



THE METHODIST CHURCH - Registered Charity No. 1134248
District and Circuit - 34/10
www.southendandleigh.org



CHRISTMAS 2020 SOUTHEND & LEIGH CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day when Christ Jesus returns." Philippians 1:6

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I write to you all in response to the Prime Minister's briefing on Saturday regarding the current situation with COVID-19.

As you are no doubt aware Essex and other parts of the South East have been placed into Tier 4 of the tiered system. All but essential shops are closed as of 20th December and all other recreational activities.

Saturday's announcement by the Government caught all of us by surprise, but even more surprising was the speed of the shutdown. Usually, we have a few days to prepare but because of the fact that the virus has now crossed species in Norway and the variance here in the South East means that COVID-19 transmits more quickly, the Government was left with no choice but to give a few hours' notice. While it is perfectly legal for us to carry on physical worship, we the Circuit Leadership Team would strongly recommend that all Worship is moved onto online platforms while we are in Tier 4, with the exceptions of Funerals and Weddings. We have a duty of care to one another against a virus that doesn't care about our views; it just wants to harm us.

This decision has not been made lightly but rather has been one prompted by a compassionate desire to protect our vulnerable members from potential harm and to minimise the risks of possible COVID-19 infection. We are truly sorry for any disappointment that this decision might cause, especially as we approach the joy of Christmas Day Celebrations of the birth of Jesus. We will do our best to provide online and emailed worship alternatives over the remainder of the Christmas period – this newsletter giving a selection of those on offer.

Sir Patrick Vallance told us to assume we are infectious and ask ourselves is it worth the risk. Ending his briefing the Prime Minister said Christmas hasn't been cancelled but will be different this year, so that we can celebrate many more Christmases together in years to come. Hearing those words, I was reminded of the words of Paul to the church in Philippi, quoted above. God hasn't finished working in us until Christ returns. This is a very frustrating time but it's not the end, thankfully God is with us and the best is yet to come!

On behalf of the Circuit Leadership Team and the Southend and Leigh Circuit, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Blessed New Year.

***Yours in Christ,
Rev. Pete Moorhouse***

CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS

General Online Sunday Services & Christmas Services

Services and Resources for Home:

www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/singing-the-faith-plus/seasons-and-themes/worship-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/

The Methodist Church - Wesley's Chapel Live-Service:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCUAUqhmhevz5sqhh72LIMxA/videos

Rev Pete Moorhouse – Christmas Day 25th December 10am Zoom:

To join from a **COMPUTER** or **TABLET**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87367427746?pwd=SkYrKy9EN1lZNi9uaDFFVEZmNGljZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 6742 7746

Passcode: 902336

To join by **PHONE**:

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Rev Dr Calvin T Samuel – service on YouTube (Sundays 9.30am):

<https://www.youtube.com/CalvinTSamuel>

An audio version of the service is available by dialling 01268 385 131 for the cost of a local call. A weekly hard copy transcript of the service is available by post. Please contact Keith Norman on 01268 781 896 or via email:

knorman953@aol.com to request a copy.

Rev Chris Sandy – service on Zoom (Sundays 11am – open from 10.30am):

To join from a **COMPUTER** or **TABLET**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84166449486?pwd=SlhvK2VlbkE0ZU9xeU8yMkl0aHU0QT09>

Meeting ID: 841 6644 9486

Password: 322853

To join by **PHONE**:

One tap mobile

+441314601196,,84166449486#,,,0#,,322853# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

OR – service package by post: to receive one please contact Chris on

christopher.sandy@methodist.org.uk or 01268 793313

Pastor Colin Turner – service via WhatsApp or mailing list (Sundays):

To sign up to the mailing list to receive service packages via either WhatsApp or email, please contact Colin on colin.freegrace1@gmail.com or 01268 684294

Online Services:

<https://canveymethodistchurch.org.uk/canvey-methodist-church-worship-services/>

Pastor Stephen Mayo – service on YouTube (Sundays 11am):

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJmW5t_DER_oQaUa2aXcfGQ/videos

For those of you who regularly tune in to these services, there will be no YouTube service on 27th December 2020.

YouTube Christingle Service for 24th December 2020 @ 4pm.

(Can be viewed anytime after this.)

<https://youtu.be/CG7SN9vSozM>

YouTube Christmas Eve Service for 24th December 2020 @ 11.30pm. (Can be viewed anytime after this.)

To stay within the discipline of the Methodist Church this service will contain an Act of Spiritual Communion, not full communion.

https://youtu.be/2KA_tNJB0ZA

Christmas Day 25th December 2020 @ 10.30am – service on Zoom:

To join by **PHONE**:

- Call 0131 460 1196
- When you are asked to, enter our Meeting ID, which is 923 461 257, and press the # button on your phone
- Press the # button again, and you'll be connected with everyone else on the call

To join from a **COMPUTER** or **TABLET**:

- Click on this link a little before the service on Sunday is due to start: <https://zoom.us/j/923461257>
- Download the Zoom app, if you're prompted to do so
- if you are asked for a password - highlands (lower case)

Alternative Worship & Resources

Memory Worship – Worship for those with and without dementia:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCmdLC8_ZDnic6cCDsbtblVQ

Gospel Services – 2nd Sunday of the month via Facebook (7pm for 7.30pm):

<https://www.facebook.com/thefishermenschapel/>

January Light Mission Initiative – The Methodist Church has launched a January Light Mission Initiative. It gives ideas and resources for churches on how to respond to COVID as we enter 2021.

<https://januarylight.org>

NEWS & UPDATES

www.facebook.com/Southend-and-Leigh-Methodist-Circuit-104457831482943

www.methodist.org.uk

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

From Brian Lawrence (Former Member of Southend and Leigh Circuit)

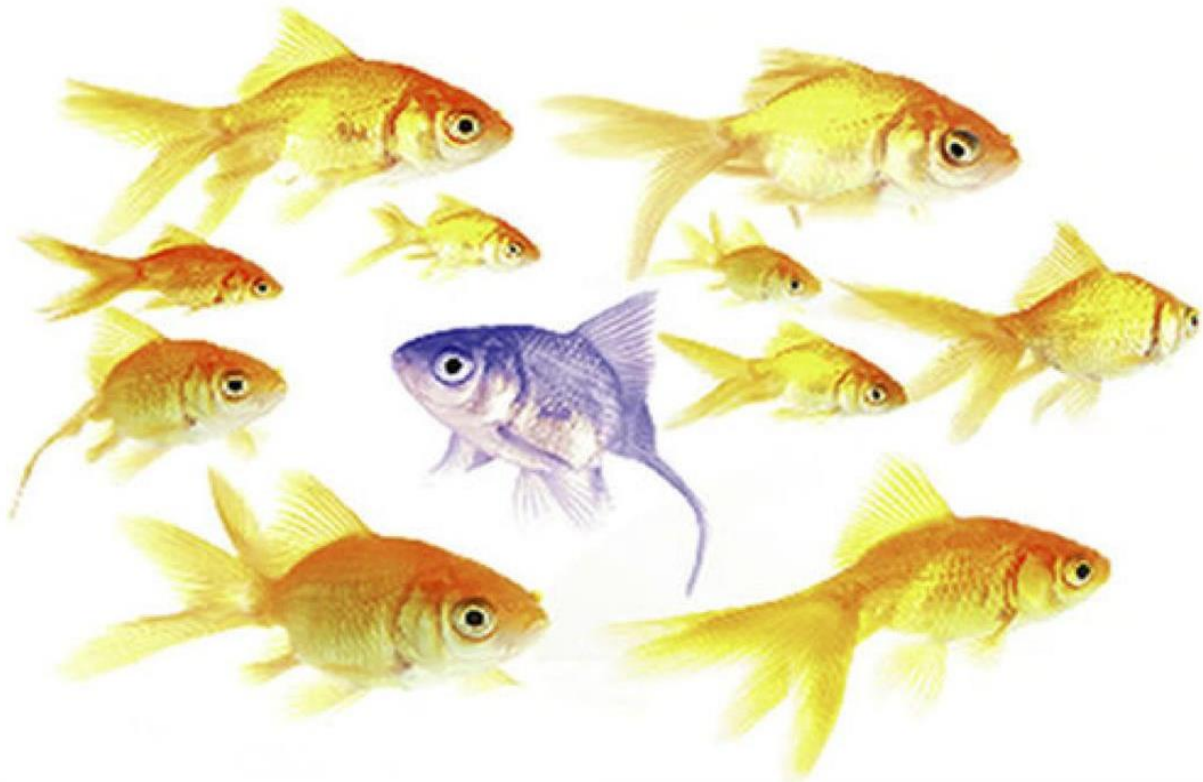
My wife was in at the start of Whittingham Avenue Church and I joined her very soon after. I was on the plan from 1989 till we moved to Norfolk. Colin Turner will probably remember me from some of the Canvey house groups at his parent's house.

We are now moving again and in turning out, we found four plates from a local Methodist Chapel we had saved from the dustbin and we donated them to our local museum. I also found a plate with the name, 'Southend Wesleyan Church' on its rim and I sent that to the Southend museum. The curator was delighted to have it. He says they have almost nothing from the local churches. I wondered if you would like to put a small note in the Circuit Newsletter suggesting that if any others like me, have saved plates or similar from chapels that have closed, the museum would love to have them. If they cannot find the museum, the assistant curator is Vittorio Ricchetti, e-mail address vittorioricchetti@southend.gov.uk



Chaplaincy Everywhere Course

'A partnership between Southend and Leigh Methodist Circuit and Love Southend'



Are you a Christian and passionate about caring for the needs of others? The Chaplaincy Everywhere Course is designed to equip us for any role in life, not just in chaplaincy. The course helps us to be a good neighbour, friend and valued member of our community.

When is the course?

Monday Evenings

25th January

1st, 8th, 22nd of February
1st, 8th, 15th March 2021.

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Hopefully at the Plaza(SCF) but if not on Zoom.
(All depends on government guidelines)

For more information email:
clive@southendchristianfellows
hip.org.uk

To book your place email:
deaconsarahmcd@gmail.com

To contribute something to the Circuit Newsletter please email
southendandleighcircuit@gmail.com