Day, 10am-2pm, UMC Shoebury  
Wed 7th – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church  
Sun 11th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel  
Tue 13th – Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm, Thundersley  
Wed 14th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm  
Thu 22nd-Thu 29th – Methodist Conference, Birmingham

## JULY

- Sat 1st – Circuit Prayer Meeting, 8.30am, Zoom (details available from Circuit Office)  
Wed 5th – Worship Academy, 7pm-9.15pm, Benfleet Methodist Church  
Sun 9th – Gospel Vespers 7pm for 7:30pm, The Fisherman's Chapel  
Wed 12th – Minister's Staff Meeting, 2pm  
Thu 13th – Circuit Leadership Team, 7.30pm, location tbc

# Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

## BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Bible Study - Thursdays, 3.30pm

Wesley Art Group - Mondays, 7.30pm in Wesley Hall

Light Worship - third Tuesday of the month, 12noon

Sunday Lunch - second Sunday of the month, 12.30pm (book in advance with John Stokes at [johnstokes660@yahoo.com](mailto:johnstokes660@yahoo.com))

Coffee Mornings - Monday-Saturday, 10am to 12 noon (with a Beading Craft session on Wednesdays)

Ladies' Thursday Club - first Thursday of the month, 7.45pm

Women's Fellowship - first and third Wednesdays of the month, 2.30pm

Wives' Club - Tuesdays, 1.45pm

Benfleet Hope Group - Mondays, 10am-2pm

Messy Church - third Saturday of the month, 3.30pm-5.30pm

Little Bunnies (Mother & Toddler group) - Mondays, 9.30am-11.30am

Fusion Children Groups - Fridays, ages 5-11 yrs 5.30pm-7pm & 11+ yrs 7pm-8.30pm



## CANVEY ISLAND METHODIST CHURCH

Bible Study - Tuesdays, 8pm

Wives Club - Thursdays, 2pm

Coffee Morning - Wednesdays, 10.30am-12noon

Coffee Morning - Saturdays, 10.30am-12noon

Wednesday Fellowship - first two Wednesdays of the month, 2.30pm

Midweek Communion - third Wednesday of the month, 10am



## HIGHLANDS METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee Morning - Saturdays, 10.00am-12noon

Lunch Club - second Tuesday of the month, 12noon (registration essential)

Chatter (Fellowship Group) - Tuesdays, 10am-12noon

Hobbies - first and third Thursdays of the month, 10am-12noon

Prayer Meeting on Zoom - Tuesdays, 9am-10am

Toddlers - Mondays, 9.30am-11.30am





# Churches Mid-Week Activities / Events

## ROCHFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Cake and Kindness (Tea and homemade cakes) - Mondays, 2pm-3.30pm

Bible Studies - Tuesdays, 7pm

Prayer time on Zoom - Wednesdays, 7pm

Housegroup - third Wednesday of the month, 8pm

'Happy Cup' Breakfast Club for children under 5 and carers – Fridays (term-time), 9.30am



## THORPE BAY METHODIST CHURCH

Mid-week communion - third Wednesday of the month, 12pm

(lunch afterward – booking required with [office@tbmchurch.org](mailto:office@tbmchurch.org))

Bible Study & Soup - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month

(booking required with [office@tbmchurch.org](mailto:office@tbmchurch.org))

Community Cafe - Wednesday, 10am-12pm

Memory Worship Service & Activities - first Monday of the month, 2pm-3.30pm



## THUNDERSLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Coffee Morning - Wednesdays (term-time), 9am-12noon

Coffee Morning - second Saturday of the month, 10am-12noon

Afternoon Club - Tuesday fortnightly, 2.30pm



## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'Brew, Chew, Renew' (Bible Study with refreshments) - Fortnightly on Monday, 10.30am  
(at UMC Great Waking site)

Home Group – Tuesdays, 7.30pm (contact [office@umcsouthend.org.uk](mailto:office@umcsouthend.org.uk))



# Circuit Prayer Diary April-June

*On the following Sundays and during the week  
we ask you to pray for:*

## APRIL

Prayer for Sunday 2nd – Chalkwell Park Methodist Church  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 14 – President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference  
Prayer for Sunday 9th – Organists  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 15 – Safeguarding Representatives  
Prayer for Sunday 16th – Church Stewards  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 16 – Coffee Mornings in our churches  
Prayer for Sunday 23rd – Church Sunday Schools and Youth Groups  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 17 – Hadleigh Methodist Church  
Prayer for Sunday 30th – Adventure Island Chaplaincy



## MAY

Mid-Week Prayer of Week 18 – Memory Worship  
Prayer for Sunday 7th – Mencap Showstoppers & The Music Man Project  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 19 – Highlands Methodist Church  
Prayer for Sunday 14th – Rev Dr David Chapman (Chair of District)  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 20 – Leigh-on-Sea Town Council, Councillors and Leaders  
Prayer for Sunday 21st – Church Flower Arrangers  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 21 – Anna Chaplains  
Prayer for Sunday 28th – Rev Norman Hooks and family  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 22 – Hockley and Hawkwell Methodist Church



## JUNE

Prayer for Sunday 4th – All We Can  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 23 – Rayleigh Methodist Church  
Prayer for Sunday 11th – Church Musicians  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 24 – Church Cleaners and Caretakers  
Prayer for Sunday 18th – Parade Services and Leaders of Uniformed Organisations  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 25 – The Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District  
Prayer for Sunday 25th – Pastor Steve Mayo and family  
Mid-Week Prayer of Week 26 – Castle Point Section



# Spreading the Word in Billericay as 'Anna's Place' Gets Going

**'Anna's Place' in Billericay, Essex, is the focus for Christ Church Billericay's work among older people serving the community in the town. Anna Chaplain Eileen Simmons visited the church one Sunday recently to tell the congregation more about Anna Chaplaincy.**

'I felt very privileged when Debbie Thrower asked if I would consider accepting an invitation to talk about Anna Chaplaincy in Billericay', writes Eileen. 'As I had no preaching appointments that Sunday or other responsibilities, as we ourselves were having a combined service in another local Methodist Church I was very pleased to accept.



*Above: Anna Chaplain Eileen Simmons and Revd Margaret Fowler at Christ Church, Billericay.*

'In advance, I was liaising with Revd Margaret Fowler and certainly will continue to do so in the future. The congregation was a joint one from the four local Anglican churches. I was given a 20-minute time slot. I chose to outline my own experience and also to talk about a range of models of Anna Chaplaincy. I talked about the wonderful St Albans work across the whole city led by my Anna Chaplaincy colleague Maggie Dodd as one example, and have liaised with her since.

'My own work includes telephone befriending with Southend Age Concern; my example of almost an hour's conversation the previous week with one of my lovely ladies including the details of her daughter's visit to Graceland very recently for Elvis Presley's daughter Lisa Marie's funeral, which was utterly fascinating to me. I also talked about how we giggled about the current fashion of platform shoes, which was well received.

'The large congregation were very responsive. I think they realised what joy we can experience as an Anna Chaplain. I also talked about my Benfleet HOPE group, which runs from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm every Monday. My role is to support carers and their loved ones who live with dementia. During the day we do a range of activities and last week we had a talk about the Canvey Floods' seventieth anniversary, did some Keep Fit, enjoyed lunch and had a music and singing session in the afternoon accompanied by Bob with his guitar and banjo. Every week we have one input which is different from the week before.

'I also undertake pastoral visits, including a monthly visit to a wonderful 93-year-old lady who has become a friend. She bakes me shortbread and I happily break my own rule of no biscuits midweek! She has my agreement that I will take her funeral (with my minister). 'I so much enjoyed giving the talk, helped by the knowledge that possibly I might have someone in the congregation who knew me, as I was deputy head of Billericay School for ten years. 'I stood at the door after the service with Margaret and indeed I met ex-pupils and parents of ex-pupils, which was wonderful. I had offered to talk to anyone over refreshments afterwards and many people took up the offer. Aspects of dementia were freely discussed and had touched the lives of many.

'In summary, I felt it was, for me, a very positive experience and Margaret Fowler is going to add her viewpoint. Like me, Margaret is already, with colleagues, doing aspects of Anna Chaplaincy before she undertakes her training. I had been doing one-to-one interactions with people, who had advanced dementia in a local care home before I trained as an Anna Chaplain.'



## **'Anna's Place' and Anna Chaplaincy at Christ Church Billericay – Revd Margaret Fowler:**

**'For us it really began in April 2022 when six of us from the Anglican Billericay & Little Burstead Team Ministry went to Mulberry House to hear Debbie speak about Anna Chaplaincy. It wasn't until then that we realised seed thoughts had already been planted in some of our minds about starting a project for the elderly and those with dementia.'**

*Left: Revd Margaret Fowler, Debbie Thrower, Anna Chaplaincy Pioneer, and Revd Christine Williams*



"At our local Churches Together meeting the following September I asked if the leaders could see if anyone from their churches would be interested in joining a group with a view to hosting a weekly event for older people to come together under the umbrella of Anna Chaplaincy. The first meeting for those interested was held on 3 October 2022 and nine people came along from four different churches. That was the first of five meetings which we held before we started the project on January 9 this year. We invited our safeguarding rep' to our second meeting and she explained what each of us needed to do. Several of us already had an enhanced DBS, but mostly the helpers simply needed to self-certify. The name "Anna's Place" came out of the blue as we were all leaving one of the meetings, and everyone said "yes!"

'We explored what was already being held in Billericay for the elderly during the week and a couple of our team visited these projects to see how they were run. Everyone was very helpful and encouraging that we were starting up something new. A Tuesday had become vacant in Christ Church halls, and that worked well as we knew there were other activities for the elderly were being held in the town on a Wednesday and Thursday.' 'We felt that the number of people feeling called to this ministry, and also the availability of the hall, was an indicator that God was in this.'

'We also obtained information and purchased the handbook from the Anna Chaplaincy website and made it available at our meetings. Four helpers have now indicated that they would like to do the Anna Chaplaincy training, and one, Revd Christine Williams, has already started the course. Christine is also a Dementia Friend, and she advised us on where to obtain suitable signage indicating where the toilets are so that someone with dementia can understand clearly where they are situated. Our halls and church now have this signage displayed. We also checked our First Aid boxes and accompanying signage, and realised the boxes were rather out of date and it also wasn't very clear where they were located. So new First Aid boxes were obtained and new signage was put up. We have two people who have done first aid courses in the past, but we plan to organise a first aid course which as many of the team as possible will attend.





'We began to put together how we thought "Anna's Place" should be organised. We decided to run it from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm each week. Coffee and biscuits would be available on arrival and there would be homemade soup and bread for lunch.

'Guests would be welcomed at the welcome table and given a label with just their first name on it. They would then be introduced around to see what they would like to do and be offered a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. The activities available are puzzles, knitting/crochet, games, craft, colouring etc. Alternatively, guests can just sit and chat if they want to. We have 60s background music playing or sometimes Christian music. Three ladies have offered to make soup for lunch which they do in rotation. One helper prefers to stay in the kitchen because she has a hearing problem and can't hear so well when many people are talking at the same time.

'We didn't know quite how it would work out each week, but we felt we should just be flexible and revisit what we do if it doesn't work out. We were also told not to be disappointed if things went very slowly at first. That was good advice as, despite our wide advertising, no one turned up the first week! The helpers though were not discouraged and felt it had been a good dry run for setting up. The team all had lunch together that day and they got to know one another in a way they couldn't have done if visitors had turned up.

'Billericay & Little Burstead are a team of four churches and every fifth Sunday we hold a Team Service. I suggested to the Rector that we invite someone from Anna Chaplaincy to speak at our next Team Service, and he readily agreed. Eileen Simmons, an Anna Chaplain from Leigh-on-Sea, came along and she was really well received. So many people were interested in what she had to say and many stayed for coffee afterwards and wanted to speak to her. It really put Anna Chaplaincy on the map as far as the parish is concerned!

'So we are now five weeks in and more people are coming to "Anna's Place" each week. Last Tuesday, in addition to our other activities, we invited an art teacher to show us how to paint and draw, and that was absolutely great. Everyone learned a lot, and he promised to come again in the next half-term break. He also left us art materials so that we can encourage guests to paint and draw. Over 20 of us had lunch together on Tuesday. A local bakery has been sending surplus bread and cakes for us which has been much appreciated.

'The church has agreed that we do not have to pay for use of the hall/heating etc. We have applied for a grant from the local Warm Spaces fund, but haven't yet heard anything. It has also been suggested that one of our local Rotary Clubs might help us with funding for lunches and any new materials we need, but we have managed financially so far.

'We are now at the stage where we have submitted the Head Licence Agreement to our PCC for approval so that we can officially be part of Anna Chaplaincy and use the logo on our advertising materials. We are all very much looking forward to working with Anna Chaplaincy in the future! It's been an exciting time.



**Article by Debbie Thrower  
Anna Chaplaincy Pioneer**

# THE EXPERIENCE PROJECT



## Experience Project Christmas Party 2022

Last years' Christmas Party was held on 20th December and was yet again a very successful event. There were about 100 children plus parents all enjoying the party!

It was great to see so many local children and adults having fun in the church. Many had their faces painted and lots were in festive clothing. Children created cards and decorations, etc at the craft tables. Games included guessing the number of sweets in a fancy container, balloon fun with plenty of space to throw and catch, throwing hoops onto reindeer antlers (Pete Moorhouse was one of the reindeer!), pin the nose on Rudolf, as well as dancing and singing to Christmas carols and well-known songs.

Plenty of yummy cakes, biscuits and sweet were on offer with tea/coffee and drinks for the children. Santa visited on his sleigh and everyone received a present, young and old!

Thanks to Simon, his wonderful team and all volunteers for their hard work and planning, which enabled the children and families there to have a truly wonderful time.

God bless them all,

Alan and Anita Sambridge





# Why Memory Worship?

*How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? (Psalm 137:4)*

After attending a Methodist study day in June 2016, entitled 'The spiritual needs of older people and those living with dementia', I was drawn to the difficulties for people living with dementia in expressing and connecting with their own spirituality. I came away with the conviction that, as churches, we should be doing more. Worship is an important channel for recalling the past and we all have a continuing need to worship and experience a loving encounter with God, but for people living with dementia it can become increasingly difficult to make these connections.

## Music

Music is a powerful trigger for memory recall and can take people back to a time when they felt safe and held by God. So, stimulus can be introduced in the form of music, Bible stories, the Lord's Prayer, and other familiar liturgy. Many times during Memory Worship I have seen examples of the power of music creating a sense of spiritual fulfilment. A familiar hymn has the ability to awaken feelings of wellbeing and memory for words without the need for a hymn sheet. Our opening song, chosen by our team, is an uplifting song that raises our spirits: 'Bring Me Sunshine', famously sung by Morecombe and Wise.



## Memory Box

Repetition is key in Memory Worship and nowhere is this more evident in the liturgy opening the Memory Box. We unpack it in the same way each service and it contains a red cloth, a cross, a little prayer bear, a candle and a Bible. Firstly, we take out the red cloth with the words: "We shake out the red material, red for love, remembering that God loves us." This cloth then dresses the table. We take out the cross and give it to a member of the congregation addressing them by their Christian name saying: "We remember that Jesus died on the cross and we remember that it is a sign of forgiveness." We take out the prayer bear and hand it to another person saying "This little prayer bear reminds me that I can take all my worries and all my fears to the Lord in prayer" We take out the candle and give it to another person saying: "We remember that Jesus came as the light of the world." Then we take the Bible and give it to another person saying: "We remember that the Bible is the word of God, and we remember that through the Bible, God speaks to us."





## Lighting The Flame

The person leading the service slowly returns to each person to retrieve each of the items and places them one by one on the table. “We remember that the cross is a symbol of hope and we remember that Jesus is alive and with us today.” Then we return the candle, saying: “We remember that we all have dark times, but nothing can extinguish Gods light.” This is where we come to what I find to be the most profound part of the service; lighting the Memory Worship candle. The person leading the service addresses the congregation: “And God said: ‘Let there be ... ’” No matter how badly we struggle with memory, everyone remembers God said: “Let there be Light”. Lastly, the Bible is returned, and we then consider: “What are we reading from scripture today?”

A programme of monthly services was devised with a regular pattern of welcome, well-known hymns, familiar scripture and saying the Lord’s Prayer together. After worship, carers can talk with Memory field professionals and meet with others in the same situation. We plan sensory stimulating games and crafts around the theme of the service that are fun and simple in form.



## Covid

For people living with dementia the Covid pandemic was devastating. The personal stories of folks that used to come to Memory Worship, not being able to access shopping deliveries, no respite for carers and the terror of a loved one admitted to hospital unable to accompany them felt unbearable. That’s really why I started Memory Worship “at home” to reassure that God is with us wherever we are; whether we feel worthy or not. Thank goodness the need for YouTube services came to an end. As much as it was helpful it didn’t reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation. Two years on and Memory Worship “at home” has been watched at home and in care homes over 3,000 times.

Very sadly I lost my Dad in May 2022; he was always my greatest advocate and in June Rev Julia Monaghan also passed away. I decided in August to step away from employment with the Methodist Church with the intention of volunteering instead. In this way I continue to support the initiatives I remain called to.

It is lovely to see that churches continue to set up Memory Worship services. It is my hope in the future to set up a charity that supports a website offering all the tools a church or care home needs to set up a Memory Worship service.



Memory Worship 2pm-4pm on the 3rd Monday of the month at **Wesley Methodist Church**  
Memory Worship 2pm-4pm on the 1st Monday of the month at **Thorpe Bay Methodist Church**  
Memory Worship 2pm-4pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month at **Rayleigh Methodist Church**

**Julie Peek**

# Thundersley Community Group

On Wednesday 8 March the usual coffee morning was given over to **Anna from United in Kind** who had invited people from the community to come along.

Below is the report from Anna about the morning:

*What an amazing turn out in the sleet and rain!*

*Kelly, our Castle Point Befriending Coordinator and Anna Wilson United in Kind - Castle Point, hosted a Befriending Coffee Morning today at the weekly Warm Space provided by Thundersley Methodist Church.*

*They welcomed Befrienders, Befriendees and those interested in the service for coffee, cake, chat and information sharing about the clubs, groups and services available in the local area.*

*Huge thanks goes to the representatives from the Castle Point Social Car Scheme who gave a short talk about their fantastic service.*

Some quotes from attendees as they left the event:

*"Thank you for such a lovely welcome. I'm so glad I had somewhere to go on this grey day, it's been wonderful"*

*"Do I have to leave. I don't want to go!"*

*"When I tell my volunteer tomorrow, she won't believe I've actually been out! Thank you for a nice time. I've joined the car scheme today"*

*"It's a lovely venue. We will come again."*

*"I would like to be a volunteer befriender. It will help me get out and about more as well."*

*Thank you to everybody who came along! A grey day certainly doesn't need to be a boring one!*



From this Anna hopes to have more people from community groups to come along perhaps once a month on a Wednesday and also have a gathering on a Saturday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**With thanks to Anne Lane**



# UMC Easter Craft Afternoon



## UMC Easter Craft Afternoon

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March UMC held an Easter Craft Afternoon at the Shoebury site, where we offered a range of craft activities including Scratch Art Easter shapes, Felt colouring Bookmarks, making Easter Cards, Easter baskets (see photo below), Biscuit decorating, Bead craft, Glass pot/shell designs, Easter Bonnets (see photo Below left) and Easter Crosses with stickers.



The adults were extremely grateful and amazed at what was on offer for their youngsters. They appreciated having time to sit and chat whilst we worked with their youngsters on the crafts.

Goodie bags with the Easter Story and sweets were given to all who came.

We invited folk to give an Easter Egg for the Southend Foodbank. You can see how many were kindly donated 😊



We also had a colouring the egg competition and Hunt The Letters to find the hidden word.

The event was totally free, which included cakes and drinks. The Balloons came from our local Card shop in West Road.

The event was attended by 22 young people who were accompanied by their Parents/carers, many had never been in our church before.



Thanks go to Bob, Anne Elspeth and the team, for such a successful afternoon., with several comments like – “ When is the next one !!”



# Worship Academy 2022-2023

## Season 10

First Wednesday of the month except January,  
August and September,  
19:00-21:00 at Benfleet Methodist Church.

Worship Academy is a training programme particularly for leaders of worship in the Methodist Church but it is open to everyone.

Outline of the Evening:

19:00 meal

20:00 worship led by the circuit

20:15 worship academy

c.21:15 depart

If you are interested in joining the mailing list for an invite please contact: [southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com)



*Book via Eventbrite*

## Worship Academy 2022/2023 Season 10

First Wednesday of the month except August, September 2022 and January 2023

Date	Topic	Speaker/Facilitator	Church leading worship
1 February	Prayer in worship	Jane Fulford and friends	Jane, Sue and Anne
1 March	Modern worship and modern worship songs	Lewis Cox	Lewis Cox
5 April	Children's Address	Revd Emma Nash	Rayleigh/UMC
<b>TERM THREE: Inclusivity</b>			
3 May	TBC	Pete Moorhouse	Belfairs
7 June	On the margins, local community, how to craft worship for people unaffiliated with 'church'	Mark North	Hadleigh/Belfairs/Rochford
5 July	Worship Academy 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Party	n/a	Sanya

What to teach – How to teach – What to do

# Southend and Leigh Discipleship Pathway: *travelling together*

## Service



### Serve

We help people in our communities and beyond

## Evangelism



### Tell

We tell of the love of God

## Learn & Care



### Open

We practise hospitality and generosity

## Worship



### Notice

We notice God in Scripture and the world



### Flourish

We care for creation and all God's gifts



### Live

We live in a way that draws others to Jesus



### Learn

We learn more about our faith



### Worship

We worship with others regularly



### Challenge

We challenge injustice



### Share

We share our faith



### Care

We care for ourselves and those around us



### Pray

We pray daily

For more information visit

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/>

# Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit Circuit Prayer Day Theme: Repair and Restore



Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023  
10 - 2pm  
UMC  
St Andrew's Road  
Shoeburyness  
Essex SS3 9HX

Refreshments will  
be provided,  
but please bring  
your own packed lunch.  
The day will be suitable  
for all ages.

Please book this date in your diaries. More info to follow in coming months; if you have any queries please contact [southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com)



**EASTER  
“PRAYER & PRAISE”  
CELEBRATION.**

**EASTER SUNDAY  
EVENING.**

**9<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

**@ 6.30 P.M.**

**BELFAIRS METHODIST CHURCH**

(Eastwood Road North,  
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4NG)

**Led by the ‘Worship Band’  
and others from the circuit**

**Come and share with us in the joy  
of Christ’s Resurrection.**

**We look forward to seeing you there.**

Easter  
Offering  
2023

# NO BORDERS TO GOD'S LOVE

The service will be held at HOCKLEY METHODIST CHURCH  
MAIN ROAD, HOCKLEY starting at 4 p.m.  
on SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MAY

Easter Offering 2022 was prepared by Methodist Women in Britain for the World Mission Fund. This act of worship enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of our global Church Partners.

[www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) • [www.methodist.org.uk/easteroffering](http://www.methodist.org.uk/easteroffering)

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Methodist Women  
in Britain

for women, for justice, for Christ

GE301FR23

The Methodist Church





Charity No. 1115024

[www.trinityfamilycentre.org](http://www.trinityfamilycentre.org)



# CAN YOU SPARE 3 HOURS A WEEK?

We need volunteers to help with running our charity shop and supporting other vulnerable volunteers. Open Tuesday - Friday 10-4 & Saturday 11-2

**Trinity Family Centre Shop**

**11 West Road, Westcliff On Sea SS0 9AU**

Contact [Sarah@trinityfamilycentre.org](mailto:Sarah@trinityfamilycentre.org) 01702 436228